

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILDHOOD
JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANCE AFRICAINE
INTERNATIONALER TAG DER AFRIKANISCHEN KINDHEIT
INTERNATIONALE DAG VAN DE AFRIKAANSE JEUGD
DIA INTERNACIONAL DE LA INFANCIA AFRICANA
....and its YOUTH - IDAY - www.1606.eu

EVALUATION REPORT

IDAY 2007

The goal of IDAY is to contribute to the implementation of the Dakar Framework Programme and the second Millennium Development Goal (completed basic education for all by 2015) in sub-Saharan Africa, by a massive mobilisation of the African and European civil societies. June 16 has been established as the International Day of African Youth, commemorating the massacre of South-African students on June 16, 1976. The members of IDAY integrate the common objective of alphabetisation of young illiterates¹ between 12 and 24.

IDAY strives to be the link between African youth and the civil society engaged in realising these goals. Only active involvement, supported by the European civil society and especially the African diaspora in Europe, can result in donors and African governments taking action against the shortfall in education by 2015.

1. Scope

IDAY – 2007 hosted 18 events in 3 European and 8 African countries. These events are the results of the initiative of a total of 156 NGO's and non-profit organisations.

Assessment :

These figures constitute an improvement as to the number of participating organisations (mainly as a result of about a hundred Senegalese NGO's joining) and demonstrates an improved organisation into coalitions in certain African countries (Cameroon, Uganda, Togo, Senegal, DR Congo). However, the number of countries participating has decreased compared to the levels of 2006, and the goal of 8 European and 15 African countries participating has not been met. Also, the number of participating organisations in Germany and France has not increased.

IDAY encourages the establishment of national coalitions of NGO's and non-profit organisations dealing with matters of education, as they alone are capable of transmitting the agenda to political

¹ The decrease in the numbers of illiterates among adolescents between 15 and 24 years old is an indicator of the success of the 2nd MDG.

authorities. The presentation of upcoming events and activities as early as possible is of the essence, in order to ensure proper coordination to distribute speakers from African countries to a maximum number of events in Europe.

Finally, the degree of engagement of the partners and associates of IDAY must be reinforced. It is also crucial that actions and events destined to affect authorities are reinforced, as well as the use of the logo. It has also been noted that larger NGO's experience difficulties in integrating with the programme of IDAY.

Recommendation : Contact existing partners who have not yet signed the IDAY Chart and associations sharing the objectives of IDAY.

2. Project Components

2.1. IDAY – EUROPE

2.1.1 Seminar organised by the University of Saint d'Ignace d'Anvers (USCIA), 21 April, Antwerp

The seminar was an initiative of 5 funds from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg who strive to rationalise their activities by forming a coalition. IDAY served as an instigator and active participant during the seminar. Four funds presented their activities and working methods, and propositions of closer collaboration were outlined during a collective session. The group met again on June 1 in order to determine the measures to be taken next year, in collaboration with Caritas International.

2.1.2. Seminar within the framework of the Global Campaign for Education (IDAY – Belgium), 25 April

First participation of Belgium in the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

A dozen Belgian non-profit organisations collaborated with the organisation of the seminar. The objective was the contribution of IDAY-Belgium to the IDAY Manifesto of 2007. 64 persons representing 6 embassies, 31 non-profit organisations (asbl), NGO's and ministries or universities registered in order to participate. Some of them, on last minute's notice, were unable to attend, but assured IDAY of their support.

The seminar was divided into 4 thematic workshops:

- Improving the quality of tuition - The role of private schools
- The education of forgotten children
- The role of the African diaspora
- The socio-cultural context

The conclusions of each workshop were drafted during the seminar, which enabled IDAY to present these conclusions before its high-level guest, Mr Armand De Decker, Minister of Development Cooperation. The conclusions are listed in the manifesto.

A small-scale demonstration by African children claiming schooling for their African colleagues culminated the event. One child symbolically conveyed the “school-card” of the Belgian government (and its commitment to the matter of education in Africa) to Minister De Decker. The government was scored as: "Below average of other countries; adequate but can do much better".

2.1.3. Donors' meeting for education in Africa at the European Commission, 2 May (IDAY – Belgium)

As a potential member of GCE (Global Campaign for Education), IDAY participated in the meeting of donors summoned by Commissioner Mr Louis Michel, on May 2 in Brussels. IDAY, aspiring the role of spokes person for the African youth in Europe, had invited two young students (both holders of a scholarship granted by a Belgian NGO that is active in the shanty towns of Kampala): Mister Rogers Katumba (21 years old, first scholarship student at university level from a shanty town of Kampala) and Ms Zeridah Nabuto (14 years old, christian student attending a Muslim school). Other children were present, among them a representative of Ghana who was invited by GCE.

Rogers made a remarkable speech in front of numerous prominent guests. Mr Gordon Brown shook the hand of Ms Nabuto before the Commission. IDAY was unable to gather other adolescents to participate to the reunion, due to the time and location of the meeting, as well as the lack of preparation of the demonstration by GCE. GCE also excluded the signs prepared by IDAY. Due to these unfortunate circumstances, IDAY was not able to represent itself correctly in the conference room. The discouraging aspects only confirmed the goal of IDAY to reinforce the role of local governments in order to ensure primary education for all in Africa.

2.1.4. Seminar, 7 June, Paris (IDAY – France)

« Primary education for all in Sub-Saharan Africa: means, strategies and actors for the Millennium Development Goals ». Seminar hosted by IDAY-France (piloted by Afrique Nouvelles Interdependence, with the participation of ODC International, ADEC and numerous other associations sprung from the African diaspora). Under the high patronage of Mr Christian Poncelet, President of the Senat and Mme Hadje Halime Deby, First Lady of Chad, President of FAHADE.

The participants were all field workers (NGO's, associations), political decision-makers and representatives of the African diaspora in France.

The day evolved around a number of conferences (on French development politics regarding primary education in Africa, support strategies of the French Development Agency, endogenous education politics in Africa) and two workshops (1: Supporting which actors? Reflections concerning the most efficient means of action. 2: Actions conducted by the diaspora. Reflections concerning co-development and the impact of money transfers on education.).

The minutes of the seminar are temporarily (until the opening of the website of IDAY - France) available on the website www.1606.eu -> Sections/France. This experience should lead to a formalisation of the section IDAY-France and to an integration of its activities into the programme of GCE.

2.1.5. Conference at the European Parliament, 14 June (IDAY-International)

The IDAY-2007 Manifesto was officially submitted to the European Parliament during the ceremony of June 14 from 10.30 a.m. until 12.30 a.m., much thanks to the dynamic input of Mme Luisa Morgantini, Vice-President of the European Parliament, who presided the meeting.

The ceremony was conducted in French (no translation). Copies of the Manifesto and the IDAY Chart were distributed to all participants in French and English.

Ms Marième DIOP, an 18-year old Senegalese chosen by CNEPT (National Coalition of Education for all and focal point of IDAY-Senegal) and sponored by Brussels Airlines, was present as the

spokesperson of the African youth. By her side she had the singer and ambassador of UNDP, Mr Baaba Maal. Mrs Luisa Morgantini, Vice-President of the EP opened the conference and Mr Billy Kalonji enumerated the conclusions of the Manifesto.

The speeches were followed by an open and frank debate.

Number of participants present: 43 (4 Ambassadors (Senegal, Congo, Burundi, Ghana), 9 representatives of African embassies, 1 representative of a European embassy, 22 organisations representatives, 2 members of the honorary committee, 1 representative of the African youth, 4 media representatives). NB: no MEP's nor representatives of the European Commission were present.

Annex: Minutes of the meeting and the speech of Ms Marième Diop.

Assessment:

The European Parliament ensured an event free of charge. Devoted and efficient work by the team of Mrs Luisa Morgantini. Active support by the Honorary Committee.

The organisation would have benefited from a longer period of preparation. Satisfactory public participation. The speech of Ms Marième Diop was an emotional moment. Session followed by spontaneous discussions, emphasizing the importance of the role that civil society plays. Excellent attendance by the Ambassadors who accepted an open and critical debate. Regret that only one European embassy was represented. Good dynamics, respect of the timeline. Speakers were given the floor in a well structured and equal manner.

Recommendations: Take action already during October - November the preceding year. Consultation of Mrs Morgantini, who can assist with the organisation. Meetings are to be held in a larger meeting room, with translation available. Prepare a larger amount of manifestos for distribution. Allocate more time for structured debate, also leaving room for informal discussions, e.g. during drinks.

2.1.6. Participation of IDAY-International to an evening organised by ABANTU-ZAMBIA in Roosendaal (NL)

The organisers of the event that was destined to collect funding for an NGO (member of IDAY-Belgium), permitted Mr Jean-Jaques Schul to present IDAY, and Ms Marième Diop to present the appeal on behalf of the African youth. To be followed-up with the organisers.

2.1.7. Day of the African Childhood in Köln (IDAY-Germany)

The coalition of two NGO's (Jugendhilfe Afrika 2000 (JHA) and the German branch of Avenir NEPAD) organised a sports event in Cologne, that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to rain. However, fruitful exchange of views (although all too brief) between Ms Marième Diop and youngsters (both German children and children with origins in the diaspora).

Recommendation : Broaden the base of IDAY-Germany and fortify the organisation of the event which must also involve official representatives.

2.1.8. « Action Education in Africa », Antwerp, 16 June (Belgium)

Event organised by the associations Mwindia Kitoko and Afrikaans Platfoorm at the Wereld Cultuur Centrum at Zuiderpershuis (World Cultures Centre) in Antwerp. The event involved a Unicef photograph exposition on the theme "Child soldiers" (free of charge), a buffet (15€), the movie « A

visit to Ali Farka Touré » and the concert of Zani Diabaté and Benkadi International (12 € in presales, 15€ at doors).

During the meal, Billy Kalonji and Giramata Schmit (responsables of the association Mwindi Kitoko) presented IDAY and the reasons for organising the event. Before the concert, Jean-Jaques Schul presented IDAY and introduced Marième Diop, whos discourse was translated into Dutch by Mrs Giramata Schmit and once more, moved the public.

Participation

Meal : 70 persons ; Film : 100 persons ; Concert : 250 persons.

Assessment :

Excellent formula that permits attracting a larger public. The evening ended very well, with people dancing. Aim to organise the event every year at WCC with the posters of IDAY.

2.1.9. Participation in the commemoration of Yaguine & Fodé.

On August 2, at the Zaventem airport, a group of ONGs decided to commemorate for the second time, the discovery 8 years ago of the bodies of Yaguine & Fodé and their letter, precisally at this airport; As last year, the Cercle Yaguine & Fodé, in collaboration with Raffia Synergies decided to lay flowers at the airport to commemorate the annivesary of this drama. The ceremony included a few declarations on the problems of development, schooling and émigration from Africa. IDAY joined the group with three of its members, making a small speech about IDAY's objectives and recalling its action in favour of hte African youth, in particular by its capacity to get African Youngsters to come to Europe for this event. Part of Marième Diop's speech to the European Parliament was read. Not many people ; but representatives of the media, and especially, a perceptible emotion. IDAY committed itself to participate actively at next years' ceremonies .

2.1.10. Other Events

For the past two years, IDAY has organised cultural activities around Europe in order to commemorate the International Day of the African Childhood on June 16. These events have proven to be too expensive, not gathering as many people as other events focusing on Africa, and with a disappointingly weak media impact. It was decided that these events, in Belgium, should be replaced by cultural events on the squares of all major cities. It has turned out that this type of activity needs to be prepared together with the schools, starting in September of the preceding year when the responsables for tuition establish all extracurricular activities for the coming school year. A number of cities have already expressed an interest.

Proposition : promoting « cultural events for the African youth » in big European cities around June 16, in order to commemorate IDAY. In Belgium, the larger cities have given a preliminary consent and the practical details will be discussed with the municipal decision-makers starting September 2007. Interested schools who wish to receive more information on the situation of the African youth may contact the volunteers of IDAY who are at their disposal. Costs : +/- 900€ per city must be budgeted.

2.1.11. Photos

The exposition « Young African smiles » exists in triplicate and is available for circulation (see www.1606.eu – photos). The exposition has circulated in many citis in Flandern under the aegis of AWB.

2.2 IDAY - AFRICA

All programmes sent to us by our african partners can be found on the website: <http://www.1606.eu/francais/pages/agenda.htm>. Available reports and photos are on the IDAY website under "sections".

The countries involved all achieved their goals, except for Benin due to illness of the project leader.

In average, the expenses of the activities were 6500€ / country, IDAY contributing with 675€.

General recommendation: activities in Africa must concentrate on achieving the 2nd MDG, and notably focus on the main obstacles ahead in each country in question. The coalitions should welcome all NGO's willing to participate, in order to reinforce their political weight. Inviting representatives from European countries in order for them to obtain a better understanding of the crucial role that civil society plays in achieving the MDGs. Consistent use of IDAY's logo. Inviting political and media representatives in order to increase the impact of each event. Need to involve the EU Permanent Representatives

2.2.1 Burkina Faso

Activity organised on June 16 by the coalition IDAY – Burkina (Association Paysannat, OCD). The day evolved around events and themes linked to forced marriages. A number of schools were invited. Sessions of questions - answers. Report and photos received but difficult to identify as being genuine IDAY events.

2.2.2 Cameroon

A week of activities was organised by a coalition of 8 Cameroonese associations (ITSud, YMCA, FDG, MAS, YI4D, AIAM, AVDP, CMC) in Essong. During the week, several workshops took place (fabrication of soap, alphabetisation, IT-classes) and the conference « How to reduce the problems of education in rural areas? »). The target audience was namely the Baka pygmies. On the final day, the population as well as the elite and local authorities were invited. The workshops and the conclusions of the debates concerning education were presented. The logo was used on tee-shirts.

2.2.3 Guinea

Activities organised on June 22 and 23 by the association CAL (Club des Amis du Livre). Officials and guests were invited to attend numerous events under the theme of the message of Yaguine and Fodé (reading of the letter, reading of certain paragraphs from the theatrical piece " Landing (Atterrisage) " , conference - debate on " Illegal immigration, shared responsibilities").

The debate lasted for more than three hours and became rather stormy between Mr Benenou (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Integration and Guineans abroad) and the auditory, pacified by the conference moderator Madame Jeanne Biavogui.

The two days were concluded with a rap performance by groups Zalon Zee and Too Fonike. The message of the artists criticised the resignation of both parents and government concerning the education of children. They pleaded for a large-scale mobilisation in favour of education for children, adolescents and young.

More than 1500 persons were informed on the subject of education and illegal immigration.

2.2.4 Senegal

The activities were organised by a national coalition of NGO's, OSC and teachers' unions, working for Education for all (CNEPT), on July 7.

The objective is raising awareness among at least twelve thousand (12.000) people through large-scale demonstrations (one demonstration per region). A detailed programme was outlined, embodying different phases and stages (distribution of drafts, designation of responsible persons, funding research, media contacts, observation and exchange of information ...). Specifying the objectives, target populations and expected results.

2.2.5 Togo

A dozen days of activities were organised by the association FODDET.

The events comprised sports activities (solidarity tournament of table tennis) and cultural activities (performances, sketches, exhibition on child abuse), radio and TV-programmes (problematic issues that children encounter and finding solutions to them), a conference and debate on the realisation of the 2nd MDG...

2.2.6 DR Congo

The events on June 16 were organised by AEDAF/Congo and Oser la Vie. They evolved around 4 themes (History of the massacre of the children of Soweto; The war and its damaging influence on children's rights; The school, a tool for peace). The objectives and target groups were clearly defined. The themes were addressed through forums of debate, film projections and short stories.

Until July 31, other manifestations will follow in order to stress the situation of children excluded from their families and schools after having been accused of witchcraft. These actions/events are hosted by ASADHO and CEFOCRIM, alongside with Oser La Vie (Dare to Live), le Théâtre de Poche (the pocket theatre), Dynamo International, Amnesty Int., APEFE, Rotaract and the Embassy of Belgium.

A. Kinshasa

1. Organisation of a seminar workshop of three days on the elaboration of legislative measures taken against child abuse.
2. Organisation of a day of awareness build-up (target group: provincial decision-makers) on the stigmatisation of children accused of witchcraft (end of the campaign « un enfant c'est pas sorcier »)
 - Submission of a memorandum to the Governor of Kinshasa and the President of the Provincial Assembly of Kinshasa,
 - Projection of a documentary on child abuse.
3. Organisation of a day with 3 hours of reflection upon the further schooling of children in difficulty (cases of children accused of witchcraft and orphans)
4. Production of 6 programmes to be aired on radio and television on a few national channels.
5. Production and diffusion of 3 programs (television and radio) on child abuse
6. Organisation of recreational days with and for:
 - Children in conflict with the law (Mbenseke Futi) : Football game
 - Children accused of witchcraft from the centre MHEED (Tourism)
 - Day of awareness build-up in the commune/province of Makala
 - Day of awareness build-up in the commune/province of Kimbeseke.
7. Publication of a full report on the situation of the children detained at CPRK (Kinshasa's main prison, Centre penitentiary and re-education centre of Kinshasa).

B. Lubumbashi

1. Organisation of a march with child scouts and children from children's homes
2. Organisation of a football tournament between street children and children with their parents (during two weeks)
3. Organisation of a theatrical campaign «un enfant c'est pas sorcier» (two weeks)
4. Organisation of a fair for marginalised children (5 days)

2.2.7 Uganda

Activities from June 13 to 16 were organised by a coalition of 11 NGO's. The events comprised sports activities, debates and official actions and events (Ministry of Education and European representation). Members from religious communities and young Ugandans having participated in the Global Campaign for Education.

2.2.8 Malawi

The activities were organised by Professor Wyson Ziba from the Lozwati private secondary school in Malawi (Mzimba). Ten (10) schools participated in the events, counting 50 students and 4 teachers per school. The numerous activities (poems, theatre plays, quizzes, presentations...) took place until 17h30 in the presence of the Zone inspector of the schools. A coalition with other associations in Malawi is being established.

3. MEDIA COVERAGE

3.1 THE MEDIA

The media impact was stronger than last year, but it clearly does not meet the objectives.

Results as of today:

- 2 francophone radio programs, RTBF (La Première, Afrique Hebdo on April 28 on the seminar, and June 16 on the meeting at the European Parliament)
- a Flemish radio program (Radio Centraal 106.7 Antwerp, June 17)
- a short story on the TV (Senegalese television : Interview with Marième Diop before her leaving for Europe, broadcasted on June 16)
- a programme on the French radio (RFI) : interview with Jean-Jacques Schul
- press release by Madame Morgantini
- 1 press article : METRO newspaper (Dutch version, April 25, p. 15 (www.metrotime))
- 4 press articles on the internet:
 - Inter Press Service Belgium– www.ipsnouvelles.be/deadline2015
 - The journal of the christian insurance bureau
www.enmarche.be/Actualite/Echos_actualite/Echos1364.htm#6
 - Info Sud Belgium Press Agency - www.infosud-belgique.info
 - Senegalese Press Agency – www.aps.sn (NB: there is a confusion concerning the term IDAY. Here IDAY is not recognized as a coalition of bodies, only as the abbreviation of the International Day of the African Youth.)

While browsing the websites referring to the international day of the African childhood, the lack of reference to IDAY is evident (even by member associations of IDAY who are not declaring their partnership). An exception: the conference on June 21 organised in Brussels by LHAC.

3.2. FLYERS AND POSTERS

Due to financial conditions, there was no possibility to print or distribute flyers. Various posters were printed and used in Germany, France and Belgium (see website).
The posters were used during the week of April 25, in Brussels.

Assessment:

The media impact remains largely insufficient despite the efforts of sympathisers (Mme Reumont, Françoise Nice, Eugénie Diecky,...)

In the future, prominent persons/celebrities must be engaged in order to attract the media. Large events must be organised, where the use of the IDAY logo must be enforced (e.g. releasing of balloons).

Proposal to associate with the artistic and cultural scene (list of artists provided by Mr Baaba Maal).

Bodies and organisations associated with IDAY must be encouraged to proclaim the liaison with IDAY when publishing or advertising events as well as when liaising with the media. All committees of IDAY should be encouraged to use the IDAY logo in all circumstances (letters, e-mails, events...).

Proposal: Send a page with the letterhead of IDAY to all members. Idea of similar t-shirts with the IDAY - logo for all countries. Large banners... Visible, proactive and original methods must be developed.

Each country must do what is necessary on national section level (organising events but also contacting medias).

Contacting medias during the year in order to propose global documents/stories that can be integrated in June 16 events. For specialised broadcasts (Quand les jeunes s'en mêlent, ...), media must be contacted 8 to 10 months in advance.

Interventions during official visits by European authorities to African countries, in order for the network members to contact/meet with them and present the achievements of IDAY members.

A report containing concrete proposals must be prepared together with the Presidency of the European Union, well in advance, for the European Summit in June.

3.3. WEBSITE (www.1606.eu)

The website is active since April and available in 5 languages since June 2007. It displays the main elements and principles of the IDAY-association. Elaborating and developing the website is a delicate matter, especially due to the lack of links in the sections. Therefore, reports and pictures are displayed on the main website.

Assessment

The website is currently still under construction but has already proven to be a forceful communication tool and an effective means to reduce costs (e.g. sending out documents).

All partners must be encouraged to visit the website regularly in order to keep themselves up to date with IDAY events in other countries. Links to all member associations must be created. This means investing in the website through e.g. continuous updates. In the future, it would be recommendable to create a discussion forum for the members of IDAY.

4. Manifesto

The manifesto is a result of global reflection between all members of IDAY. The manifesto establishes the current status of education in Sub-Saharan Africa and outlines the measures to be taken in order to achieve the goal of education for all by 2015.

This year, due to a number of reasons, the manifesto primarily reflects the conclusions of the seminar hosted by IDAY - Belgium in the framework of GCE. The conclusions of the seminar were discussed with Mr Armand De Decker, Belgian Minister of Cooperation development, and were distributed to the members of IDAY in Africa as well as in Europe. Their comments are reflected in the final version of the manifesto, which was presented before the European Parliament on June 14.

The final version was sent to all ambassadors of African and European countries in Belgium, as well as to the members of the Honorary Committee and some members of the European Commission and Parliament. The Manifesto was sent electronically to all signatories and associations who have shown interest in the activities of IDAY, in order for them to present the Manifesto before their national authorities.

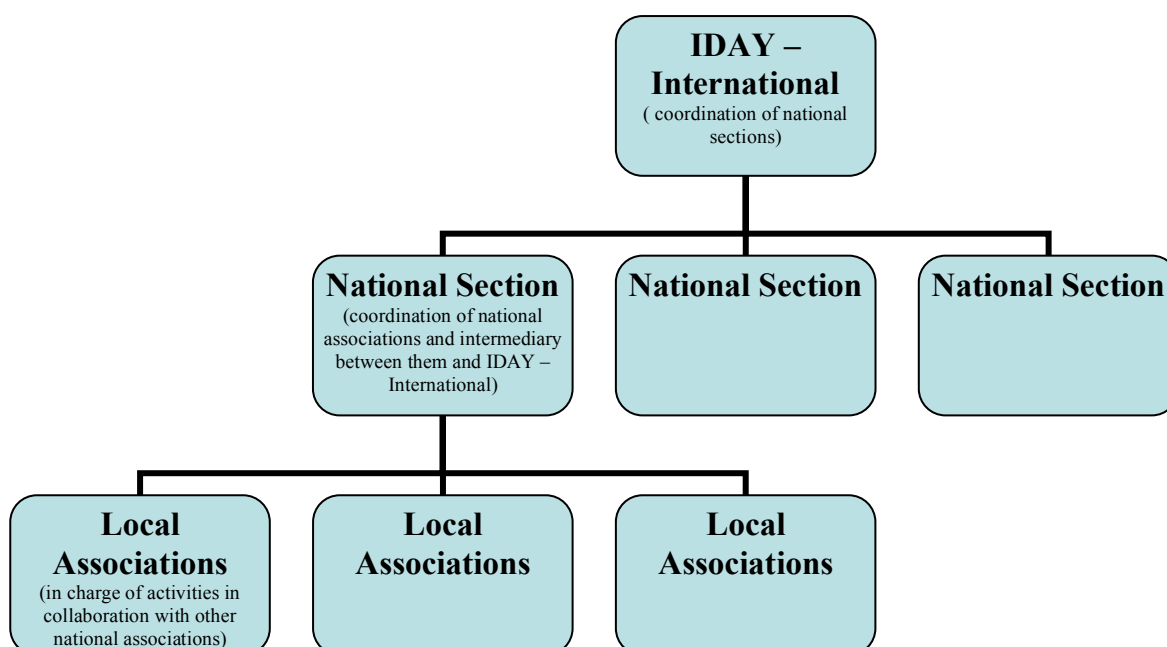
Assessment:

The IDAY Manifesto must reflect the aspirations of the African youth and civil society engaged in achieving and realising the projects of education. A more formal structuring of the process should be outlined in 2008.

5. The Members of IDAY

It remains difficult to recognise the position of each association in relation to IDAY. To this day, signed charters have been received by only part of those who claim to be member of IDAY.

It is imperative that the community is structured and that the organisation and the position of its members clarified. The structure of IDAY could resemble the following chart:



The national sections must be capable of receiving all NGO's/non-profit organisations working in favour of education in their countries;

Concerning the administration of the network, the three past years clearly are evidence of the need for a permanent secretariat. The current structure, relying entirely on voluntary work, is much too fragile and does not permit accurate handling of matters regarding both timeframe and desired impact.

As one option considered, the network could be administered by one or more larger NGO's, capable of incorporating the activities of IDAY. However, the larger NGO's that, at first, showed interest, backed out after a while. They seem to encounter difficulties to adjust their approach largely focused on receiving and distributing aid fundings - private as well as public. Smaller NGO's / non-profit organisations fear being absorbed by the larger ones and prefer a more neutral structure.

IDAY must, doubtlessly, anticipate creating a structure (international non-profit organisation, private foundation ...) that meets its ambitions and is able to ensure the protection of the IDAY label.

6. Finances

6.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Expenses			Incomes		
	Budget	Realised		Budget	Realised
Translation fees	4.000,00	227,55	Subsidy DGCD	19.500,00	9.000,00
Promotion fees	3.000,00	1.543,57	Brussels Airlines	4.000,00	4.000,00
(printing of posters, advertising, etc)			CGRI	5.000,00	0,00
Expenses, 2 May	0,00	200,00	European Parliament	2.000,00	500,00
Expenses, 14 June	5.000,00	0,00			
Expenses, 25 avril	6.000,00	8.202,73	BEI		3.000,00
(facilities etc.					
Expenses, actions in the South (demonstrations)	6.000,00	5.800,00	Members		1.300,00
Expenses for transports and housing	8.000,00	6.755,48	Private sponsors:	8.500,00	8.572,10
Expenses for the event « children » ,		500,00			
15 June	2.000,00				
Various administrative expenses	3.000,00	882,61			
Unpredicted IDAY		860,16			
France+Germany	2.000,00				
Total	39.000,00	26.372,10		39.000,00	26.372,10

Assessment: A part from the financing of the European Investment Bank and the contribution from the European Parliament, IDAY-Belgium covered the majority of expenses (at least concerning the registered/declared expenses). The application for funding from the European Commission and the Belgian National Lottery failed (a second application has been submitted to the Belgian National Lottery). Once more, delays in payments and instalments required private members of IDAY to provide preliminary funding in order to cover the expenses.

The incomes only cover a small amount of the secretarial expenses, currently funded through private donations that remain uncertain in the future. A permanent, full time secretariat is essential, at least on international level, and must be established as fast as possible, starting September 2007 for the campaign of 2008. IDAY-Belgium will require an annual membership fee of 50€ in order to ensure a preliminary, elementary financing.

IDAY-International intends to approach multiple funds of international dimension in order to finance its administration and the demonstrations of June 16 in Europe and Africa.

7. Conclusions

IDAY succeeded, for the third time, to commemorate the International Day of the African childhood in both Europe and Africa, as a part of promoting the second Millennium Development Goal. Thanks to IDAY and Brussels Airlines, young Africans were able to travel to Europe for the events for the first time, in order to present their testimony. The impression and impact these young people made was considerable both in Europe and in the home countries.

The number of IDAY membership applications is growing rapidly in Africa, and the participation of more than 20 African countries is expected for 2008. Regarding Europe, four countries joined for 2008 and the objective of 8 countries by 2008 should be achieved.

IDAY 2007 also noted the confirmed participation of the European Parliament and a growing number of ambassadors involved. The firm engagement and commitment of several Members of the Honorary Committee, predicts success for IDAY 2008. The impact on the media has also improved, even though it remains far from the levels needed for IDAY to achieve concrete political results.

The cultural events scheduled in Europe were not carried out due to a series of reasons (lack of financing, actions carried out too late (in order to engage schools, action must be launched in September of the preceding year). The launch of June 16 events by bodies not linked to IDAY (but willing to join the coalition network) indicates the awareness of the fact that only events organised around a certain theme in common, have a chance of influencing the political authorities.

The efforts of IDAY to approach larger NGO's or groups was partially fruitful, namely through the beneficial effect on several funds financing educational projects, that triggered the elaboration of a coalition. Also, a closer relationship between IDAY and the Global Campaign for Education should be formalised.

This report has been distributed for comments to all NGO's and non-profit organisations participating to IDAY 2007. Their comments have been integrated in the final version.

The future success of IDAY depends on the existence of a movement that is autonomous, multiple and anchored in both African and European public life. Mobilising hope, imagination and public willingness is of the essence. Achieving these results is not possible if acting alone. The task necessitates gathering celebrities, the media, sports institutions, national and local leaders, as well as any personalities with influence. The time has also come to consider the formalisation of IDAY's structure in order for it to achieve its ambitions.

Documents available on www.1606.eu:

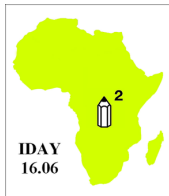
Economic indicators and statistics on education in sub-saharan countries: see « Statistics »;

The message of Yaguine and Fodé : see « Documents »

The IDAY Charte: see « Documents ».

ANNEXE 1: Participants at the Conference at the European Parliament, June 14 2007

Ambassadeur du Sénégal	S.E. Monsieur Mame Balla SY
Ambassadeur du Burundi	S.E. Monsieur Laurent KAVAKURE
Ambassadeur du Ghana	S.E. Madame Nana Bema KUMI
Ambassadeur du Congo	S.E.M. Jean-Pierre MUTAMBA TSHAMPANGA
Ambassade du Burundi	Kabogoye Léocadie
Ambassade du Kenya	Ngariama Njogo
Ambassade du Ghana	Oppong-Ntiri Carolyn
Ambassade du Burkina Faso	Ouedraogo Abdoulaye
Ambassade Côte d'Ivoire	Ahouadan Jocelyne
Ambassade Cameroun	Nkpwele Marthe
Ambassade Afrique du Sud	Ngwaila Mantsaye
Ambassade Congo	Mudoy Valérien
Ambassade Sénégal	Fall Talla
Représentation Permanente Ambassade du Portugal	Agostinho Ricardo
Assistante à la Représentation Permanente de Finlande auprès de l'UE	Hongell Petra
Ambassadeur PNUD Sénégal	Maal Baaba
Représentante Jeunesse africaine	Diop Marième
Vice Présidente Parlement Européen	Luisa Morgantini
Amitié Congo	Nyembo Wemba-Nkoy Caroline
Amitié Congo	Pongo Mayunga Euphrasie
Fonds M.Y.F et Iday	Schul Jean-Jacques
Iday	Lievens Catherine
Oser la Vie	Ducamp Michel
Abantu Zambia	Du Bois Valérie
abvv	Schmit Marie-Angèle
Afrikaans platform	Kalonji Mbuyi Billy
AEDAF	Roisin Guy
Fonds M.Y.F	Neuenschwander Jean-Pierre
Eduaf	Bindariye-Ntahorutaba Mélanie
Education et Culture	Van Loo Isabelle
Education et Culture	De Meersman Martine
MO*magazine	Vandersteen Nele
ADPM	Pineiro Perez Pilar
LHAC	Coeckelberghs
Afrique et Nouvelles Interdépendances	Anaïs Menard
RTBF Première	Nice Fraçoise
International Education.	Sullivan Laura
Fondation Philippon	Dethier Véronique
Espérance en Casamance	Titz Yannick
nigérien	Bermo Ortoudo
Afrika Hakuna matata	Gaciyubwenge Fidèle
Afrika Hakuna matata	Ndiyiragiye Evarest



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILDHOOD
JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANCE AFRICAINE
INTERNATIONALER TAG DER AFRIKANISCHEN KINDHEIT
INTERNATIONALE DAG VAN DE AFRIKAANSE JEUGD
DIA INTERNACIONAL DE LA INFANCIA AFRICANA
....and its YOUTH - IDAY - www.1606.eu

Report
Conclusive meeting of IDAY
European parliament
14 June 2007

The meeting was opened by Mrs. Luisa Morgantini, Vice-president of the European Parliament, who emphasized the responsibility of the European countries and the African governments concerning the state of underdevelopment of most of the Sub-Saharan countries in Africa. She reminded that Europe, land of human rights, acts contrary to its own principles regarding immigration.

Mr. Jean-Jacques Schul, Coordinator of IDAY presented the three principles that constitute the foundation of IDAY's activity. First, all Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) are equally important but sustainable change cannot be achieved without an educated population. Secondly, development cannot be enforced from the outside. Thirdly, African associations have to take the future in their own hands together with their respective governments - they will achieve their goals only by working together. Mr Schul underlined: "this day is as important for Africa as it is for Europe" - the illiterate African youth (approx. 70 million young people) represents half of the young illiterates of the world and constitutes an immense reservoir of people unable to contribute to the development of humanity to its full potential.

Mr. Billy Kalonji, Afrikaans Platform of Antwerp, then presented the IDAY Manifesto. The African governments are culpable of not supporting education, the base of all development, more actively. He underlined four essential recommendations elaborated within the framework of the "Global Campaign for Education" by the African and European coalition of NGO's that constitute IDAY: (1) focusing on improving the quality of basic education; (2) explicitly integrating the informal education of "forgotten" children in the educational budgets; (3) increasing attention on the social role of the Diaspora; (4) integrating traditional knowledge into educational programs and prohibiting forced marriages.

Ms Marième Diop, a Senegalese high school student, gave a touching speech as spokesperson for the African youth. (See text attached) Her discourse was followed by the one of Mr. Baaba Maal, international artist and UNDP Ambassador of the youth in Senegal, who expressed his support regarding the speech of Ms Diop. Mr Maal stressed the role of artists as spokespersons in raising awareness on behalf of a youth that often lack the means to express itself. He offered the assistance of the African artists to IDAY.

The debate opened with the statement made by the Ambassador of Senegal², who lays the emphasis on the development of human resources in all African countries, which, implies an in-depth change of mentalities. To act in favour of education means preventing certain detrimental practices that concern the very core of the family (female genital mutilation, polygamy, the social prestige acquired by a large number of children, etc.). The Ambassador then stressed the 1st MDG: the struggle against poverty, which facilitates achieving the goal of education for all, since a poor man, according to the Ambassador,

² To IDAY members' greatest regret, we learned that His Excellency M. Mame Balla Sy deceased on August 1 2007. His faithful support to IDAY and his determined commitment to improving education in Africa will not be forgotten.

is 'suicidal' . He has nothing to lose and, therefore, does not make long term plans for his future, nor for the future of his children.

The Ambassador of Congo concurred with the statements of his colleague as to the problem of 'mentalities', but reminded that the successes of the African countries should not be forgotten. According to the Ambassador, the western countries need to seek to better understand Africa and its success stories to be able to view the potentials of the continent. As to the question of immigration, he stressed the fact that the African governments do not wish, nor support, the departure of their work force, and he denounced the lack of European humanity. A conflict between continents is building up in consequence of the immigration issue - it will be the burden of the Marième Diops of this world to build the much needed bridges between the continents.

The Ambassador of Burundi expressed his support of the manifesto but stressed the particular needs of countries in post-conflict situation, and in this context, the specific need for care of unschooled, traumatized children.

The ambassadors express their active support to the proposal made by IDAY in its manifesto, to establish a permanent forum of dialogue between the diaspora and the host countries. The forum would enable examination of the possibilities concerning actions within the framework of cooperation aid.

Several problems were listed as the floor was given to the NGO's and the associations. First, it is not a question of associations and organisations replacing state governments. However, they plan to undertake lobbying their governments. Regrettably, smaller entities are often viewed as secondary in the shadow of internationally known NGO's and associations, according to the following claim: " Small is beautiful but macro is efficient ". Micro-level associations and NGO's often allow a larger participation of the civil society. Finally, it is necessary to recall that European capital and funding is far more difficult to access for African NGO's due to the amount of bureaucracy involved and the lack of know-how needed for it to be administered.





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SPEECH OF Ms. MARIEME DIOP **European Parliament June 14th 2007.**

Excellencies, Misses and Mister the Ambassadors
Misses Vice-President of the European Parliament
Représentatives of the World
Dear IDAY Partners,

It is with an immense pleasure that I find myself here in Europe among you to commemorate the International Day of the African Childhood. I am 18 and a student in the final year of a scientific lyceum in Dakar. I have a scholarship from the « Forum for African Women Educationalists » (FAWE), which is member of the CNEPT, focal point of IDAY in Senegal.

Today, I have the difficult task to speak in the name of all the African children and youngsters and the girls in particular. I am conscious of the privilege to be able to go to school, to have reached the final year, which only 30% of the girls do, and especially to have been chosen to come to Europe for IDAY.

The African continent faces dramatic challenges: extreme poverty, illiteracy (half the illiterates in the world are African) malnutrition, diseases such as malaria and AIDS.

As Victor Ordoñez declared at the Dakar Forum in 2000: « Without education, the world problems such as the environment and AIDS will not be resolved ; the long term solutions to all the major world problems is education ». Seven years have passed since this Forum whose primary objective was to give access to a quality primary education to all, girls and boys alike by 2015.

Despite the efforts by the African States, the non-governmental organisations and the foreign partners, many youngsters are still excluded from education : those who are not in school because they do not have access to it and those who drop out because they need to work, have no money or are married against their will.

We must recognise progress made so far : in 15 years, the proportion of African children who completed their primary education rose from 49% to 60% and if the current trend continues, we can hope that by 2015, we will manage to reach gender equality in African schools.

The youngsters, however, coming from poor families, or living in rural areas continue to have limited access to primary education. There are still too many slave children, children of the street, household children, those called « witch children » and trading in children remains a plague in several countries. School books and material are lacking and going to school is still too costly for many. Girls are still forced to carry out household tasks that prevent them from

completing their studies in good condition. Primary education remains of bad quality resulting in youngsters coming out of school have no future.

I ask that all African countries declare education obligatory for all at least primary education and invest the necessary funds so that all African children receive a quality education. This concerns not only their own resources but also foreign aid that should go to education in priority. Teachers need to be well trained and paid decent salaries so that they would dispense a quality education that would allow us to reach the same level as the children from rich countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am well aware that my speech is incomplete and that the future of the African children lies primarily with the Africans. I am proud of being African. The African continent is rich. Its wealth stems not only from its land – diamonds, gold, petrol, agriculture, exceptional natural beauties; it lies mainly in its youth.

Of course, your help is welcome, but what I came here to ask you above all in the name of the African youth is your respect for our rights as much as for our values.

Thank you for your attention.

Marième Diop.