



“With more associations, there will be more good projects

Interview with Bo Otterstrøm, chairman of Drums for Peace

In September, Drums for Peace became a legal association. What has changed?

First of all, the change into a legal association means that processes at Drums for Peace annual meeting are more democratic. Until now me and Arttrain have been the coordinators of DfP (Drums for Peace) because Arttrain was founder of the network. Arttrain



and I took the initiative in 2000 and since then I've been coordinating DfP. So what's new is that now, at

the last meeting, all partners, all members of DfP decided who's going to be president of DfP and also

the board. This is a transparent and democratic process. That's the most important thing. It also means that, hopefully, there will be more people involved in doing the tasks for DfP. That's also a consequence of having a more democratic structure. Hopefully, people will want to do some work for DfP. It's all based on voluntary work.

read more >>>

Drums for Peace - platform also for many local projects

Forum Theatre Training in Nykøbing

On 14 and 15 November, over 20 Danish teachers participated in a Forum Theatre Training in Nykøbing Falster, Denmark. Participants learned in a creative way how to deal with everyday school problems with the help of Gill Dowsett – teacher, trainer and facilitator.



Trainer **Gill Dowsett** used two main techniques in making participants feeling comfortable with each other and then to be able to talk open about school issues: games and Image Theatre.

We find games invaluable as ice-breakers, for team building and encouraging co-operation, for increasing sensitivity of the senses, for kinesthetic development, co-ordination, sequencing etc. (Theatr Fforum Cymru site)
Image Theatre was first

done individually, and after in pairs and in a group. Participants were asked to make images with their body on specific themes, such as school, theatre or difficult relationships. Free discussions followed, focusing on some images. The most important thing to remember, as Gill said, was that there is no right or wrong answers and that all the opinions are made through the filter of our own experiences.

Democracy project



All participants together in Saksøeving

As a part of a democracy project between Guldborgsund, DK and Rostock, DE, 25 young people from Rostock met 25 y.p. from Guldborgsund 16-18th November and worked with Forum Theatre directed by Gill Dowsett from Theatr Fforum Cymru, and old Drums for Peace-partner from the beginning of the network



Olav Jansen (Guldborgsund Ungdomsskole) says "Welcome"



Visit at skaterpark in Kulturfabrikken in Nykøbing

Latest news:

Unfortunately the application for Drums for Peace meeting in May 2013 was not approved. Cinisello Balsamo will apply again by 1st February and go again for the agreed day, but we need new partner documents.



“With more associations, there will be more good projects

Interview with Bo Otterstrøm, chairman of Drums for Peace

<<<

What can you tell me about the new members?

I can give an example about the new members. From Italy, until now, the association ARCI Varieazioni has been member, but they have collaborated with several local associations. The key persons in ARCI Varieazioni have got a little tired of doing the work or they have now other commitments.

So now, instead of ARCI Varieazioni, we have three other local associations: the Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo, ARCI la Quercia and Il Torpedone. So these three organizations have taken over. That's one example... Sometimes it happens that people are changing jobs and the membership of DfP may follow the persons that are changing jobs. Going from one organization to three is like... they have more time to doing the work.

Then there are some other associations that have applied for being members. They have been involved in DfP projects for some years and they wanted to be acknowledged and respected as proper members. It's also in the interest of old DfP members to have new members. It's

not that we are just wanting as many as possible, but we are open to new.

We think, it is very important to young people. The more projects made for young people, the better. We have the association from Wales, GISDA, that mostly deals with homeless young people, social disadvantaged young people... DfP has also this inclusion dimension, to work with young people with less possibilities.

Do you think it will be better for DfP with more members in the future?

Yes, I think so. When we started DfP we were like four or five associations, and every time we made a project, all organizations met. So it was really easy to manage the details. But when we grew up to eight, nine associations it was necessary having big meetings, discussions and also deciding who is going to take part in the projects and who can send young people to which project.

I think with more associations, there will be more good projects. We have a really good standard of projects in DfP. We developed a methodology that is working well and with more associations using this methodology,

there will be more good and safe youth projects.

How did the new organizations integrate in the network?

They have been either working as workshop leaders for projects in the last years or they have sent young people as participants in projects, so we know them well. It's still a demand for being a member of DfP that you must have taken part in some projects before. You can't be a member, if nobody knows you.

The partners, the new members that were approved at the meeting in September in Sweden have taken part in projects for up to five years, so we know them well. So they are already well integrated. Now they are respected like equal members of DfP. They have the right to come at the annual meetings, so they are like every other association.

Would you compare the DfP network to a big family?

Yes, in some ways it's possible to say the network is a family. I think for many of us is not only a professional network, it's very much a personal friendship, also. Some of us are also meeting in private. It's like a family

based on a long friendship.

This transformation of the network is like a milestone. What do you think will be the next one?

The next changes that will happen in the network is not so much for me to say. We have some working groups and it will be interesting to see which ideas will come out from these working groups.

We have a board meeting, also very important. DfP is not an ordinary association, like many others, it's an international association. That means that now we have board members from five different countries. So making a board meeting is difficult and expensive, but we are planning it very properly, not to make it too expensive. We are meeting for two days in January in London.

I think, I can tell more about what will happen in the future with DfP after having had this board meeting. Because DfP became an association in September, and, due to the democratic process, we need a real board meeting before I can say more about the future.

*Text: Maria Timiş
Foto credits: Daniela Stoian*