



NEWSLETTER 2015



Dear members and friends of Caravan 2000,

enclosed hereby you will find the newsletter, which informs you about:

- Í **The projects that took place in 2013 and 2014 as well as the current projects**
- Í **The development of the ELLA project**
- Í **The General Assembly of Caravan 2000/Germany**
- Í **The General Assembly of Caravan 2000/International in Kas/Turkey**
- Í **The further planning of Caravan 2000**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M Skiba'.

Magda Skiba  
President of Caravan 2000

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Irmela von Toerne'.

Irmela von Toerne  
Projectcoordinator

## **1. Realized and current projects**

**Israel:** During 2014, 25 volunteers from around the world volunteered at AKIM-Jerusalem. The minimum stay was for three months although most volunteers come for 9-12 months. Over the last few months AKIM-Jerusalem has welcomed young – and not so young – volunteers from Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, England, Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, America, Trinidad, Denmark, Faro Isles, Finland, Poland, Kenya and India.

The Foreign volunteers who come to Israel work for 5 days a week either in our hostels, apartments or at the "Tzaron" Extended School day program at the Ben Yehuda School of Special Education.

For more information about volunteering at AKIM-Jerusalem please visit our website: [www.akim-jerusalem.org.il](http://www.akim-jerusalem.org.il), or contact Foreign Volunteers Coordinator – Miriam Marcus at [info@akim-jerusalem.org.il](mailto:info@akim-jerusalem.org.il) or call: ++972 073-224-2110

**"Miles for Smiles 2014", an annual "walkaton" fundraising event:** AKIM-Jerusalem was one of the first charities in Israel to introduce the idea of a sponsored trek as a method of fundraising. Each participant pays a registration fee which covers close to 3/4 of the costs as well as committing to raise sponsorship from their friends/family/business associates of \$1,800. The route each year is chosen by a voluntary committee who walk it before the event in order to ensure that the path is neither too difficult nor too easy. In 2014, for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, 36 trekkers, aged 12-70, from Israel walked for 3 days a total of 85 kilometers in and around the Gilboa mountains in the Galilee region raising funds for AKIM-Jerusalem's clients. The money raised from the 2014 trek was used to finance the following projects:

1. A variety of services in our Family Support Center: The "Tzaharon" Extended School Day, the Batsheva Chai Home Care Program, the Training Apartment and the Assisted Independence Service.
2. Design and plant a new garden with sitting areas around Beit Rachel Straus - AKIM Jerusalem's new Center for Training, Treatment and Leisure that is used by our clients and by people from the local community.
3. Additional hours when staff is needed to stay with our clients during hospitalizations.

The 13<sup>th</sup> trek is now being prepared and will be held between Tuesday, 10-Thursday, 12 March, 2015. We welcome trekkers from around the world to join us for this challenging but fulfilling event. For more information and photos of past treks please visit our website:

<http://trek.akim-jerusalem.org.il> or contact: Miriam Marcus at [mmarcus@akim-jersualem.org.il](mailto:mmarcus@akim-jersualem.org.il) or call: ++972 073-224-2110.

**Opening of Beit Rachel Straus, AKIM-Jerusalem's new Center for Training, Treatment and Leisure and our association's international hospitality Center.**

Beit Rachel Straus (located next to our three hostels) is a building cited for preservation in the Talpiot neighborhood of Jerusalem. Originally built in 1942, the building is owned by the Jerusalem Municipality, who made it available to AKIM-Jerusalem in 1975 for the purpose of delivering services to people with disabilities. In the last 18 months, a complete renovation of the building has been undertaken and it is now fully wheelchair accessible with facilities for people with reduced hearing and with blindness. The building was also refurbished and opened to the public in November 2014, offering a wide range of therapeutic programs for people with disabilities as well as leisure time programs and workshops including: Drawing, ceramics, yoga, dance, music, theatre and lectures. Also planned are a variety of events, folk-dancing, film screening and parties for the citizens in the neighborhood. The date for the official opening of Beit Rachel Straus will be announced in the coming weeks. Contact persons: Efrat Cehani ([efrat@akim-jerusalem.org.il](mailto:efrat@akim-jerusalem.org.il)) and Stefan Rothschild ([stefan.rothschild@gmail.com](mailto:stefan.rothschild@gmail.com))

**IB-Behindertenhilfe Hessen and AKIM-Jerusalem's** ongoing cooperation was further reinforced when a delegation of AKIM-Jerusalem workers visited Germany between 14-19.9.2014. We thank our colleagues at IB for their warm hospitality.



Please visit AKIM-Jerusalem's new Internet site at [www.akim-jerusalem.org.il](http://www.akim-jerusalem.org.il).

In the **ELLA project** AKIM-Jerusalem is involved with a **Training Apartment Programme** and **a film** about a gifted artist, "**Beyond Words**", the story of Shmuel Nahon, a 74 year old resident at one of AKIM's hostels.

**Austria:** Over 40 young people with disadvantages or special needs accomplished their **Integrated Apprenticeships** to become plumbers at the BPI of ÖJAB. The BPI is a vocational training center, run by ÖJAB, and has various facilities in Vienna as well as in Lower Austria.

#### **Training for people with special needs**

Furthermore, the BPI also organized training for disadvantaged young people. These programs are

called "Youth at work", "Active Yes" or "Hot@Job". The participants received training, job orientation and coaching in order to be integrated into the labor market. In the past two years BPI carried out 20 training courses for a total of 274 participants, mainly PWDs.



our apprentices

**"AusbildungsFIT" – Getting ready for education!** For young people with special needs or disabilities.

In January 2014 a pilot project called AusbildungsFit started in Austria. The project was initiated and sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.

The BPI of ÖJAB was chosen as one of the organizations to carry out this pilot project in three cities in Lower Austria. AusbildungsFit is designed as training for the future. The content of this measurement includes: Various training & teaching modules, Coaching, Knowledge Garage and Sports activities. The participants are also trained to improve their behavior in the labor market (e.g. ability to concentrate or punctuality) and their behavior towards other people. The coaches and trainers helped the participants to find the "perfect" job for them.

In a similar measurement 2013 the BPI of ÖJAB trained 63 young people with special needs; 13 of those were successfully integrated into the labor market. We wish all our former participants all the best on their personal and professional paths! Further info in German: [www.oejab.at/afit/](http://www.oejab.at/afit/)



AusbildungsFIT: participants at the "knowledge garage" and art group-project

ÖJAB is involved in the ELLA project with the work-packages TRAINEE (please look at ELLA-Newsletter) and Quality-Management. More projects of ÖJAB can be found at: [www.oejab.at/](http://www.oejab.at/)

**Turkey:** The „**Spastic Children´s Foundation of Turkey**“ completed one global donation project called **Stepتمبر**, an International Congress and an Evaluation Meeting and carries on another Project with Italy for this year.



“**Stepتمبر**” is a **fundraising programme** that was applied in order to create a positive impact on the lives of people living with Cerebral Palsy and improve their health. The programme aims at raising public awareness about "Cerebral Palsy" all over the world. This fundraising campaign was initially launched in Australia in 2011 and extended America, Canada, Britain and the Netherlands in 2013. In 2014 Turkey joined and implemented the programme. "Stepتمبر" is a ready made staff engagement activity which will improve the health and wellness of the employees, increase morale and have a positive impact on the lives of people with cerebral palsy. In teams of four, the employees track their daily step count by wearing a pedometer, and record their results on the interactive "Stepتمبر" website. Each day participants register their steps, and watch as their team virtually climbs the seven highest peaks in the world. "Stepتمبر" is not just about walking your way to better health – participants can run, cycle, swim or even play lawn bowls to reach their daily step target. There are over forty activities to choose from including activities suitable for people with a disability. Teams are encouraged to fundraise throughout the event using an online fundraising mechanism. This will make a huge difference to the lives of people with cerebral palsy. "Stepتمبر" is an easy and fun way to raise funds for the Spastic Childrens' Foundation of Turkey. Out of seventy-two private firms from different sectors that were visited and informed about "Stepتمبر", 27 attended the programme, made their teams and raised funds for the Spastic Childrens' Foundation of Turkey. A total of 201 teams were formed both from the companies and individuals. "Stepتمبر" will continue every year from now.

In the frame of the European programme **Civil Society Dialogue Between EU And Turkey – III Political Criteria Grant Scheme**, the Spastic Childrens' Foundation of Turkey is working on a 15-month project in cooperation with the **Italian partner CESIE** with the title “**Creating Educational Programs on Anti- Discrimination on a par with EU Standards**”

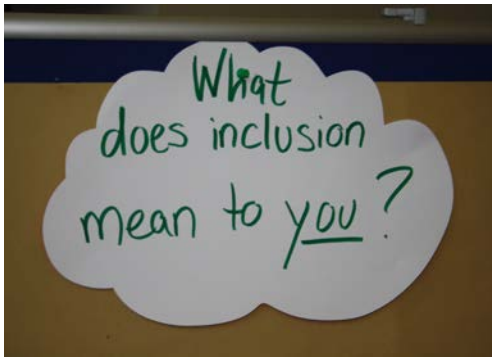
**The 5 th International “Cerebral Palsy” and Developmental Disorders Congress “After me”** was held between 20-23 November 2014 in the Metin Sabancı Center/Istanbul.

The **Evaluation Meeting 2014 of the “Cerebral Palsy Initiative”**, hosted by the Spastic Childrens' Foundation of Turkey - the only board on Cerebral Palsy in the world - was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2014. In the meeting, the process for the World Cerebral Palsy Day, which was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October all around the world was discussed and evaluated. The results of the “Stepتمبر 2014” was also discussed in this meeting.

**Germany:** On the occasion of it´s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary the **IB Brandenburg, FIZ-Neuenhagen**, carried out an international **Conference from Oct. 9th. - 13th.2013** in Bernau near Berlin with the title „**All inclusive? - Theorie and Practice of Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Europe**“. Participants from altogether 11 European countries exchanged experiences and opinions concerning the practice of inclusion of people with disabilities and disadvantages in the society.



The methods „**Open Space**“ and „**World Café**“ were successfully applied and all reports, presentations and forums were held in **Easy Language**.



In the scope of the final Forum examples of good and also bad practice with regard to equalization, inclusion and empowerment of people with disability and disadvantage were exposed, and a common call „**Declaration of Bernau 2013**“ was prepared, discussed and passed by the participants. In addition to the invitation of politicians and other decision-makers, the declaration was addressed in particular to the persons with disabilities - to increase awareness about their rights and the importance of sticking together and claiming them actively. Two persons participated from each organisation - one with a disability appearing as an expert and one without. We were pleased to note the participants with learning disabilities from Poland and from Lithuania participated in the discussions in English, which is a good indication that the influence of the empowerment movement of people with disabilities increases little by little.



The participants with the Caravan Canvas, which they have designed together

Since Febr. 2013 **IB Brandenburg** is actively involved in setting up a centre for people with disabilities and their families in **Tadzhikistan**. The project is funded by the European Programme



**EuropeAid.** In addition, IB Brandenburg in cooperation with the Polish partner and funded by the **Aktion Mensch**, is developing a centre for people with visual impairment in **Tichy/Poland**.

In the frame of **Erasmus+ /Comenius**, teachers from IB Brandenburg participated in a further training program in Ireland./

As in the previous years **IB Brandenburg, FIZ-Neuenhagen** carried out several practical training courses abroad in the framework of the „**Inclusive Europe**“ project, supported by the

**LifeLongLearning Programme Leonardo da Vinci:** In January 2014 a group of 10 cooks and waiters travelled to **Antalya/Turkey** where they were hosted by the Caravan member **IBETH**.

IBETH also hosted a group of 10 painters and carpenters in Antalya in April 2014. More information about that can be found at: <http://dieholzmaler.npage.de>.



The cook and waiter trainees with Tarik Bitlis, the director of IBETH



some products of the carpenters

In August/September 2014, 10 cooks and waiters went to **France** for 3 weeks, and in October/November, 7 construction workers and gardeners worked for 4 weeks on the ancient olive mill of the Spanish partner **Mosaic** in **Can Oliveras/Catalunya**. In addition, all participants completed internships in a garden and home improvement store near **Besalú/Catalunya**.

6 painters of wood and metal completed a 3-week internship in **Espoo/Finland** where they were hosted by the **Finnish partner Omnia**.



**"Day and Night for Diversity and Understanding – 15 Years with Body and Soul for Caravan 2000"**. From Nov 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2014, the German Caravan, with the support of the „**Aktion Mensch**“ foundation, carried out an international cooking and film event, to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Caravan 2000. The participants in the event came together to discuss and assure their common goals and to strengthen their solidarity with one another. The project took place in the Meeting House of the German partner **Baunataler Diakonie Kassel** in **Baunatal/Hesse**. Altogether 42 persons with and without disabilities participated including members of the Turkish Caravan, **IBETH** and „**Spastic Children´s Foundation of Turkey**“.

After the welcoming of the Hessian Commissioner for people with disabilities, Mrs. Maren Müller-Erichsen -who was the patroness of the running project and is also a member of the German Caravan´s board-, the welcoming of the president of the German Caravan, Mr. Michael Thiele and the state director of Hesse, Mr. Brückmann, a group of participants went to the market-place of Baunatal, to hold a conversation with the people around on the subject of Inclusion. The conversation was taped and documented on a DVD. Another group worked in the kitchen, preparing

an international evening buffet. On the evening the results were presented, and the participants enjoyed the food while they watched and discussed movies, which they had brought along, exchanged experiences and addresses. The event and the companionship that grew out of it reinforced everyone's commitment to the Caravan, the participants' energies and lead them to look at the future with optimism.



Mrs. Müller-Erichsen welcomes the participants



practicing the Interviews

**Poland:** Lead and managed by the Polish partner **PSOUU**, another partner-meeting of the inclusive, transgenerational music-project **eXproviSing** took place in **Scotland**. The event was hosted by the Scottish partner **TRASH ART**.



The participants of eXproviSing jamming



**Latvia:** Caravan 2000 has a new member in Latvia – the **Latvian Movement for Independent Living**, which is already participating in some projects of IB-Behindertenhilfe. During the ELLA-Congress in Vienna in November 2015 our Latvian partner will join the Caravan Federation's General Assamby for the first time.

**India:** The Indian Caravan member "**iWatch**" continued the following projects in 2014: digital school education, vocational education, education and skill-training, trainings modules for improving the efficiency of companies, utilisation of rain water, safe and clean water for drinking,



cooking, bathing and swimming. Sanitary, disinfection and hygiene, sewerage and wastewater treatment, environment-friendly waste management and publishing "**Transforming India**" in English and in 12 Indian languages.

## 2. The ELLA-Project

The **evaluation workshop** of ELLA took place the end of Octobre in **Kas/Turkey**.

The members of the Project-Team, the Quality Assurance Team, the Advisory Committee of ELLA and participants with disabilities and disadvantages from Serbia, Sweden, Germany and Turkey met for 3 days, to catch up on the previous executed working packages and exchange experiences about it. After one year since the inception of ELLA, the activities of the particular partners were examined, the interim and the final results were discussed critically and anticipated problems lead to solutions. Finally very good results could be stated: 3 working-packages were completed successfully. Other members reported in detail about their activities and presented photos and short films about the educational approaches for people with disabilities that they developed until today. More instruments for evaluation were introduced and the flowcharts of the work-packages were checked. Except for the Portuguese partner, who retired from the project for personal and financial reasons, all partners are actively involved with the administration of their workpackages in accordance with their predicted timetables. The common participation in the final concert of the „Social Inclusion Festival“ - also a working-package of ELLA - helped all participants - with and without a disabilities - to further reinforce their motivation and assemble new energies to administer the next steps of this ambitious project.

For more information, please look at <http://www.ella-ella.eu>

participants of the workshop in action



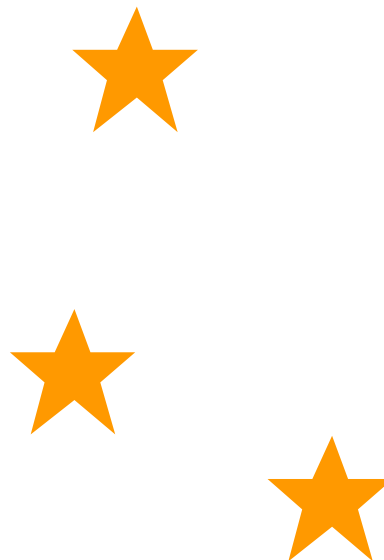
The goal of the **Social Inclusion Festival in Kas/Turkey** which took place from Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 was inclusion via music. About 80 young adults from different European countries came together to undergo 5 days of the ambitious and versatile programme with games, sports and arts and making music together. The events took place in the **Dreams Academy in Kas**, which belongs to the Turkish partner **AYDER**. Several workshops provided opportunities to discover and develop new potential capacities. The exchange of experiences and knowledge was designed as an active and creative process in which everyone was involved. A varied, colorful framework

programme which included horseback riding, climbing, diving and a boat trip and more helped everybody to have a lot of fun. The final highlight of the festival was the concert-evening on October 29<sup>th</sup> – a Turkish national holiday to celebrate the establishment of the Turkish Republic in the year 1923. The musicians again presented their great talents in front of an audience of more than 1000 people on an open-air-stage in the harbor of Kas. Special guests included the Serbian group „**The Heart of Sounds**“, two German Bands - the group „**Saitenwind**“ from Baunatal/Hesse and the IB band „**Ibees**“ and also the Turkish „**Social Inclusion Band**“, which all earned a lot of applause. The lead-managers of the festival were the two Turkish partners: **IBETH** and **AYDER**. Both organisations have a long record of involvement in the fields of youth, education and disability.

### **3. The General Assembly of Caravan 2000/Germany**

The annual General Assembly of Caravan 2000/Germany took place Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Baunatal/Hesse. For the first time, members of the self help organization **People First/Germany** participated: [www.mensch-zuerst.de](http://www.mensch-zuerst.de) and <http://peoplefirstltd.com/>. After the progress report was accepted and the board members were released the most important topic for discussion was, how the Caravan can remain sustainable in the coming years. One important aspect of this matter must be to give people with disabilities responsibility, so they can participate equally in the planning, organisation and realization of activities. With this message in mind the members unanimously voted to give the vacant place in the German board to **Mr. Arnd Kunau**, member of the board of "People First/Germany". In the context of many people with disability seeking membership in the Caravan, the board informed about its decision to reduce the member fee for private persons whose livelihood solely consists of supplementary benefit. If so, they have to pay a fee of 10,- € yearly.

Mr. Arnd Kunau, the new board-member auf the German Caravan



In addition to the ELLA project, the focal points of Caravan 2000/Germany in 2015 will be the international projects with our partners in Serbia, Turkey and Latvia. Due to the current political

situation in the Ukraine and in Russia, common activities with our local partner organisations are currently suspended although regular contacts are maintained as before.

#### **4. The General Assembly of Caravan/International**

The General Assembly of Caravan/International took place Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Kas/Turkey. After the progress report was accepted and the board members were released, also here the most important topic for discussion was, how the Caravan can remain sustainable in the coming years: Besides the intention to enlarge the network, the members agreed, that it would be absolutely necessary to initiate a generational change within the current network. Therefore the 2 vacant places on the board, which resulted from the demission of Philipp Mazereau/France (due to other obligations) and Gunn Ostlund/Sweden, who retired, were taken by new, young candidates: The board of Caravan 2000/International is now composed of Magda Skiba/Poland (the president), Michael Thiele /Germany, Tarik Bitlis/Turkey, Regis Alvin/France, Ivana Stajkovic/Serbia, Irmela von Toerne/Germany, Kerstin Klepsch/Austria, Marita Jonols/Sweden and Stefan Rothschild/Israel, who unfortunately could not participate in the meeting because of the security situation for Israeli citizens in the particular region.



The new board of Caravan International without Stefan Rothschild

#### **5. Further perspectives for Caravan 2000**

Until the end of the year 2016 the main focus of the activities will continue to be the implementation of the ELLA project. However, we are already now thinking about how the good practice of the project can be continued after the funding of the LifeLongLearning programme will end.

The current plan is, to use the ELLA Congress, which will take place in Vienna Nov. 2015, to invite friends and sympathizers from all over Europe, to acquaint them with the contents and methods of ELLA with the aim mobilizing to become project partners after 2016.



For the financing of the new project formats of **ERASMUS+** should be used. In addition, we plan to conduct a fundraising campaign to complement the European funding that we hope will be made available for our future programs.



**The Social Inclusion Band practicing for their performance in the harbor of Kas/Turkey**

