

IPPNW

European Student Report

2004-2006

I. Introduction

Esteemed members of the IPPNW Board of Directors,

this report is supposed to give you a broad idea of the current status of the International IPPNW Student Movement. When the two of us took over the office of International Student Representatives in Beijing in September of 2004, we were quite unaware of what was expecting us, mainly due to the lack of continuity brought on by the sudden disappearance of our predecessors. However, in the last two year, we have managed to get a good idea of the different areas of our work and have begun to implement our initial plans, which very broadly can be summed up as follows:

- Develop and support international student projects
- Support the student chapters in the local work and attempt to get them in touch with their affiliates
- Improve communication and governance within the student movement
- Represent the students' voice within the BoD and the Planning Committee for Helsinki 2006
- Foster growth amongst student chapters in the Global South

This report will subsequently be structured along these five goals, touching on our achievements in the past year and identifying the obstacles we have encountered. In the end, we will try to outline our plans for the coming year and formulate our recommendations for future student work within IPPNW.

II. IPPNW International Student Projects

When we started our term in office, two International Student Projects were running. One was the extremely successful *NWIP*, which we were able to provide with logistic support in form of a website, the other was the Refugee Camp Project *ReCap*, which was founded during the European-Middle Eastern Student Conference in Berlin two years ago. In the past years, we were able to revive the old Medical Exchange Program *MedEx* and start two new student projects – one dealing with the ongoing nuclear threat (*Target X*), the other with the unequal distribution of information about IPPNW and its mission in the world (*SPARC*). We are currently preparing to launch the newest international student project – One Bullet Stories, which is aimed at students in Africa, Latin America and the US, where Small Arms violence is still a major health issue.

The concept of these international student projects is not to replace local activity, but rather to supplement it, giving students who are interested in the broader picture an outlet and a means to get in touch and work with colleagues from other parts of the world. IPPNW not only directly profits from the results of these projects but also indirectly from the rise in membership they produce. That's why we feel it is important to continue the creation of trans-national and trans-regional student projects, both in cooperation with the physicians and with other organizations like IFMSA.

Refugee Camp Project - ReCap

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/ReCap>

Contact persons: Daniela Calvano (Bruuce@gmx.de) and Anas Eid (anaseid_md@yahoo.com)

Giving medical students from all over the world the chance to experience hands-on the situation and the conditions in a Palestinian Refugee Camp, ReCap has just completed its third year, with a group of 15 students just having returned from Palestine, where they lived and worked with the children in the Aida Refugee Camp near Bethlehem. This experience not only broadened students' perspectives to refugee issues but also made students understand the realities of the Middle East conflicts. The project not only provides the Palestinian students with a concrete project that they can engage in and prepare, but also offers a singular opportunity for the participating students to come into contact with the real life situation in the Palestinian territories and the people living in the camps. Last, but not least, the work done by the students while in the camp gives the children the assurance that people out there sympathize with their lot and care about them.

In the first 10 days, an introduction into the social, political, cultural situation of the people in the refugee camps is given by Palestinian medical students at the Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. Afterwards, the social project is planned and prepared, for example by joining a medical health care project, and learning about educational and health awareness projects. The rest of the month is spent at the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, where the participants not only receive medical training, but also organize English classes and Drama activities with children of the camp. The project's aim is to draw a greater awareness to the actual situation in the refugee camps, to provide medical and social help to the refugees and to work towards non-violent conflict prevention.

The participating students come home and serve as ambassadors for the suffering of the children in the refugee camps and can, based on their experiences, withstand blunt manipulation by different factions trying to mould public opinion. Having been initiated by German, Canadian Danish and of course Palestinian students, this project serves as an example for how a simple idea can transform into a strong project which attracts new members, brings them into contact with IPPNW and actually makes a difference on the ground. In the current face of the aggravated Middle East conflicts, such student endeavours really carry meaning and can act as a way to think beyond borders but to humanity at large. One problem we have had with this project in recent times was the break up of the Palestinian student group which has led to the project being solely a cooperative effort of German IPPNW with the Palestinian branch of IFMSA, with international IFMSA and IPPNW students participating in it together. The Palestinian students have expressed their unwillingness to continue their participation in this project.

Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project - NWIP

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/NWIP>

Contact persons: Inga Blum (ingablum@gmx.de) and Camilla Mattsson (camilla.mattsson@slmk.org)

The Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project has been very active in the past two years, with delegations travelling to the US in November of 2004, Russia and the US in March 2005, to India and Pakistan in August 2005, NATO headquarters in Brussels in October 2005 as well as the UK, Canada and the US in summer of 2006. Many students have undergone the training workshops or NWIP, which were conducted at the PSR student conference in Chicago, the NWIP weekend workshops in Hamburg, Stockholm and Malmö, the European Student Conferences in St. Petersburg and Napoli, the South Asian Conference in Patna and the European IPPNW Conference in Marseilles.

Many hundreds of students in four different countries participated in dialogue sessions and discussions on the threat of nuclear weapons and the extent of the nuclear inheritance we, as the young generation of medical students will be faced with. In addition, the NWIP participated in the NPT Review conference, playing a large role during the demonstration on May 1st 2005, the organization of the first installation of Target X and the panel discussions with the NPT-Conference delegates.

More information on each delegation, the successful dialogue sessions and the project at general can be found on the projects' website. This new website, which we administer for the project offers users the possibility to read up on nuclear facts, gives interested students an insight on the project and reflects the vibrant nature of this student run initiative through the pictures of NWIP delegations all over the world.

Medical Exchange Program - MedEx

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/MedEx>

Contact persons: Khagendra Dahal (khagenvikram@hotmail.com) and Alex Rosen (alexro80@web.de)

This IPPNW medical exchange program was initially modelled after the hugely popular and successful German project "Practice and Engage". Giving students from all over the world the chance to experience life and work in another country, this project uses the great assets we have as an international organization of socially responsible physicians and matches up students from different IPPNW chapters, permitting them to practice medicine and engage themselves in social projects abroad. Due to limited funding and the difficulties attached to its organization, the program was discontinued by our predecessors in 2004. We attempted at reviving the program with a more flexible structure and improved process of matching up students and physicians. A group of students sat down in St. Petersburg and made plans for a renewed start of the IPPNW medical exchange program, because they felt that it was important for the federation as a whole to have such a program. The new concept was a more decentralized project, relying heavily on the local groups organizing the exchange and raising funds rather than on a more centralized structure, like in the beginning of MedEx. Despite a few successful exchanges that were organized through the MedEx program, the main problem remained, which basically consisted of a lack of good applications. Not a single IPPNW student send in an application to participate in one of the exchanges offered on the website and we felt that such a program could only be continued if the participants came from within IPPNW and not from without. We hope that in the future, the student movement will find ways of applying the successful lessons by programs like the German Practice and Engage on an international level.

Students Promoting Activism and Recruitment Campaign - SPARC

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/SPARC>

Contact persons: Khagendra Dahal (khagenvikram@hotmail.com) and Alex Rosen (alexro80@web.de)

In recent years, we've had some problems recruiting students from several countries, even a few with otherwise highly active and motivated IPPNW affiliates and large student chapters in the past. Some groups have become inactive as the main protagonists graduated and moved on into the physicians' work in IPPNW without taking care of continued recruitment amongst younger students. While countries like Finland, India, the US, El Salvador, or Palestine have managed to maintain high student membership (in Germany, for example, students make up more than 10% of the total members), some other countries have not. The situation is especially worrying in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and parts of Asia. This development might not seem to influence the work of IPPNW right now, but it will have serious repercussions in the future, when finding interested physicians to continue IPPNW's mission will pose an even greater problem than today.

We, as IPPNW's International Student Representatives have talked about this problem many times and have come up with a concrete plan to combat this situation and spread the sparks of student activism, aptly named SPARC - the **S**tudents **P**romoting **A**ctivism and **R**ecruitment **C**ampaign. Contacting former student members in the respective countries, publishing a number of informative publications such as posters and flyers and putting a focus on concrete projects, such as NWIP, MedEx, ReCap or next year's student congress, we hope to be able to win new members. By giving students an idea of what IPPNW is about and combining this with a concrete project, the probability of a success will increase. Instead of asking them to "inform themselves and start a local group", as we've done (unsuccessfully) in the past, we would give them the opportunity to "work in a Refugee Camp" (with ReCap), "practice and learn abroad" (with MedEx) or "meet and discuss nuclear topics with Indian and Pakistani students" (with NWIP).

While the long-term goal would be to expand the IPPNW student movement to countries all over the world, the concrete goal of this campaign is to identify interested students in the different countries and to invite them to next year's IPPNW Student World Congress in Helsinki, where we could then reflect on the campaign (which will by then have lasted half a year), decide on the next steps and evaluate the progress made so far. This progress, which the campaign is making towards this goal would also be published on the website. Concrete successes so far have been the use of the Erasmus exchange program in order to win new students in France, Italy and Poland, the delegations by German students to the Netherlands, the Chinese student delegation at this World Congress, the tour of Ademar Guardado through Central America, continued recruitment in South Asia including New Zealand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and ultimately the extremely successful drive for Israeli student participation in IPPNW events.

If Beijing has shown us anything it is that there are a number of interested students out there all over the world, who just haven't heard of us yet. Similarly, there are a lot of active medical students in other organizations, such as IFMSA, seeking a broader political agenda. A recruitment campaign such as the one we are conducting, which would not only include students, but also physicians from countries with low student participation, might be just the right way to ensure continuous student activity and lay the foundation for future generations of IPPNW physicians, while at the same time getting them acquainted directly with the experienced physician members. We hope to win the backing of some of the IPPNW affiliates and be able to motivate physicians and students throughout the world to participate in the campaign.

Target X

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/Target>

Khagendra Dahal (khagenvikram@hotmail.com) and Alex Rosen (alexro80@web.de)

This project focuses on the fact that 15 years after the end of the Cold War, nuclear arsenals are still set on hair-trigger alert in the US, Russia and Europe, aiming at each other's capitals and endangering the health of the general public. After the failed Review Conference of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty last May, it seems to many that only a public outcry can accomplish what diplomats have failed to: de-alerting the existing 20.000 nuclear warheads and beginning the eventual abolition of these unnecessary and dangerous weapons of mass destruction. As the young generation of health professionals have an obligation to raise awareness of this growing threat for world health. During the NWIP workshop at the Chicago Student Conference this March, an idea emerged how we would be able to deliver this message: based on the famous bombing runs of former days, students would put on their white coats, place a large red "X" in the middle of a public square and inform the people passing by that this city is actually a potential target for a nuclear attack – drawing their attention to the inevitable fact that the only sure way to prevent such a catastrophe is top abolition nuclear weapons.

In May, the first installation of Target X was held in New York during the NPT Review Conference by German, US and Swedish students. A few weeks later, Australia followed suit with their "Target Melbourne". On Hiroshima Day, student groups all over the US held installations of the Shadow Project, reminding people of Hiroshima using the human shadows left after the blast. That same day, student groups in India, Estonia, Canada, Russia and Germany

held Target installations, with Khagendra participating in the Indian installation and Alex in the German one. Following these initial installations, there was a Target Boston during the last Board meeting, Target events in St. Petersburg, Tallinn, San Salvador, Napoli, London, Adelaide, Las Vegas, Rostock, Vancouver, Wellington, as well as another one in Tallinn, Porvoo and Kotka during the Baltic Bike Tour 2006. Through these events, we have been able to reach thousands of people all over the world.

Public awareness and public discontent with current policy on nuclear arms are two important steps towards a powerful global movement which could actually accomplish the goal of nuclear abolition. The frequently heard argument for a missile defend shield just does not hold, as previous test runs have shown and as high ranking army officials have frequently reiterated. In medicine, when there is no cure or treatment for a disease, we opt for a strategy of prevention. That is what we need to strive for. The proper therapy for this threat cannot be to protect oneself from nuclear attack, but to abolish these weapons once and for all. Chemical and biological weapons were banned, very recently a similar grass roots movement managed to push through an international ban on landmines. Why not nuclear weapons?

One Bullet Stories

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/OBS>

Khagendra Dahal (khagenvikram@hotmail.com) and Alex Rosen (alexro80@web.de)

All over the world, people die of injuries caused by small arms - innocent bystanders, women, children - small arms are indiscriminate. IPPNW's campaign "Aiming for Prevention" seeks to prevent these horrible injuries by provoking political and social change. For this purpose, hard facts are needed. Recent publications against small arms have raised concern over the scarcity of evidence-based research on the effects of firearms on poverty reduction strategies, improvement of health and other Millennium Development Goals.

Anti-small arms campaigners are criticized for failing to make their message simple and explicitly relevant to decision makers and in effect spending too much time talking amongst themselves. The IPPNW project One Bullet Stories is about the people, about their stories and about the suffering caused by guns. We aim to bring the Human Face into the campaign against small arms, highlighting the plight of the victims through their own testimony. More than cold statistics, these human stories can really convince people of the necessity for small arms abolition.

By introducing this project into the student movement, we hope to accomplish several things. First of all we want to create an opportunity for physicians and students to work together on a concrete project. Secondly, we want to introduce students to the field of arms-control and enable them to make a difference. Last, but not least, this project can, if taken up by enough student groups, lead to a vast amount of data and case reports, which can be used to convince decision makers and really change people's way of thinking. This project has potential not only in Latin America and Africa, but also in the United States, where the fact that small arms are a serious threat to public health still hasn't caught on.

SA Regional Team for Dialogue and Reconciliation

Under this concept, the students of PSR-Nepal organised a regional seminar in Kathmandu where they talked about the conflicts in South Asia and ways to transform conflict to establish peace in the region. The students from Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in this workshop. More projects are planned for next year.

Brain Drain – planned in the near future

This project would be a pilot study conducted by student members of IPPNW, a preliminary assessment of health care professional emigration from developing to developed countries. The objectives are to survey medical students in IPPNW chapters in the Global South as to their plans after graduation, determine the context of health professional employment within the respective countries (opportunities, income, and continuing education), assess feasibility of emigration and admittance to health programs in Europe and North America and ascertain the social and economic impact of healthcare professional emigration. This could be done in conjunction with a doctoral thesis if we can find a university professor that would support this plan.

Project Approval

In order to simplify the procedure for official IPPNW endorsement, we have devised a protocol and published it online. Here, students wishing to obtain IPPNW endorsement for their project can find out what requirements this project has to meet and how they can proceed. They will also find concrete steps and help for writing project grants. This procedure not only makes the whole process of starting a project and obtaining IPPNW endorsement more transparent, but also encourages student groups to go about starting their own projects, as was the case with ReCap and Target X.

III. IPPNW Student Chapters in Europe



Active IPPNW student groups in Europe

Regional Student Representatives: Andra Corbu (andra_m_corbu@yahoo.com), Romania
Noora Kaikkonen (nkaikkon@hytti.uku.fi), Finland

One of the two regions, where the student movement really caught on, Europe has been able to increase the number of active IPPNW students in recent years, with many new ideas and initiatives coming from here. While the large student chapters, who have the support of their affiliates (Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Germany) have grown substantially, other countries have not been successful in ensuring continuity and a large effort is underway to re-establish activity in countries like France, Russia, Spain or Italy. Some countries, like the Netherlands might be positively lost to us, due to the large role IFMSA plays on medical campus, but delegations to this country have proven successful in at least ensuring a level of cooperation and exchange. With students using the Erasmus program as a means for spreading word about IPPNW and several concrete initiatives, mainly by German students, new student contacts have been established in countries like Spain, Poland, Portugal and Italy, which even hosted this year's European Student Conference in Naples. Next year will see IPPNW students meeting in Portugal, another "new" IPPNW student country. The successful Conference in St. Petersburg and the two subsequent delegations of NWIP students to Moscow and St. Petersburg managed to revive some activity amongst Russian students. In October, a strong student presence at the European IPPNW Conference in Marseilles, France helped to improve student-physician bonds within Europe and to actively promoted student activity in places where this was not yet taking place. A follow-up visit by IPPNW students in Marseilles is planned for coming fall.

Austria

NSR: Julian Renoldner (julian.reno@gmail.com)

Activities: None that we know of

Obstacles: Despite a renewed surge of motivation after the St. Petersburg conference, it has proven difficult to win new student members. Due to personal reasons, many of the very active students gradually quit their engagement, leaving only one student as contact, the current National Student Representative who has been able to recruit some more members. On August 6th they organized a public event on Stephansplatz in Vienna and are currently planning a postcard action on "living with the bomb" www.LebenmitderBombe.at.

Future outlook: Not too good, despite a motivated Student Representative. Help and support from the Austrian affiliate OMEGA is badly needed. A new website is being planned and will hopefully help gain new members.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

- NSR: Sanela Banovic (sanela_banovic@yahoo.com)
- Activities: Sanela organized a wonderful reunion of students from the former Yugoslav states which had participated in the student exchange with the IPPNW group in Würzburg. You can read about this event on the website at www.ippnw-students.org/sarajevo. Sanela also participated in the Baltic Bike Tour and is keen on playing a larger role within the student movement in the future.
- Obstacles: As the student movement is just developing in this country, it is hard to identify obstacles at this point.
- Future outlook: With Sanela's dedication it's looking good, but support from the outside is badly needed.

Bulgaria

- NSR: Sonalid Vaid (sona_vaid@yahoo.com) and Deepak Singh (complexion007@hotmail.com)
- Activities: None that we know of. Our contact students mainly organize a scientific conference in Pleven every year, to which they have frequently invited us. So far, we have not been able to take them up on this offer, mainly due to scheduling and lack of funding.
- Obstacles: Little communication and little knowledge about IPPNW as of yet
- Future outlook: Not good, as there is no official affiliate in the country and nothing to start with right now. A visit to the Pleven conference, which always takes place in May, might refresh student activism and is definitely something worth looking into, especially with physician support and a concrete mission.

Denmark

- NSR: Caecilie Buhmann (cbuhmann2002@yahoo.com)
- Activities: Caecilie handed over the NWIP to Inga and Camilla in 2004, but continues helping with some of the NWIP activities, such as a visit by medical students at NATO Headquarters and trying to establish IPPNW-related items into the medical curriculum, but IPPNW student activism within Denmark is virtually non-existent. Caecilie held a presentation on Chernobyl and Hiroshima in April and August 2006 to the Danish Peace Academy, Soka Gakkai International, Pugwash and DLMK and published papers on Chernobyl and Peace through Health in the Danish Medical Journal.
- Obstacles: A very strong IFMSA chapter and little willingness to become active in yet another organization
- Future outlook: A delegation to the annual IFMSA meeting in Denmark, demonstrating the possibilities for cooperation between the two organizations and the aspect of political and social engagement even after university might prove beneficial, although some support by the Danish affiliate might be needed.

Estonia

- NSR: Meelis Tasur (melq@med.ut.ee) and Liina Raskasov (lr@ut.ee)
- Activities: The Estonian students actively participated in all European Student Conferences of the last years, including St. Petersburg and seem to be very motivated in this regard. Cooperation with IFMSA amongst the students is high, to a point where we have to worry about similar situations as in the Netherlands or the UK, where students don't see a point in IPPNW activity at all. As of now, though, students are still motivated, have organized Target Tallinn two times and have played a vital role in organizing the Baltic Bike Tour 2006.
- Obstacles: No official IPPNW affiliate (yet)
- Future outlook: Several of the former IPPNW students in Estonia have expressed the wish to apply for affiliation now that they have become doctors. A probe in this direction could be useful and might yield unexpected results.

Finland

- NSR: Miira Klemetti (mmklemet@hytti.uku.fi) until November 18th
- Activities: Students are very active in Finland, have participated in all European conferences and have put a lot of energy into preparing the student conference in Helsinki next year. On a local level, cooperation between IPPNW students and IFMSA is high, to a point where the two groups are identical at some universities. The Finnish students have developed a Peace Test (www.peacetest.net), which is now a transnational IFMSA project currently coordinated by FiMSIC, but some PSR Finland student members still work in the project as it used to be coordinated in Finland by PSR. The project uses an international questionnaire to give peace and human rights education to secondary school pupils. During the past year, we have published the results of the survey in Finland and received some publicity for the project. The new national coordinator has familiarized himself with the job and started recruiting new local teams and contacting schools. A new handbook has been written for local teams and new webpages have been made for the project.

Responsible students: Venla Lehti, venla.lehti@utu.fi; Reino Kupari, reino.kupari@uta.fi; Ante Pettersson, ante.pettersson@helsinki.fi.

Practical training weekend on HIV/AIDS was held in Tampere (Oct 8th-9th, 2006) in order to prepare the medical students participating in the FiMSIC/PSR World AIDS Day Awareness Raising Campaign for their educational tasks. The theme of the WAD campaign was the "3 by 5 goal", so the training concentrated mostly on this topic. About 30 medical students took part. Funding for the training came from the Family Federation of Finland. The event was organized by the local FiMSIC/PSR student group in Tampere and the WAD-campaign coordinator, Sini Eloranta (sini.eloranta@utu.fi), who is both a FiMSIC officer and a PSR student member.

A World AIDS Day (1st Dec) Awareness Raising Campaign for secondary school students was organized for the second time in cooperation with FiMSIC in late November and early December. The project was carried out in high schools in 5 cities (Turku, Tampere, Helsinki, Oulu, Kuopio), in 2-6 schools in each city, concentrating on the "3 by 5" initiative. Interactive presentations were given by medical students and information materials produced by FiMSIC, PSR and other Finnish NGOs (posters, brochures, etc.) were handed out. About 60 medical students took part in the campaign and it reached over 1500 high school students. Responsible students: Sini Eloranta, sini.eloranta@utu.fi; Miira Klemetti, mmklemet@hytti.uku.fi

PSR student members organized, in cooperation with FiMSIC and the Finnish Family Federation, a lecture series titled "Maternal health programs in Sub-Saharan Africa: implementation, progress and challenges" with three lecturers from Malawi and Nigeria. The tour included lectures and discussion events in Kuopio, Tampere and Helsinki, targeting doctors, medical student, public health students, journalist, politicians and the general public. Responsible student: Miira Klemetti, mmklemet@hytti.uku.fi.

FiMSIC officers and PSR student members organized a training weekend for medical students on human rights (Feb 4th-5th 2006, in Turku). The training included lectures, workshops and interactive exercises. About 40 medical students participated. The event was organized in cooperation with The Finnish Human Rights League, University of Turku (Faculties of medicine and law), Amnesty International and the Finnish Medical Society Duodecim. Responsible FiMSIC officer and PSR student member: Venla Lehti, venla.lehti@utu.fi.

PSR students participated in the "Maailma Kylässä" ("Global Village") Festival/Fair in Helsinki (May 27th-28th, 2006) by selling African handicrafts, PSR t-shirts and books at the PSR-Finland information stand in order to raise funds for PSR development cooperation projects. Responsible students: Matti Parry, matti.parry@helsinki.fi; Miira Klemetti, mmklemet@hytti.uku.fi

Throughout 2005-2006 several PSR students have taken part in the preparations for the IPPNW World Congress that will be held in Helsinki in September 2006. Responsible students: Ulla Otava, ulla.otava@helsinki.fi; Ante Pettersson, ante.pettersson@helsinki.fi.

The local FiMSIC committee/PSR student group of Turku helped organize the Human Rights Training for Medical Students (Feb. 4th-5th, 2006). Responsible students: venla.lehti@utu.fi, sini.eloranta@utu.fi. The local student group of Turku also organized a lecture and a poster exhibition about children's rights on Children's Rights Day in November and a lecture evening titled "Women in conflict" on Women's Day in March. Both events were held at the local medical faculty. Responsible students: venla.lehti@utu.fi, sini.eloranta@utu.fi,

Kuopio's PSR student group organized a party on the "Day Against Racism" in order to increase tolerance among students. Approximately 200 students (both medical students and students from other faculties) participated. Responsible student: Noora Kaikkonen, nkaikkon@hytti.uku.fi. The local student group of Helsinki took part in the "Children's Medical Fair" held in the Heureka Science Centre in Vantaa, in February 2006. We organized a Teddy Bear Hospital, giving injections to oranges, making casts on plastic "fingers" and a drama on situations at the doctors' office aiming at reducing children's doctorphobia.

The PSR student group of Helsinki has, in close cooperation with the UN Association of University of Helsinki, organized a fundraising campaign for the Ibadan Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction Project (IMMREP) running in Ibadan, Nigeria. IMMREP is a joint effort of a Nigerian primary health care NGO and PSR-Finland. The fundraising project team visits private medical clinics, gives a short PowerPoint presentation on Nigeria's alarming maternal mortality situation and tells the staff about IMMREP. The staff can then donate a "lecture fee" in order to support the project. The project is currently running. Responsible students: Suvi Syväranta, suvi.syvaranta@helsinki.fi, Ante Pettersson, ante.pettersson@helsinki.fi, and Miira Klemetti, mmklemet@hytti.uku.fi.

The local groups in all cities with medical faculties (Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Kuopio, Oulu) have organized campaigns in cooperation with FiMSIC students encouraging medical students to donate blood. In November 2005, a blood donation competition titled "Red November" attracted 60 participants in Helsinki. The PSR/FiMSIC students have also donated blood themselves in order to set a good example.

The PSR Board has four student members currently and, in general, students are very actively involved in all national PSR activities, working constantly together with IPPNW physicians. For example, many students work in the PSR development cooperation projects and at least 3-5 students usually take part in the meetings of the PSR Development Cooperation Committee. Many students have also been involved in organizing this year's IPPNW World Congress that will be held in Helsinki in September.

Obstacles: Communication with the Student Representative is minimal, although things might change... Some cities have had recruitment problems and in general the level of enthusiasm and the number of active students varies quite a lot in all cities depending on the time of year. There are functioning mailing lists, so people are able to communicate relatively easily with each other. However, the amount of communication also varies quite a lot – sometimes there are quiet periods that can last for a few months. Many students active in PSR are also active in other organizations and have time management problems.

Future outlook: Due to the high level of support from the Finnish affiliate and the motivation of the students, the future of this student chapter is indeed looking good, with a steady growth in membership and students who might go on to become active within the physicians' IPPNW as well. Many local student groups are currently planning seminars on various, "PSR-related" issues. The IMMREP fundraising project will continue in Helsinki. The blood donation and teddy bear hospital projects will continue next year as well.

France

NSR: Kathrin Pippert (lila_nilpferd@gmx.de)

Activities: The French students are very new to IPPNW and have recently been to the St. Petersburg conference and the European Congress in Marseilles. Future activities are planned and we hope to hear from France in the near future.

Obstacles: Little to no culture of political engagement against nuclear war amongst French medical students, to the point where the faculties actively work against the students there.

Future outlook: If the small core group of students in Strasbourg can be supported by the French affiliate and stay on, we might have a chance to spread the word within France. Similarly, future exchange opportunities with Erasmus by German IPPNW students might result in new core groups in other places. Also, the new European Student Representative, Andra Corbu might play a major role in setting up contacts to French students. She will be in Marseilles this fall.

Germany

NSR: Daniela Calvano (bruce@gmx.de) and Eva-Maria Schwienhorst (eva-ippnw@email.de)

Activities: The German student chapter is one of the most active, thanks largely to the immense effort and support by the German affiliate and the favourable conditions at the universities (high acceptance, also by deans and faculties, low profile of IFMSA, more relaxed curriculum) Activities range from work with paperless people, who normally have no access to health care, to participation in NWIP and ReCap, to seminars on "Medicine for Peace and Social Responsibility" and public street actions like Target Berlin on August 6th. The German affiliate also recently offered a study trip for IPPNW students to southern Turkey and has invested in a medical exchange program called "Practice and Engage", which served as the blueprint for the much smaller MedEx. This project has managed to spread the word about IPPNW to many new places, has motivated many students abroad and done a lot for the cause of the IPPNW student movement. Students publish an annual magazine with support of the IPPNW Central Office in Berlin, which greatly increases the presence of

IPPNW on campus and have their own German student website with useful information and links to all IPPNW local student groups (29 in all). These local groups organize large events in order to raise money for AIDS-clinics, organize informative weekend workshops on a vast array of topics and hold regular fundraisers in order to support medical students from Eastern and Southern Europe, paying for their travel costs to the European Student Conference.

The last national student conferences took place with more than 100 students each in Leipzig in November 2004 and in Rostock in November of 2005 and the next one will take place in Cologne in November of 2006. In December of 2005, students participated in the conference on “medical care for paperless people” in Berlin, in January in a conference on “Globalisation, war and military intervention” in Frankfurt, in the conference on “traumatized refugees in the area conflict of medicine and law” in February of 2006 and the international Congress “20 years after Chernobyl” in Bonn in April of 2006. In January, Alex Rosen organized a weekend retreat for young IPPNW doctors: “how to stay active in the IPPNW after the time as a student?”

In Hamburg, there was a World AIDS day: information booth, in collaboration with a local AIDS-NGO

- . Berlin had a survey about the medical care of people in prison for deportation. The students held a presentation about the German IPPNW delegation to Korea (http://www.ippnw-students.org/berlin/showcontent.php?article=lenanorkorea_teaser) as well as a series of lectures at the university on various topics.

In Dresden, the students engaged in presentation and exhibition about the Refugee Camp Project (ReCap) in Palestine, exhibitions about medical care of people without legal status in Germany, and starting a medical care network for these people in Dresden, already with 15 participating physicians, film nights: showing winners of the film peace prize with discussion, workshops about the German health care system and the effect on physicians and ethics, in collaboration with the local ethic committee and discussions about the current situation in Iran

In Düsseldorf the students organized a “volleyball for Kenia” for the Hope Hospital in Maseno and for the Kibera Self Help Community Project (KICOSHEP) and took care of the Erasmus-Students in Düsseldorf

In Göttingen, the students organized an Information booth about IPPNW, in collaboration with attac, dfa, amnesty international and terres des homes, had a lecture on „War starts where language ends“ and ran information services on the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima in the city centre

The Rostock students hosted film events in the university, hosted the German IPPNW student meeting 2005 and held a series of lectures at university

The Mainz students founded of the NGO “Medinetz”, which provides medical care for people without legal status and created public recognition for this problem by collaborating with many groups in the field, such as lawyers, council of refugees, churches, etc.

There is an email newsgroup for everybody to join: ippnw-studies@yahoogroups.de. Once a year, the magazine “Amatom”, is published by IPPNW students, aiming to reach as many “critically thinking” medical student as possible. Any local group can order copies from the central office in Berlin and hand them out at their universities, thus spreading the message of IPPNW and increasing public recognition.

Ties to SCORP Germany (Standing Committee of Refugees and Peace of IFMSA) are just now increasing, aiming at linking efforts in building up health care networks for people without legal status in different cities. Another goal of this partnership is to organize courses in the field of “Peace through Health” in the medicine curriculum.

Two of the members of the German IPPNW board are students (Okka Kimmich and Stephan Hohmann). On the local level there are numerous ties to physicians, who are frequently invited by student groups to give talks on various subjects. Furthermore, the next national student meeting in Cologne will be linked with the regional meeting of physicians. In the four research groups (Nuclear Energy, Refugees, South-North, and Medicine and Ethics) who regularly meet, students are always welcome.

Obstacles: Even though collection and passing on of information has improved, there is still a lack of communication between the IPPNW student groups. The newsgroup we have could be used more often to pass on timely information about local events. Other than that, we are very pleased with the multitude of activities under way in different cities, and the vibrancy of the German IPPNW student movement!

Future Outlook: Since the local groups generally operate independent of each other, the diversity of planned events is very high. On a national level, enhancing the network between the IPPNW students' movement and other NGOs, such as SCORP, is definitely on the agenda for the near future, in order to help like-minded medical students join forces. Also, there can always be more done to improve the communication between local student groups. With so much support by the German affiliate and a huge number of active and motivated students, the main focus now is on the continuity between university and working life, trying to keep the active students in the organization as active physicians. A workshop for former IPPNW students and young IPPNW doctors which is being organized next spring will attempt to ensure just this.

Ireland

NSR: Vicki Ip (medaction_ireland@yahoo.ie)

Activities: The students in Ireland have not been idle since the wonderful European Student Conference in Dublin last year. They have held workshops and organized informational talks on topics ranging from the Northern Ireland conflict to community health. Right now, there are plans for an IPPNW Model United Nations session to take place early next year, which would give students a first-hand experience of disarmament.

Obstacles: Little communication with the Irish affiliate and a high turn-over of students

Future outlook: If the currently active students could in any way be supported by the Irish and UK affiliates, the chances of further growth in the future would be higher.

Italy

NSR: Luca Astarita (luca_astarita@hotmail.com)

Activities: The Italian students have organized last year's European Student Conference in Naples. Having been introduced to IPPNW through the SPARC while doing a year abroad in Strasbourg and Düsseldorf, the students in Naples, Milan and Bologna will hopefully be able to gather support in the coming year, as they jointly organized this conference. One of the students has participated in the ReCap in Bethlehem and will hopefully stick with this project in the future. The students have communicated with the Italian affiliate and hope to be able to work together in the future.

Obstacles: Little culture of political engagement amongst medical students

Future outlook: Support and cooperation with the Italian affiliate is needed.

Netherlands

NSR: No representative, but a contact person: Jihaan Hassan (jihaanhassan@yahoo.com)

Activities: Dutch students have been entirely absent from IPPNW for a number of years now, despite a long history of IPPNW student involvement in this country. In recent months, Alex Rosen has conducted several delegations to the Netherlands, meeting with Dutch students and speaking to the IFMSA general assembly in Leiden, introducing IPPNW, promoting cooperation and distributing flyers and contact information.

Obstacles: The overwhelming presence of IFMSA at Dutch universities makes setting up an IPPNW student movement highly unrealistic, which is why the current goal is merely to improve cooperation and have concrete contact persons, who would spread information about international projects and IPPNW initiatives amongst Dutch students.

Future outlook: With some interested students having heard of IPPNW, next year's European Student Conference and other international events might prove successful in luring Dutch students into the IPPNW student movement. IFMSA's excellent communication lines are a great help in spreading information and support by the Dutch affiliate could prove useful.

Norway

NSR: Runde Dahl (rune.dahl@studmed.uio.no)

Activities: A close cooperation with the NLA doctors has proven successful and the Norwegian chapter has been able to attract new members every year. Activities range from participation in the DWDM-Program, ReCap and NWIP to the organization of informational workshops on nuclear weapons and work on the introduction of PTH-topics in the medical curriculum.

Obstacles: None that we know of

Future outlook: The future is looking good, especially if the close cooperation with NLA is continued, support for student activities upheld and the great potential in Peace through Health work utilized, which is most promising in the northern town of Tromsø, where there is actually an IPPNW-course being created right now.

Poland

NSR: None yet

Activities: No activities, students have just returned from their year abroad, where they came into touch with IPPNW

Obstacles: No IPPNW activity in Poland so far and little culture of political engagement amongst students

Future outlook: Polish students were introduced to IPPNW during their Erasmus exchange year in Düsseldorf, Germany and Strasbourg, France. There, they attended workshops, student conferences and even the European Student Congress in St. Petersburg. If we manage to stay in touch with them and encourage them to start something of their own, we might have a chance for steady growth in Poland. Kathrin Pippert and Alex Rosen are on it.

Romania

NSR: Ivona Iacob (irivo@yahoo.com)

Activities: Activity is down from a high level a few years ago to several small initiatives, including the publication of a brochure on HIV prevention and cooperation with the Maritime Institute of Bucharest on an environmental project in the Danube Delta

Obstacles: For personal reasons, the current student representative finds it difficult to continue, but sees no real successors and is worried about the student chapter dying out in the next year.

Future outlook: With support for Romanian students having mainly come from the German IPPNW students in recent years, membership has dwindled and it is unclear whether a planned delegation of European students to Bucharest will take place. The situation is worrying, especially now that we have a few motivated students and cannot seem to keep them going. A local meeting in Bucharest is planned for September of 2006 to decide on future activities.

Russia

NSR: Anna-Polina Shurygina (Ann-polin@mail.ru)

Activities: After relative quiet within the Russian student movement for years, Anna-Polina's courageous feat of organizing the European Student Conference in St. Petersburg last May has given the students a new boost, with the NWIP delegation adding to this success. St. Petersburg students participated in Target X and organized an installation in their city.

Obstacles: Little contact with the official affiliate and a large distance between Moscow and St. Petersburg have hampered student activity in the past. Hopefully, the events of this year have provided the students with some new motivation, but the bleak economic situation and the lack of political engagement amongst medical students is still posing problems. Another issue that has come recently is the crackdown on political groups by the government, which is impeding development of a real student movement right now.

Future outlook: If we manage to build on the successes of this year, include Russian students in international projects such as NWIP and re-establish strong cooperation between students and physicians, the Russian student chapter has a future.

Spain

NSR: None yet

Activities: No activities as of yet, but merely two interested students that were drawn by the European Student Congress in St. Petersburg and might want to start something of their own in Spain

Obstacles: Little culture of political engagement amongst medical students and language barrier

Future outlook: Alex Rosen has spent four months in Spain last spring, but no real contact could be established with medical students there and also the planned meetings with Aurora Bilbao did not materialize.

Sweden

NSR: Martina Grosch (martina.grosch@slmk.org)

Activities: Sweden's IPPNW students receive great support from their affiliate and cooperate with the physicians in a variety of projects. The Swedish pioneering role in bringing students to Board meetings and introducing them to the International IPPNW early on has proven to be a successful way of fostering interest and ensuring continuity and should be taken up by other affiliates in due course. During the last year, the group of active students has grown. They have recruited new students in many different ways. One was a letter campaign to all members in SLMK (the Swedish affiliate of IPPNW), asking

them to pay the member fee of someone they think should be a member of SLMK. Another way has been to go out to all classes with new medical students and informing about our work, and to go to other organisations of medical students (i.e. IFMSA) to find interested students. The students have also arranged film events, showing a film about nuclear weapons and a discussion and some food afterwards. Together with some of the doctors in SLMK, they have organized lectures about nuclear weapons in the university cities. In August 2006, they had our first Swedish student meeting in the archipelago of Stockholm, which turned out to be a success with a lot of new activities being planned for the coming year. A new Swedish student meeting is planned for November 2006. Many students have participated in different conferences about nuclear weapons during the past year, both in Sweden and internationally. Two students have participated in meetings with officials at embassies in Sweden, and one of them has been on a dialogue with Dialogue with Decision makers. Quite a few of the Swedish students are active in NWIP, the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project (www.ippnw-students.org/NWIP), and they have done a lot of activities internationally during 2005-2006. Five of the Swedish students are also active in the Swedish board, and the whole Swedish student group receive great support from the doctors of SLMK. The students have written many articles for the SLMK paper about national and international student activities. Cooperation between IFMSA and IPPNW is facilitated through the student representative, Martina Grosch, and generally works well, augmenting local IPPNW work in Sweden and ensuring growing membership.

Obstacles: None that we know of

Future outlook: Looking good, as far as we can see, with a great potential which is gradually being tapped and an enviable amount of physician-student cooperation.

UK

NSR: No elected representative, but a contact person: Katie Garman (president@medsin.org)

Activities: So far, IPPNW activities in the UK have been prevented by the large role of IFMSA (MedSin) at British universities. A long exchange of mails and telephone calls between MedSin students, Caecilie Buhmann and Alex Rosen has culminated in an IPPNW delegation headed by the European Student Representative Vicky Fera, which will visit the upcoming MedSin conference in October and look into possibilities for future cooperation.

Obstacles: As mentioned above, there is virtually no interest in yet another political and social organization for medical students, although this could change in light of current efforts, which can hopefully demonstrate the usefulness of a better cooperation between certain MedSin students and MedAct, in effect creating an IPPNW student movement in the UK.

Future outlook: The situation is looking good right now, as there is a motivated MedSin president, who wants better relations to IPPNW and sees the importance of such a partnership, especially in light of the good relations to MedAct, IPPNW's affiliate in the UK. Support from this affiliate in setting up a student movement within the UK (maybe as part of MedSin) is desperately needed.

IV. Communication and Governance

Student Website

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org>

Contact persons: Alex Rosen (alexro80@web.de) and Ante Pettersson (ante.pettersson@helsinki.fi)

The student website was created two years ago with the intention of giving student groups, projects and the representatives a platform to present their work, create a place for the exchange of information, give interested students an idea what IPPNW and the student movement is about and improve communication within the movement. The website has been able to do all of this and more. With new sections being added to the site almost every month, each national student chapter having its own site, every project being able to administer its own pages, the new online magazine being published on the site, informative links and documents being uploaded for further reading, thousands of photos and dozens of reports already available and the website receiving an average of 9.000 visits per month, the internet presence has not only proven to be a useful tool, but has given the IPPNW student movement a face, has stopped the process of previous accomplishments being lost and has led to more efficiency and professionalism within projects. At the same time, online voting, public reports and easy-to-access contact information have increased transparency and democracy within the student movement.

Student online magazine „e-pulse“

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/epulse>

Contact persons: Khagendra Dahal (khagenvikram@hotmail.com), Sandip Adhikari (beefysandip@yahoo.com)

With its first issue, e-pulse has already set new standards for student publications, offering a moving account by an Indian medical student on her first trip to Pakistan, interviews with IPPNW physicians and staff members, backgrounds information about Nuclear Weapons, news and updates on recent conferences and projects and information on upcoming events. The bimonthly magazine is being produced and edited by Khagendra and Sandip.

Regular E-mails

Keeping a high profile and using the newly compiled list of student contacts, the International Student Representatives have taken care to keep students informed of current events and new projects, sending out regular updates not only to the Student Representatives, but also in regular intervals to all active IPPNW student known to us – around 1.000 in total. These mails serve to keep students updated on what is going on, ensure a decent level of information and encourage participation from students even in regions, where communication is difficult and students tend not to hear from their National Student Representatives very often.

Student Guidelines

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/guidelines.html>

Solving the dilemma regarding the student guidelines, we were able to establish a democratic, inclusive and transparent method of drafting and voting on the student guidelines, which were approved with overwhelming majority by the elected student representatives last January. With half a year passed now, the first amendment, regarding the international student fund is currently undergoing the drafting process and will be voted on in a similar fashion in November. The guidelines serve as the governing documents for the student movement and will help resolve many of the questionable practices of the past and give a sense of continuity to the student movement, which it had lacked previously.

Student Governing Body

Address: <http://www.ippnw-students.org/GB>

Created by the Student guidelines, this virtual Governing Body consists of all elected National Student Representatives, with each country having exactly one vote. The Governing Body decides on amendments of the student guidelines (as is the case with the document on the student fund, which is being discussed right now) and will elect the new International Student Representatives in Helsinki. This institution, too, provides the Student Movement with a level of transparency and professionalism previously unthinkable. All decisions can be found in a decision library, all online discussions are kept track of and voting is recorded in an online voting table.

Communication with IFMSA

Alex Rosen has personally met with IFMSA representative in Strasbourg, Leiden and Utrecht and both International Student Representatives are in e-mail contact with the president of IFMSA, ensuring good cooperation and information and hopefully many cases of interested IFMSA students joining IPPNW in the future.

V. Representation

Board of Directors and Executive Committee

While Khagendra Dahal represented the Student Movement within the Executive Committee during the first half of this year, Alex Rosen took his place in February. During the conference calls, we tried to adequately inform about student activity and make the students' voice heard on decisions regarding the federation. We are very happy with the amount of responsibility entrusted in us and believe that it is important to keep up this level of cooperation, as both the student movement and the federation can profit from a good student-physician relationship.

VI. Student Membership

Below you will find a table showing the absolute number of student contacts we have been able to gather over the past year – mostly during conferences and workshops and with the help of the National Student Representatives in each country. These numbers do not represent the total number of active students, merely the number of contacts we have. These numbers merely serve to demonstrate relative involvement and show regions and countries where our recruitment efforts have been successful and where we have not been able to expand so far. Notables are new national student chapters in Portugal, Italy and France, as well as student chapters that have grown substantially, as is the case for Ireland. On the other hand, the table also demonstrates the acute problems we are facing regarding student involvement outside of Western and Northern Europe. One answer to this problem is our campaign SPARC, which is explained in the projects section.

Country	Contacts Sep. 2004	Contacts Sep. 2005	Contacts Sep. 2006
	296	549	673
ARMENIA	1	2	2
AUSTRIA	8	8	12
BELARUS	0	0	2
BOSNIA-H.	0	0	8
DENMARK	1	1	4
ESTONIA	6	16	16
FINLAND	14	35	42
FRANCE	0	5	13
GERMANY	91	189	236
GREECE	1	3	0
IRELAND	3	132	122
ITALY	0	8	30
KOSOVO	0	0	4
LITHUANIA	0	0	1
NETHERLANDS	1	4	3
NORWAY	15	31	27
POLAND	0	12	15
PORTUGAL	0	0	2
ROMANIA	1	3	19
RUSSIA	7	63	52
SERBIA-MONT.	0	0	4
SPAIN	0	2	2
SWEDEN	18	30	29
SWITZERLAND	0	2	3
TURKEY	0	0	7
UKRAINE	0	0	3
UK	2	3	6