

Explanation of the difference between the **CIF Exchange Program** and the **International Study Program (ISP)** in Germany

Dear Friends all around the world,

We from CIF Germany are proud to present the first CIF Exchange Program which will take place from April 5th – May 4th 2008.

I would like to take this opportunity in order to explain to you the major differences between the **TWO programs**. I will underline the keywords and add a table (oversight) at the end.

The **CIF program** is a traditional Exchange Program organized by the German National Branch as one of 17 CIF programs all around the world. The program will take place in the area of Stuttgart (Southern part of Germany) and includes field trips as well as touristic trips in and around Munich. The program is designed for a group of 4 professionals with a background in human services and professional experience of a minimum of two years in the social field. Professionals from all around the world can apply for this program. The language of the program and of the international group is English. German language skills are appreciated. All participants will be living with host families. A cultural program is provided, offering an insight to the political, cultural, economic and geographical situation of the area and Germany in general. The program includes seminars on different professional topics, visits to social institutions of interest and practical work as well as field trips and a cultural program.

Applications should be sent to the national CIF branch or contact person and include a letter of recommendation. Deadline is Dec 1.

The other Exchange Program is sponsored by the German Government and is called **ISP** (International Study Program). Every year, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of the German Government provides 20 – 22 grants. The activity is directed towards professional social workers and professionals in the field of youth work and youth welfare services mainly from European countries. The aim is to take part in a study program of nearly 2 months in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Child and Youth Welfare Association in Berlin (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ), an association of Child/Youth welfare NGOs and GOs, responsible for child/youth welfare and social services is commissioned to implement this program. It includes seminars on different professional topics, visits to social institutions and practical work in different German towns and in different areas: e. g. youth and community work; different kinds of socio-educational provision for children who are in trouble; work with persons in a personal or social state of need; work with young offenders and work with children or young people with special needs, etc. This way, participants can become familiar with the daily work of their German colleagues. Coming along with this, there is also a cultural program provided, offering an insight to the political, cultural, economic and geographical situation of Germany.

Participants must have very good comprehension and speaking skills of the German language in order to be able to participate actively in discussions, seminars and in the practical work. The participants will be living in apartments.

Applications should be sent to the address of the AGJ in Berlin. In addition, an interview will take place at the German Embassy. There, the knowledge of the German language will be affirmed as well as the professional background of the applicant.

Deadline is Dec 1.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. Applications should be sent for

the **CIF Program**: to CIF Germany; www.cif-germany.de

the **International Study Program (ISP)**: to the AGJ Germany; www.agj.de

Ilse Hoffmann
President CIF-Germany