

Meet SEC team!



Dear IPSF friends from all over the Globe,

I'm Slavisa Stojkovic, from the National Association of Pharmacy Students-Serbia (NAPSer) and I have been the Student Exchange Officer for two years now (2006-2008) and have been involved in IPSF for almost three years. My first involvement was in 2005 in IPSF Moving On II project, as NAPSer Pharmacy Education Coordinator. I started my engagement in IPSF SEP as a host for a student from Latvia which was very good experience. I've spent one month in Bandung, Indonesia, as I also wished to experience an exchange myself, and my trip to Indonesia was one of the best summers in my life, as well as the best experience I have had ever. That made me crazy and very enthusiastic about SEP and encouraged me to become a SEO, two years after being a member of the Student Exchange Committee.

Making Countries Smaller and Welcomes Warmer

The Student Exchange Programme is an expanding one; some countries receive and send so many students that for the work to be efficiently done, it should be divided between the Student Exchange Officers (SEO) and Local Exchange Officers (LEO) which is what happens in Portugal.

In Portugal we have a SEO, who is part of the national association (APEF), and then each faculty nominates a LEO which will be responsible for finding hosts where the students can work, accommodation and welcomes them to their cities. It makes the process easier and more efficient, because the LEO already knows the teachers, and are able to meet pharmacists and really make a difference in succeeding to place an exchange student at a pharmacy by meeting with the pharmacist in person.

Of course, there should be ideally a reception committee working with the LEO so that the exchange students staying in your country will be closely accompanied and have the opportunity to see your city from a personal point of view.

As some countries are bigger than others, the distance can be a barrier to the smooth functioning of SEP. By introducing LEOs, you can make the biggest of countries into a small place and organise a warm welcome for those who choose to realise SEP in your country.

Being a LEO is also a rewarding experience for those who decide to take on this challenge because you get to meet

people from different countries, make friends and get into the IPSF spirit. It's a little like travelling the world without leaving your own country!

As SEO, having to manage such a huge number of students, it is really important to have LEOs to work with. LEOs are the core for the smooth functioning of SEP. Sometimes the work of a LEO involves more contact with foreign students than the SEO, but this is simply due to the fact that they have direct contact with the students. In Portugal, LEOs are the ones who are responsible for allocating the exchange student's practising or work location, for arranging the accommodation, picking up the student on arrival, taking them to their work place and to maintain social contact with them during their stay. I was a LEO before becoming SEO, so I have many great memories of SEP, and it was great to receive and to be in contact with people from different cultures and discussing pharmaceutical issues with them.

SEP is a magnificent family that counts with a great Chairperson, an efficient Student Exchange Committee (SEC), dedicated SEOs, and last but not least, with the magnificent LEOs!

Marco Coelho (AEFFUP LEO, Porto), Pedro Lucas (AEFFUL LEO, Lisbon) & Andrea De Sousa (APEF SEO, Portugal), Portugal



Letters From The Netherlands (16.8.2007.-14.9.2007)

To be a student, brings with itself great responsibility, but also an energy and possibility to in a few years beside book, grab a few life lessons. That's not hard, chances are all around us...

16.8.2007.

Me and my suitcase are flying to an unknown country. Flight was great and at the airport waiting for me, with a smiling face, was my host, pharmacist Wendy Hofman. After 4 hours of flying, I went straight to surprise party – at the lake, sailing! I was so, so wet, but it was worth it! After a wet and exciting beginning and dinner, the road brought us to Wendy's home in Heemstede. Her apartment was above the pharmacy, with a big living room with fireplace and a whole floor just for me! I was so surprised and happy!

17.8.2007.

Weekend in Heino (Wendy's birthplace). It took only few minutes to be prejudiced, that Dutch people are cold and not really friendly, but I was wrong when I discovered that I could fly away in the rhythm of festival music which was in every corner of this beautiful place. Small houses, green fields and festivals ...this was enough for me to imagine the past of Heino, with people in national dress and clogs!

18.8.2007.

Heemstede! My camera caught with thrill every part of this place! Houses with big windows looking out to beautiful gardens, grabs the sunlight that brings light and warmth to this country. And then I found the famous mills of Holland! It was the most relaxing view as I rested on a little bench – in front of the mill was a canal with ducks and bicycles all around.

19.8.2007.

The first working day in a pharmacy! Ten computers work permanently and simultaneously, with technicians working in the laboratory and patients who are able to access the health service of pharmacists who oversee the running of the pharmacy. During a break, I was able to relax in the pharmacy's garden, which was full of flowers and had a pond with golden fishes.

Besides Wendy's pharmacy, which is where I worked most of the time, my host took care of me, taking me to see lots of things that pharmacy can offer! I visited a pharmacy in The Hague, which works with a system of robots. The system enabled fast and efficient work with both doctors and patients.

Also, I was able to visit a company, OPG, who is a large distributor of drugs. Every step is computerized and strictly controlled. I spent a day in a hospital pharmacy where I had an opportunity to get to learn about the role of a clinical pharmacist.

Also, I worked for a few days in a company that makes special packing of drugs for homes for the elderly which is really convenient for both nurses and patients.

In the north part of The Netherlands (Ziudlaren) there is a very modern clinic, PRI International, which trials potential new drugs on healthy trainees. With doctors and nurses, I had the chance to visit the trainees.

29.8.2007.

After a long working day in the pharmacy, rest was on the beach of the North Sea. The day was spent watching the seagulls, the sunset, cocktails and at the end, good Cuban music in front of the fireplace in a nearby beach club.

30.8.2007.

The Hague is a town with soul. There is a mixture of old and new and when I looked at old buildings and canals, I felt past and tradition which still snail through the streets of this modern European city.

There I was in Maduradam, The Netherlands in small. Canals, buildings, fields of tulips, plains, ships...everything looked so real! I felt like Gulliver!

7.9.2007.

Amsterdam! It's impossible not to come to this city. Uncountable museums, diversity of nationalities...only on the silent water of canals could you rest your eyes from the rushing bicycles, eccentricity and hustle of this big metropolis!

11.9.2007.

Back to the childhood and fantasy world! Efteling, a fairytale village, is located in south of The Netherlands. Most well-known stories were told within the forest as every corner there was a an audio radio in a shape of a mushroom, with also played songs from children's movies. And then you can be surprised when at the castle of Sleeping Beauty. It's hard to say how beautiful the place is, but I can say that it was really nice to be a child again! At least, for a short time...

There are just few lines from my trip, that brought to me a new country where I'm no longer a stranger, because, there I found new friends and I've also found a new me!

And of course, my special gratitude to my dear host Wendy Hofman! She made this trip unforgettable for me!

In every corner of this world you can find a piece of yourself! Grab your chance!

*Danijela Pusic
Novi Sad, Serbia*

Student Exchange Programme in Nigeria

It is my pleasure to write about the IPSF Student Exchange Programme (SEP) in Nigeria. Our case in Nigeria is that of gradual growth, moving from strength to strength. This is our second year and to the delight of everyone here, our first year witnessed the hosting of a student from Tanzania, whom I now proudly refer to as my friend. Kitapondya Ngelela's journey to Nigeria was a very eventful one and I am sure he has a very wonderful story to tell about his experience in Nigeria. However, from our own perspective here, hosting Kita was a wonderful experience although it came with quite a number of challenges. These challenges have however served as points of improvements for SEP in Nigeria. We have since learnt from them and it has led to the emergence of a better and more inviting SEP in Nigeria.

This year, we have prepared all that is required in terms of places for the exchange in the university (research) as well as in the hospital. Mr Kita's visit to Nigeria has shown us that industrial placement comes with a lot of logistic challenges for us due to the location of our major industries (Lagos). Hence we may not be able to offer

places in industry for now until we put things in place for a comfortable placement in the industry.

Another high point of the programme here is the social programme. Due to the socio-cultural diversity and the inexorable hospitality of the Nigerian nation, coupled with the numerous tourist attraction sites, with each of them representing a long, deep and interesting history of the people, we are able to offer an excellent African experience that will forever linger in hearts of our visitors. Upon the student's departure, one thing I can guarantee is the fact that they will say "I miss Nigeria". I therefore confidently beckon the whole world, to come and see Africa, to come and see Nigeria. The voice that calls is the voice of the most populous African nation in the world, the voice of the happiest people in the world, and the voice of the heart of Africa.

Vive la pharmacie!

*John Okikiolu
SEO Nigeria 2007-08*



SEP Grant Announcement

IPSF Development Fund Student Exchange Programme Grants

IPSF Development Fund (DF) and Student Exchange Committees would like to thank all of those who applied IPSF DF SEP Grant. An overwhelming number of applications have been received from a wide geographical range of the IPSF membership. The calibre of applications was extremely high and is testament to the dedication and enthusiasm that members continue to express towards the Federation. It is indeed a great achievement for those who have submitted applications and consequently have taken steps to embrace the IPSF spirit further on a personal level and within their respective organisations. The value that can be obtained from the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) is immense and it is extremely encouraging that members are embracing such opportunities available within our international fields of Pharmacy and student network.

Consequently we are delighted to congratulate the following members who will receive IPSF DF-SEP grants this year:

- Mr. Ayush Agarwal of IPA-SF, India to the value of 475 Euro.
- Ms. Rohit Manisha Maheshbhai of IPA-SF, India to the value of 475 Euro.
- Ms. Justyna Zuchlinska of YP, Poland to the value of 250 Euro.
- Ms. Gromadko Ewa of YP, Poland to the value of 300 Euro.

Again, the DF and Student Exchange Committees wish to recognise the quality and quantity of applications received and to encourage applicants who have been unsuccessful on this occasion to re-embrace the Pharmacy and Student Exchange spirit and to reconsider applying for future DF and DF-SEP grants that will occur within the 2008-2009 period. The call for applications for future DF grants and in particular the DF-SEP grant will be announced in November-December 2008 with details being displayed on the IPSF website and distributed via email to IPSF Student Exchange Officers.