

**Background Report in preparation of the World Congress  
Puebla, Mexico, August 2014**

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## **COUNTRY REPORT: GERMANY**

### **PART 1: WHAT REALLY MATTERS?**

#### **1. What are the main needs/concerns of the members in your country?**

The needs of our members are very diverse. In the older groups with houses and aging members the possibility in taking part in activities and the interest in international topics go down. They enjoy the possibility to come together for Latihan in their own rooms with well-known brothers and sisters. A lot of energy is spent in keeping the houses in order.

The members in younger groups are often very absorbed by their daily life, making a living and caring for families and kids. The room situation often needs to be improved.

#### **2. What is your experience with putting the latihan into practice?**

It is amazing and impressive that again and again members get inspirations which are completely unexpected and which seem to have a reality behind them. The freshest example: Subud Germany's readiness to stand for WSA Executive and World Congress 2018. Another example: members develop their talents through arts or through working together in a Subud team.

#### **3. Spiritual / Kejiwaan / Helper Situation: What are the main Helper Issues?**

The last year of our term comes to an end. Looking back to four years of working together we can say it was a fruitful time for all of us. In serving our members and being there for their needs we all gained a lot for ourselves as well, for our own development in our daily lives. Our team meetings, doing Latihan together, testing our specific roles in our team, helping each other if needed all this helped us doing our work. And there was quite a lot to do: visiting groups, talking and testing with helpers and helper probationers, trying again to bring across what it means to be Bapaks helper. We always tried to be present at national team meetings and in between at our weekly Skype conference. Working as a Dewan, helpers and committee united is a most rewarding experience we really treasure. Apart from visiting groups and support our national team we had national congresses to prepare and attend, a Zone meeting in 2013 in Wolfsburg and now preparing for the world congress in Puebla. We were also present at Susila Dharma meetings. All in all these four years have been a lively time and we could witness a growing interest in organizational matters. The membership is growing older and there is a great potential in our youth and young members who could gradually be more involved in helper and committee work. Nevertheless our last congress held a surprise for all of us. We came to the conclusion that after 40 years Subud Germany would be ready again to host another world congress. It gave us all a boost of energy and a feeling of joy, something to look forward to.

#### **4. What are the members' needs/requirements/expectations from the 'organisation'?**

- Support in improving the room situation
- Information and communication, organising meetings, establish room (outer and inner) for personal improvement.
- A lot of members with shorter time in Subud do not have a lot of expectations from the organisation and do not yet have a feeling for it.

## 5. What are the most critical (Subud) issues in your country?

- Aging members and their smaller getting horizon
- A lot of members are members of the association, but are not active and very seldom show up for Latihan.
- Not many new young members with energy and willingness to take over a Subud job.
- Decreasing financial contributions.

## 6. Successes and Achievements – please provide details of any especially positive activities or situations enhancing Subud life in your country.

- Time and again it is possible in Subud Germany to find new sisters and brothers for Subud jobs, recently for our advisory board, for the new Dewan of National Helpers and the new Committee Councillor, which will take over after World Congress.
- The cooperation with Susila Dharma Germany (a independent entity) is very intense and close.
- Plans for starting a foundation in Subud Germany were brought to a close and it was decided not to go on with the preparation at the moment. But we can come back at any time and benefit from the work done.
- Volume 10 of Bapak's Talks has been published.
- Our newsletter "info" comes out every two month, has a coloured cover with art from Subud members, is read in 12 European countries and six countries overseas.
- A new website with interactive possibilities, electronic newsletters.
- New SICA chair Mursalin Talib giving new life to the SICA efforts with a SICA newsletter and currently working on a new website.
- PeaceOneDay on 21 September 2013 in Wolfsburg and Düsseldorf in collaboration with non-Subud organisations.

## PART 2: Administration and Statistics

### 7. National Committee Officers

Subud Deutschland e. V., Nordstadtstrasse 26, 38448 Wolfsburg, Germany  
Emma Nissen, Secretary, [vorstand\(at\)subud.de](mailto:vorstand(at)subud.de)  
Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg, Chair, [ismanah\(at\)subud.de](mailto:ismanah(at)subud.de)  
Damiri Knapheide, Vice Chair, [damiri\(at\)subud.de](mailto:damiri(at)subud.de)  
Helen Han, Treasurer, [helen\(at\)subud.de](mailto:helen(at)subud.de)  
Hilma Wolf-Doettinchem, CC, [hilma\(at\)subud.de](mailto:hilma(at)subud.de) (until the World Congress in Puebla)

### 8. National Helpers and Kejiwaan Councillors *(Names, contact addresses, e-mail, phone)*

Lucia Boehm, KC, [lucia-boehm\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:lucia-boehm(at)gmx.de)  
Anwar Ziesel, KC, [anwarziesel\(at\)gmx.net](mailto:anwarziesel(at)gmx.net)  
Rusydah Ziesel, NH, [Rusydah\(at\)gmx.at](mailto:Rusydah(at)gmx.at)  
Mariam Tikale, NH, [ingemariam.tikale\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:ingemariam.tikale(at)gmx.de)  
Reinier Sillem, NH, [ReinierSillem\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:ReinierSillem(at)hotmail.com)  
Raimund Gilhofer, NH, [raimund\(at\)gilhofer.net](mailto:raimund(at)gilhofer.net) (all until the World Congress in Puebla)

### 9. Coordinators for 'Wing' Activities, Subud Houses, MSF, Publications, etc.

SICA: Mursalin Talib, [mursalin.talib\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mursalin.talib(at)gmail.com)  
SYAI: Helena Willecke, [h.willecke\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:h.willecke(at)gmx.de) und Hilmann Kaeser, [robert.kaeser\(at\)live.de](mailto:robert.kaeser(at)live.de)  
MSF: vacant

**10. Membership:** (*Numbers, men/women, active/passive, helpers/members*)

500 members plus 86 who are not official Subud members but are opened (50 % of those are inactive).

525 members plus those supporting Subud Germany financially, 208 men and 317 women.

130 helpers.

The average age in Subud Germany is about 60 (group Potsdam 45, group Wolfsburg 71 as examples).

**11. Groups**

17 groups and 133 isolated members.

**12. Susila Dharma**

Susila Dharma Germany (SDG) is a separate, legally, charitable association with its own constitution, office and 70 members. It is a member of Susila Dharma International Association. SDG supports about 17 developmental, social and educational projects in India, Indonesia, Africa, South America and Europe. A certain amount of networking and PR work in Germany are the other key aspects. In the field of publications SDG produced an issue of the magazine *Umschau* (Outlook) describing all our projects in detail. Also published were 3 issues of the newsletter *Einblick* (Insight) and an Annual Report 2013.

With funds of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Susila Dharma Germany supports a project for the improvement of the nutritional status in 7 villages in Central Kalimantan/Indonesia and a second project on sustainable development in Karnataka/India. Besides supporting all projects financially and with knowledge exchange, Kerstin Jueterbock/Lawrence Fryer visited the SDG-project Anisha in India, Viktor Boehm the YUM-AGRO-project in Kalimantan/Indonesia and Laura Verbeek/Waltraut Biester the different projects in Cameroon. All SDG decisions are made by the team - 20 continuously active volunteers and one part-time employee. The work of the team and the chairs is reviewed by the members of Susila Dharma – Soziale Dienste e.V. during the Annual General Meeting.

Chairman: Dr. Viktor Boehm

Vice-Chair: Waltraut Biester

Treasurer: Valentin Willecke

Assessor: Laura Verbeek

Office: Kerstin Jueterbock, sd-germany(at)susiladharmadotorg

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### **13. SICA**

SICA Germany had a great season 2013/2014 starting with participating at the Poems for Peace event in fall 2013. Mursalin Talib started coordinating SICA Germany after the SUBUD National Congress 2013 in Nordhelle. Since then with a lot of help from the national team members and all other participants, we managed to establish some great things. As mentioned above we participated in the poems for peace event 2013 with poems, pictures and photographs sent in.

We are publishing a newsletter called "SICA News" which is promoting events starting from concerts over exhibitions to child education.

In the holiday season 2013 SICA and SUBUD Germany published a calendar with motives created from SUBUD members. These paintings have been published as cover of the SUBUD Info magazine. All calendars were sold out.

At the national congress SICA held a vernissage with paintings and photographs. Three Artists participated in this exhibition with their lovely paintings.

As projects for the near future SICA Germany has opened a Twitter account under @SICADeutschland which will be a place to promote artist events in the future, further we are working on the new Web-Site of SICA Germany which will be launched by the end of this year.

### **14. Youth**

There were several youth meetings and the youth is active in communicating via skype.

It was very touching to see them during our national congress, caring for each other and themselves in a really loving manner. A few will take part in the Yes Quest before congress and are planning to share their experiences with those at home via a blog

Germany, July 2014

Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg, chair; Lucia Boehm, Anwar Ziesel, KC, and Hilma Wolf-Doettinchem, CC

