



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILDHOOD
JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANCE
AFRICAINNE
INTERNATIONALER TAG DER AFRIKANISCHEN
KINDHEIT
INTERNATIONALE DAG VAN DE AFRIKAANSE JEUGD
DIA INTERNACIONAL DE LA INFANCIA AFRICANA
And its YOUTHIDAY – www.1606.eu (under preparation).

“.....I tell you, African Youth, you can do it. And so seize the moment and do it.” Statement of Mrs Hauwa Ibrahim, 2005 Sakharov Prize to the participants of the IDAY Seminar at the European Parliament on 16 June 2006.

IDAY 2006 EVALUATION REPORT

IDAY's aim is to contribute to the realization of the Dakar Framework & the second Millennium Development Goal (a full cycle of primary education for all children by 2015) in sub-Saharan Africa by a massive mobilisation of the African and European civil societies on the occasion of the commemoration of the massacre of South African students on 16 June 1976. IDAY members have included young illiterates¹ from 12 to 24 years in their literacy goals.

1. Scope.

IDAY 2006 gathered 24 European NGOs/not-for-profit organizations (Belgium : 19 including a platform representing 12 NGOs ; France : 3 ; Germany : 1 ; Luxembourg : 1) and 10 NGOs/not-for-profit organizations from 8 African countries (**Annexe 1**).

The « IDAY » as well as the Message of Yaguine and Fodé are evidently capable of uniting European and African partners to achieve the 2nd Millennium Development Goals : a full cycle of primary education for all by 2015.

2.. Project elements.

2.1. International Seminar in Brussels on 16 June.

The seminar took place in the European Parliament in the prestigious P1A 2000 room with simultaneous interpreting in English and French and passive translation into Dutch. The definitive programme is available in **annexe 2**. Everything went as planned, including the presence of HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium, the participation of several speakers from Africa thanks to the sponsoring of Brussels Airlines and UNICEF (photos in **annexe 2bis**) and the presentation of Mrs Hauwa Ibrahim, 2005 Sakharov Prize, on DVD (text attached in **annexe 2ter – DVD** available upon request). Mr Pierre Vaessen, Cabinet Director, replaced Minister Armand de Decker, who was excused due to other obligations. The Luxembourg Minister for Humanitarian Cooperation and Action was also excused.

¹ The decrease in the number of illiterates among youngsters between 15 and 24 years is a success indicator of the 2nd MDG.

The information kits included the list of participants, the programme, the manifesto with UNICEF education statistics per African country and the text of the speeches provided in advance. The programme and the Manifesto were made available in English and in Dutch.

Number of participants registered :	202	Number of information kits produced :	170
Number of badges picked up :	165	Number of information kits distributed during the seminar:	165
Number of effective participants on average for the duration of the seminar:	70	Number of information kits distributed among requesters who were unable to attend the conference:	5

Mrs S. Beckley (UNICEF-Dakar), who also took part in the discussion following the cultural events in Luxembourg and Brussels, opened the morning's debates by outlining the situation of primary education in sub-Saharan Africa and concluded that, without radical intervention, the second Millennium Development Goal (MDG) would once again not be achieved in the majority of the sub continent's countries. She reminded participants of the government's responsibility in this matter, indicating that according to UNICEF estimates, the educational projects subsidized by civil society were certainly meritorious and necessary, but that they only covered 1/1000th of all needs. His Excellency the Ambassador of Uganda then discussed his country's efforts to achieve the 2nd MDG, while recognizing that free education was particularly hard to achieve.

Mrs S. Ruboneka (Pro-femmes-Kigali) also took part in the debates in several European cities on the occasion of IDAY. She discussed the case of the forgotten children and more specifically that of child domestic workers in the region of the Great Lakes. The elements of her presentation can be downloaded from the website www.izo.be/Rwanda (with a capital R). This website is an initiative of ADPM, an NGO based in Huy, Belgium. His Excellency the Ambassador of Senegal impressed the participants with the government-sanctioned efforts to realise the 2nd MDG in his country, at least as regards formal education.

After the moderator requested a minute of silence to commemorate all the young Africans who continue to die on a daily basis in their efforts to make it to Europe to defend their rights or who died in Europe as a result of racist acts, the morning ended with a presentation of part of the film and commentaries of representatives of **Avenir Nepad International**. They discussed the actions of their NGO to involve the African Diaspora worldwide and African civil society in the governance evaluations of African countries by the new Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD). Mrs Luisa Morgantini, President of the Development Committee of the European Parliament ended the morning's debates. She told participants that she was pleased to welcome IDAY and as such endorse its action to benefit education in Africa.

The afternoon kicked off with a presentation by **Mrs Françoise Nice** of the film « Atterrissage: Le message de Yaguine et Fodé (Touchdown: Yaguine and Fodé's message) ». The film highlights the reaction of youngsters and prominent personalities in Benin to the play, which tells of the dramatic ending of the two young Guineans, who were found dead in the landing gear of a Sabena plane and their pathetic message, which explained the reasons of their gesture and sacrifice. Youngsters from a school in Tubize, Belgium, who watched the film at the initiative of **Mrs Agnés Mwamba (Petits Pas, nfp organization)**,

then commented on the movie. They recited moving poems to express their distress about the fact that children's rights are not respected in Africa.

Mr Wynson Ziba, (teacher and founder of a school for abandoned children in Lilongwe - Malawi) and who also took part in the debates in France, Luxembourg and Brussels in the framework of IDAY, discussed the history of the educational sector in his country. While Malawi is one of the countries that will achieve the 2nd MDG by 2015, the quality of education, especially in rural zones, continues to be a significant issue. Mrs Mamta Murhi, in charge of editing part of the World Bank's annual report on the state of the world, specifically the section on young people, discussed the critical role of youngsters between 15 and 24 years in the economic development process of their country and the education of the youngest children.

Mrs Lieve Franssen, Department Head at the European Commission and **Mr Pierre Vaesen**, Cabinet Director for Minister Armand de Decker, discussed the programmes of their respective bodies. Between the two presentations, Mrs Hauwa Ibrahim, 2005 Sakharov prize, detained in the USA by a rather heavy programme, addressed the meeting (see speech in annexe 2ter).

Mr Jean-Jacques Schul, IDAY coordinator, ended the debates and thanked all the personalities and participants who took part during the day's events as well as the organizers of various IDAY 2006 events at international level. He also reminded the attendees of the fundamental role of education and the participation of civil society in the process of sustainable economic development. Finally he also underlined the importance of eliminating illiteracy in young illiterates between 15 and 24 years, from an economic point of view but also in terms of the capacity of mothers to see to their schooling of their children.

Assessment : A prestigious setting which reinforced the European character of IDAY. Free use of the room thanks to the European Parliament. Flexibility of security staff. Efficient assistance by IDAY members (signs, entrance checks, distribution of information kits, etc.). Good public participation but only 4 ambassadors and representatives of 5 other embassies, who only attended part of the debates. The representatives of development cooperation organizations limited themselves to delivering their speeches but did not listen to the grievances of the members of civil society. Largely theoretical and general discourse, notably so on behalf of the official bodies, which prevented practical conclusions. Timing was strictly respected.

In the future preference to be given to working groups directed by NGOs, representatives of African countries and large aid organisations in order to arrive at practical conclusions. Maintain a balance between the amount of time dedicated to speakers and to debate. Participation of a top personality is absolutely necessary to attract the media.

2.2. Brochures and posters (Annexe 3)

A total of 29,000 brochures was printed, including:

- 9,000 for French-speaking Belgium, of which 1,000 were distributed in Brussels parishes
- 5,000 for Dutch-speaking Belgium
- 5,000 for Germany
- 5,000 for France
- 5,000 for the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg (including 3,300 distributed to employees of European institutions).

37,000 flyers were inserted in the brochures for certain regions, announcing the spectacles in Grez-Doiceau (which were eventually cancelled due to expected low participation), Rixensart/Froidmont and for the presentations of Jaz in Paris, in Luxembourg (set up by Caritas/Luxembourg) and in Brussels. As the brochures for Germany and France arrived late, not all were distributed.

Several hundreds of posters (A5, A4 and A3) for the shows of Pie Tshibanda, the play “Jaz” in Brussels, Luxembourg and Paris as well as posters for the football matches in Germany were distributed.

On the other hand, the requests for posters of the message of Yaguine and Fodé could not be honoured in time. Its production could probably be assured by the Fonds Message de Yaguine et Fodé in 2007.

Assessment : The choice of the photos for the brochure and the brochure’s layout were successful and should be maintained. Texts were too long. Distribution by insertion of flyers too complicated. From now on maintain certain shared elements for the different national chapters, but then have the national sections determine the content of the lion’s share of the brochure. They can then be in charge of printing and distributing the brochure. Impact not certain.

2.3. Cultural events

Four events were organized, according to the format tested in 2005. Attendees were welcomed with a photo exhibition (see below), a play and a discussion on the theme of education in Africa, with or without food and drink. These soirees took place in Froidmont (Rixensart) with a presentation by Pie Tshibanda (3 June) and in Paris (9 June), Luxembourg (12 June) and Brussels (15 June), with the play « Jaz » by Koffi Kwahulé. The organisation of these events was largely possible because the following facilities - Froidmont, the Centre Wallonie Bruxelles in Paris and the Varia theatre in Brussels – were made available free of charge. In Luxembourg the event was held in the prestigious facilities of the Centre Culturel de l’Abbaye de Neumunster, against payment.

As regards the discussions, in Paris and in Luxembourg, the majority of the people who saw the play stayed on and actively participated in the discussion, which was of an exceptional quality in Paris due to the participation of representatives of the Embassy of Senegal, the Government of Mali and the Forum Sénégalais and the fact that the Director of an NGO chaired the discussion in an expert manner. In Luxembourg the participation of Minister Jean-Louis Schiltz attracted an audience and the organisation was praised by several specialists. In Brussels on 15 participants stayed on for the discussion. The absence of the African authorities considerably reduced the event’s impact.

Assessment : Excluding the event in Froidmont (180 attendees), the number of participants was always lower than the capacity of the facilities (43 admissions in Paris, 120 in Luxembourg, 139 in Brussels). In addition, events also had to contend with competition of the World Cup and the participants’ fear of traffic problems due to the European Summit, which was being held at the time in Brussels.

The play « Jaz » is culturally remarkable but a little esoteric and modernist, which is probably not the right way to attract large crowds outside the theatre season. If the objective is artistic quality then a play like « Jaz » certainly hits the spot, especially when people with qualities such as Carole Karemera and Denis Mpunga take part in the discussions following the play. They bridge the gap between culture and education in an admirable manner. The admission fee is necessarily higher to cover costs as this type of spectacle targets a niche audience. If participation is the objective, then it would be better to choose a more « popular » spectacle (singers, street events, films, etc.) (Although this type of event did not attract much of a

crowd in Luxembourg at the time of the World Cup). As regards the debates, the participation of prominent Africans is essential. Let the audience talk. Ask the officials to avoid stonewalling.

2.4. Africa Days

2.4.1. Archennes/Grez-Doiceau : In spite of considerable efforts by the NGO « Oser la vie » the event was cancelled due to a lack of participants. The press conference announcing the event had received very little attention.

2.4.2. Ghent : Whole day of events organized by the NGO Kwasakwasa, including events in school in the morning with a game designed to get students to learn more about Africa, the releasing of balloons followed by a conference/debate and a photo exhibition. 60 students (of the 300 students expected – difficult timing and torrential rain) attended the school event. The conference included several experts, including some experts from Africa, a local university professor and representatives of the city of Ghent. The participants (approx. 25 people) then visited the exhibition followed by a drink. The whole event cost approx. € 1,000, 50% of which was financed by the local NGO. Kwasakwasa has made it clear that it will play a more active role during IDAY 2007.

2.4.3. Tubize : Ten copies of the book of the play « Atterrissage » were distributed to students and the film « Atterrissage : le Message de Yaguine et Fodé » was shown followed by an explanation by Mrs Françoise Nice, the co-producer of the film, showing the reaction of young Africans to the play. During the seminar students were able to express their reaction to the film in a very moving manner.

2.4.4. Cologne, Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen. (Annexe 4)

Three activities were organized:

1. The Tournament of 4 June 2006, raising awareness regarding the International Day of African Youth on 16.06, and the photo exhibition from 22.06 to 26.06. The tournament took place 5 days before the world cup, in front of the big stadium in Cologne and was enhanced by the African rhythms of the group Ngoma Kimpwaza.
2. Awareness campaign activities were largely organized by the 40 players of the junior Cologne football team. The media impact was bigger thanks to the World Cup.
3. The photo exhibition was presented at the DOM FORUM in Cologne. The WM Buro ensured that admission to the exhibition was free of charge. The day of the opening was followed by a discussion on the theme of education in Africa. The participants (approx. 30 persons) then visited the exhibition and had a glass of water after their visit.

2.4.5. Luxembourg : All activities were entirely organised by CARITAS Luxembourg which directed operations with an efficient team. Support also of volunteers living in Luxembourg. CARITAS Luxembourg took care of all the operational costs (€ 5,500 compared to admission proceeds of € 660) with government subsidies. The media impact was significant (see document in **annexe 5**).

2.4.6. Photography exhibition «Jeunes sourires d’Afrique (Young smiles of Africa)»

The exhibition comprises 55 photos by 7 young photographers from Germany, Belgium, Benin, Ivory Coast, Spain and Madagascar. Photos that were framed at a very low cost, the European photographers paid for the development of their own work. Three exhibitions were set up: (1) a travelling exhibition to be presented in Froidmont, Paris, Luxembourg, Ghent and Brussels, (2) a second exhibition which was inaugurated at the Zuiderpershuis in Antwerp on 26 May after the march against racism, where it was open to the public throughout June and (3) another exhibition sent to Germany on 26 May where it was exhibited in Cologne.

The first exhibition will also be presented during events on 23/09 in Linkebeek and at later dates in Wallonia and will be available for other events. The second exhibition will travel to various Flemish cities until the end of the year.

The event was entirely and efficiently organized by Mr Hector Martin of «Maison des Enfants du Monde ».

Assessment : An excellent ambassador for Africa and for IDAY's action. Provides a positive image of young Africans. An element that was very much appreciated for example by the Director of the Zuiderpershuis. Used in schools as a complementary visual element for other activities. Creates a favourable ambiance for the kick-off of cultural events. Our thanks go out to all the photographers who travelled to Belgium etc. for the various openings (Londji (Cologne) and Ester Bigot (Cotonou)). To be repeated with calls for proposals for next year. Theme? Find solutions to reduce the cost of production to reduce sales price (€ 100), which was considered too high. No photos sold. Book sales to the amount of € 284 including the beautiful photo book of Mr. Wuilbaut - Afriquaucœur).

Complemented by two reports, which were produced by the RTBF and by photographer Nicolas Schul (private financing) on child domestics in Rwanda: www.izo.be/Rwanda.

2.5. Events in Africa.

The brochure indicates the names of NGOs, which had the intention of organizing an IDAY-themed event on or around 16 June. They represent eight different countries. In fact 12 NGOs representing 9 countries (including Cameroon) submitted proposals. At present we have received reports/articles from 10 NGOs in 8 countries. These reports can be consulted at <http://iday.skynetblogs.be>. The killing of several youngsters in Guinea Conakry on 12 June led to the cancellation of two events scheduled in Conakry and Tormelin. In Uganda 7 NGOs, which work in the shantytowns of Kampala, came together to organize an event in the presence of the Minister, who took advantage of the opportunity to announce a wage increase for teachers. In Kigali a conference, which was co-organized by 4 NGOs, was attended by 95 participants including representatives of the Ministry of Education (14-page report available upon request). Two NGOs set up an event in Togo; in Burkina Faso 3 NGOs organized two separate events. More modest events took place in Cameroon and in the DRC (**annexe 6**).

Assessment : IDAY seems capable of mobilizing the local civil societies. It is essential that we find a method to gather together all this goodwill and translate it into an impact that can influence the authorities. Important in the future to invite and encourage the participation of Ministers of Education as well as ambassadors from EU and other European countries.

2.6. Media promotion (Largely the responsibility of ADPM for Belgium and Caritas for Luxembourg).

The media impact was bigger than in 2005 but still below expectations. All the Belgian media were contacted. The main articles are the result of actions undertaken by UNICEF, which demonstrates the relevance of involving important NGOs. In Belgium we counted 4 articles and 4 radio interviews. At the behest of IDAY and thanks to the fact that Brussels Airlines

took care of flying out journalists to Africa, the French-language Belgian TV station reported on child domestic workers in Rwanda. This report was shown on the news immediately after the footage from the international seminar (broadcast 3 times, see DVD). For media impact in Luxembourg and Senegal please refer to annexe 5.

Assessment : 1. An internet site should be set up : the url www.1606.eu was reserved. It should be organized and translated into several languages, including English. 2. Interventions during trips of the European authorities to African countries, so that network members (see 2.5) can meet with them and highlight the achievements of IDAY members 3. IDAY should publish an annual progress report as regards the realisation of the 2nd MDG. The report should be promoted through the international media. 4. Prepare the submission of a report, well ahead, in collaboration with the European Presidency, including concrete proposals to the June EU summit (2007 : Portugal and Slovenia). 5. Continue the practice of financing journalist visits of concrete projects, but highlight the IDAY reference.

2.7. Books

50 copies of *Atterrissage* by Kangni Alem and 50 copies of «Le ventre de l'Atlantique (The Belly of the Atlantic)» by Fatour Diome were purchased at preferential prices. A copy of each was made available free of charge to African NGOs through the intermediary of NGOs in the northern hemisphere. Other copies were sold at cost in Europe. Seven copies of each book were sent to Libreville upon request. Requests from Africa were given preferential treatment. Copies of the text «Jaz» by Koffi Kwahulé were purchased and distributed by Caritas Luxembourg.

2.8 Manifesto and Scorecard.

A manifesto, largely inspired from the manifesto distributed in 2005, with a spreadsheet that summarized all the statistics regarding the situation of education in Africa (**Annexe 7**), was distributed to every embassy of an African country and of all EU members in Brussels as well as to all the participants in the various events. The manifesto was signed by almost all the organizing NGOs. This document must be seen as the basis for an annual report, prepared on the one hand by a central organisation capable of collating the most recent quantitative statistics and by representatives of the African civil societies on the other hand, who are able to provide qualitative appreciations as regards education in their respective countries (average number of hours of class effectively given/teacher/year; number of hours of training/teacher/year; number and ratio of female teachers; number of inspections, number of teachers who are effectively paid in full and on time, number of students per school book, number of schools in a proper building in rural zones, etc.). This report could then be used as a basis for all IDAY communication with the media.

3. Finance. (Annexe 8).

3.1. Spending.

The forecast spending of € 64,500 was reduced to € 52 800.77 to maintain the balance with the effective proceeds from the various cultural events, sponsors and donors. This spending does not include IDAY spending in Germany and Luxembourg, which was independently financed, as well as spending in African countries, above the € 200 subsidized by the programme. Savings were mainly achieved on secretarial costs and publicity.

As a result of delays in disbursements by public institutions, these expenses were pre-financed between January and June, for a sum of more than € 12,000.

3.2. Proceeds.

IDAY 2006 collected € 52,880.77, including:

- Public sponsors: € 29,625 including the DGCD (the Directorate General for Development Cooperation): € 21,625 and the European Investment Bank: € 3 500.
- Private sponsors: € 6,429, including € 3,864 by Brussels Airlines in the form of free tickets for flights to Africa.
- Admission : € 3,750 in proceeds (ticket sales for cultural events, books, etc.).

The organizing NGOs of IDAY 2006 would like to take advantage of this opportunity to send out their heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors.

4. Recommendations and Organization.

4.1. Meetings.

Between September 2005 and September 2006 NGOs met in Brussels 14 times, either at the HQ of the King Baudouin Foundation or at UNICEF. Every meeting had its own agenda and minutes, which were distributed to all NGOs present, including those abroad and in Africa. This procedure ensured the organisation's transparency.

Meetings were also held in Cologne (2), Paris (2) and in Luxembourg (2) to assure the coordination of the respective programmes.

4.2. Direction and Coordination.

IDAY 2006 is the second tryout. The event was essentially organized by a very limited number of actors, who voluntarily took on the organization of events as well as their international coordination. The result was precise and homogenous administration, but also regrettable delays and insufficient autonomy of certain local initiatives.

The collective also regrets the disagreement with the Centre National de la Coopération au Développement (CNCD – National Centre for Development Cooperation) regarding matters such as scheduling conflicts and the lack of commitment of the umbrella organisations of this body, which should play a critical role in their battle to implement the MDGs.

The growth of IDAY, its sponsoring and the management of its website require a permanent secretariat, which would coordinate all initiatives by international chapters, both in Europe and in Africa. The activities to be scheduled and all future organisation will be based on the outcome of a survey among all IDAY 2006 participants by Petits Pas asbl and think-tank meetings on the learnings that can be drawn from IDAY 2006. Their conclusions are reflected in the assessments given above and in the latest (April 2007) version of the IDAY Charter (**Annexe 9**).

*This report was submitted to all the NGOs and not-for-profit organisations which took part in IDAY 2006 (**annexes 1-10**) and their comments were integrated in the final text dated 18 October 2006*

ANNEXES :

Annexe 1 : List of IDAY celebrations in Africa and contact details of NGOS.

- Annexe 2 :** Detailed programme of the seminar on 16 June in Brussels
- Annexe 2 bis :** Photos of the seminar
- Annexe 2 ter :** Speech of Mrs Hauwa Ibrahim (French translation)
- Annexe 3 :** Posters and brochures
- Annexe 4 :** Text and photos regarding German activities
- Annexe 5** Media impact in Luxembourg and in Senegal
- Annexe 6 :** Photos of certain celebrations in Africa
- Annexe7 :** Manifesto
- Annexe 8 :** Summary of spending and proceedings
- Annexe 9 :** The IDAY Charter as of April 2007
- Annexe 10 :** Participating African NGOs (April 2007)
- Annexe 10 bis :** Participating European NGOs (April 2007)

The annexes in colour (annexes 2bis, 3, the photos in annexes 4 and 6) were included at the end for cost reasons.