

THE ITDK/ISSS LIFE-REFORM MOVEMENT

(ITDK - Hungarian abbreviation; ISSS - Interdisciplinary Scientific Student Society)

The ISSS was initiated by puppet designer Sándor Lévai, and founded by students and teachers of ten universities and colleges and other experts in 1981, with the assent of the Hungarian Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The aim was for students of different higher education institutions to get together to solve REAL PROBLEMS (which need many-sided approach). The concrete aim we had in mind was to outline the plan and the support of a common experiment: to create a little settlement (Communard Town) in which favourable circumstances would exist for new initiatives in the fields of evryday life, work organization, economy, education and the organization of society, This settlement would be designed to help answer to that challenge which the multitudinous common panel constructions were not able to answer. A written Summary of the intellectual work which had already been done was ready in 1984, entitled 'A Possible Future', which might serve as the background and give a direction to the construction of the Communard Town. In the same year we tried to found an association to carry out our aims, but we failed to get the assent of the Hungarian Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Our Aims

We had to draw the conclusion from our experience up to 1986 that such a large-scale initiation has no social background, so we had to set ourselves a less ambitious short-term aim:

- to attain the method of creative co-operation in the fields of work, experience, thinking and action
- to establish and to maintain the necessary connections between people, schools, settlements, research bases and initiatives both in Hungary and abroad
- to bring about an ongoing exchange of information through these connections
- to bring into existence and to support smaller, partial initiatives and to study their experiments.

Some Aims which Clarify our Scale of Values

- to do away with the oppressive mechanisms in ourselves, in human relations and in society; instead of them to become adept at violence-free forms of co-operation
- instead of running down and consuming Nature to look for harmony and to restore Nature
- to build up such an economic organization which does not attempt to enforce uniformity, but gives the individual the right and opportunity to be Him-/Herself and which, while efficiently producing a financial basis of life, not at the

We would like to deal with artificial intelligence, and other developing fields of the profession, and also with the information network of the ISSS. We also intend to follow the results of the computer techniques. We need applicants and supporters (hardly available literature, competent people's acquaintance etc.)

ICFS (György Maurer) All the information see above!

If you feel like collecting, systemizing, reviewing, translating, corresponding, building out and keeping connections, then go no further. Here you can find work!

TEA-HOUSE Company (Mari Bors, H-1037 Budapest, Kalap u. 12. Tel: 883-441)

What we do: - planning, organizing, inviting
 - acting as host, hostess, master of the house, geisha, etc.
 - preparing and serving sandwiches, making order, doing the washing-up

Welcome everyone for regular or temporary work!

LEVLAP Editorial (György Maurer)

We welcome colleagues in typing, textorial editing, graphic work, delivering, posting and of course good ideas in editing as such!

Collective House Initiative (István Siklaky, H-1021 Budapest, Tárogató út 28.)

KEREPESTARCSA Initiative

(Bertalan Kemény, H-1036 Budapest, Magyar L. u. 14. Tel. at work: 569-122)

- in 1985 was the first Summer Camp in which we managed to see the everyday life of a particular township
- one of our guests in the TEA-HOUSE-- Zoltán Barabás - recommended that we initiate the establishment of an environment-protecting model village
- an article in the 13th issue of the LEVLAP has suggested: "we need to make general such a civic spontaneous activity which is based on social participation and co-operates and converses with the local leaders". Frankly spoken it means to find the 'key-figures' of that township and with their help we can exert influence in the right direction. These 'key-figures' are not necessarily the official leaders of the community.
- two citizens from Kerepestarcsa were regularly our guests in the TH and - hearing about the initiatives and ideas - offered their town to be the subject
- after all this we organized our 1986 SC there and started our work. This camp is considered as the first step of a several year process, which needs constant work between two Summer Camps as well. The process itself gives an opportunity to everyone to join in as a document was issued on the results and work of the c.

BALATON Initiative (Gyula Bartók, H-1126 Budapest, Szoboszlai u. 11/b T:856-792)

My aim is to establish a community or communities in parallel with social settlements (collective living and working place) built in Balaton township. I'm looking for people who are not satisfied with their present life-style and willing to create a new one. We would also establish intellectual workshops, later free-school.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (only in Hungarian, so far)

Zsuzsa Sóvári: We Have to Fly in Lead, Valóság (periodical) 1985/9

Máté Szabó: Is there any Alternative Social Movement in Hungary? , OMF 1986

expense of Nature and the forthcoming generations, and also from which there is a possibility that egalitarian societies may emerge

- to think over the whole technical-consumer society and to replace wanton growth by real human values.

How We Work

We hold club meetings called TEA-HOUSE-s every week from October to May. Here we invite people to give lectures, offer the communities and initiatives an opportunity to exchange views and news. There are some other programmes, either organized or spontaneously held. All the programmes planned can be found in our monthly paper, the LEVLAP, for the next month. This paper is the other channel of keeping in contact via the circular letter. Nowadays we publish it in 1000 copies and it is funded only from subscription fees. (For a year it's 40 forints, earlier issues also available.)

IGYÉSZ/ICFS

(= Information Collecting and Furnishing Service)

Collects all the papers and the publications which may be interesting to us from members of the ISSS and also from initiatives abroad. Orders foreign periodicals and organizes reviews of them, and the translation of the most important articles. Collects other information - which can help to keep in contact with other initiatives.

ACCESS: (Only for those who subscribe to LEVLAP)

The list of new books and periodicals is printed in the LEVLAP monthly. These publications can be borrowed by letter or personally at the TEA-HOUSE. In the first case we send you the needed book by post and ask you to send back the postage in stamps when you return it.

Every year we organize a self-supporting SUMMER-CAMP. The earlier ones were similar to Summer Universities, but in the last two years we have tried to reveal and understand the life and social process of a particular township.

The framework of our everyday work is the different workshops and initiatives. You can find their up-to-date informative at the end of this booklet.

The ISSS has its ORGANIZING COMMITTEE which in principle chooses its members from the delegates of the different workshops and initiatives, but in practice is rather an organizing workshop itself whose members can be all those who contract to do any kind of work in it. The time and place of its meetings can be found out in the TEA-HOUSE.

We also have members called LOCAL ORGANIZERS who support our work in villages and towns by circulating our 'periodical' and by giving information on the spot. They also keep personal contact with other groups and committees of the ISSS.

How to Join

1. by going to the TEA-HOUSE
2. by subscribing to LEVLAP, and so joining in our communication network
3. by trying to find the leaders of the different workshops and initiatives listed at the end of this booklet
4. if you cannot find something very important for you in this sheet see the bibliography below, or ask the ICPS by letter
5. if you want to establish a workshop or start a new initiative, either look for personal contact at the TEA-HOUSE or advertise yourself in LEVLAP
6. you can find all the important addresses in this booklet, but please check them in the last LEVLAP

Active Workshops and Initiatives 1986

Operative Environment (Sándor Lévai, H-1089 Budapest, Mező I. út 55/57.)

In the 1986/87 school-term our workshop wants to deal with the drafting of the concrete framework of the Commune Town. For that we need the re-wording of the aims and subject of the 'social examination' together with an open discuss of the works submitted to the "COT" competition of ideas. We expect the politicians invited to the TEA-HOUSE to reassure the necessity of this examination, the leading architect of Budapest to mark out the building areas, and those experts who already know us to add their intellectual support to organise a new - this time nationwide - competition.

Alternative living and working societies

(György Maurer, H-1125 Budapest, Szarvas Gábor út 42/b)

A society is the more capable to answer the challenges addressed to it, when it has the more historical and cultural patterns up its sleeve to reply to them. Those patterns which we usually call "communitistic settlements", "communes", "living and working societies" are fully absent from our sleeve. This workshop - up to its limits - tries to fill in the gaps in this field by

- examining ancient societies on a historical basis (eg. American communities in the 18-19th centuries)
- getting acquainted with contemporary - mainly western European and domestic - communities
- revealing the motivation background of this life-style and the inner process of such communities
- examining the inner and outer conditions of the establishing of indoor communities

Computer technique and Cybernetics

(Tamás Várhelyi, H-4032 Debrecen, Tessedik S. u. 120. Tel: 52/26-632)