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Editor: Kolpingwerk e. V. | Responsible: Hubert Tintelott, General Secretary
Kolpingplatz 5-11, 50667 Cologne/Germany | Tel. +49-221-20701-49
ikw@kolping.net | www.kolping.net

Germany

Helping shape the social future

The rapid changes in the economic and social framework and the challenges of demographic change have led the Diocesan Kolping Society of Regensburg to meet this challenge with a specialized programme of several years of duration. Under the motto: „Helping shape the social future“ the Diocesan Kolping Society of Regensburg would like to inform its members and the broader public about these developments and to provide more insight into the fundamental economic and social connections. The Diocesan Kolping Society of Regensburg is convinced that only a more profound and fundamental information of the public of the changes caused by globalisation and demographic change will enhance those changes and lead to a greater acceptance of those changes within the public. The Diocesan Kolping Society of Regensburg would especially like to take sides with families, so that they as a fundamental part of society will become beneficiaries of the necessary structural changes. In order to attain these goals the Diocesan Kolping Society calls upon all Kolping Families but also its members to develop ideas and to start measures to help especially those persons who are most affected by these changes, e. g. young people, long-time job-less people and families .

Cologne/Slovakia

A look at the fall of the Iron Curtain

20 years ago the Iron Curtain fell. On this occasion the Kolping Society of Europe plans a congress which will be held from the 2nd to the 4th of October 2009 in Bratislava. The year 1989 did not only lead to important political changes in Europe but has also opened up entirely new possibilities for the Kolping Society. Since after the end of the Second World War the Kolping Society was prohibited in all socialist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, except for the GDR, and the Kolping Houses were taken over by the state, the work of Kolping was forced to be cancelled for over 40 years. After the political changes life of Kolping began to show quite rapidly in those countries and in the meantime in almost all of the states of Central and Eastern Europe new Kolping Families were founded and the activities of Kolping were extended.

But the Kolping Society of Europe did not limit itself to supporting the re-building process of the Kolping Society in this part of Europe, but also met the responsibility which faced the Kolping Society with regard to the increase in freedom within the civil society. Thus the Kolping Society is engaged in promoting families, for more just structures in the working world and for an enhancement of political initiatives concerning society. This growing responsibility which results from this new freedom and which is characteristic of a Europe that is coming together ever closer will also be at the centre of the European congress in 2009. This congress can also be seen as a continuation of the first European Kolping Day which was held in 1996 in Salzburg.

Czech Republic

Kolping House for women in Prague has ample recognition

The Kolping House in Prague has a high recognition in the social work of the city for its engagement for women with small children. This became especially clear when the British Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of a gala evening for 100 invited guests offered the proceeds of a tombola for the Kolping House for its social work. The Kolping House in Prague also participated in the selection of a joint initiative of women who work in the accredited embassies in Prague for the promotion of social projects of the city for which it had also provided funds for the work there. In the Kolping House in Prague, mothers with small children find a refuge that can no longer live within their families for having experienced acts of violence or other minatorial circumstances. They can not only live in the Kolping House for a few months, but they also receive training and help in caring for their children but also vocational training.

Bolivia

High demand for occupational training and spare time courses

The multifunctional centre of the Kolping Society in Santa Cruz as a centre for health issues has an importance that reaches beyond the city of Santa Cruz and every year it aids more than 200,000 patients. This outstanding achievement often takes centre-stage and pushes back the second offer that is courses in occupational and general training. A current study shows what extend these activities also have. Thus between the year 2000 and the end of 2006 a total of 8099 persons took part in computer courses, 24,321 persons have improved their knowledge of English in those courses. Moreover, language courses were offered for Italian and German, as well as courses of Spanish for foreigners. Also the numbers in the field of vocational training require recognition. 20,716 students, the majority women, have participated in courses for hairstyling, cooking and sewing and in the field of spare time activities 1,739 persons participated in courses of music and 2,694 mostly youths took out courses in self-defence.

Colombia

Social office of Bogotá assigns task to the Kolping Society

In the last few years the Kolping Society of Columbia has attained a good reputation through its varied activities in the country. Thus the Kolping Society runs 12 social kitchens in the city of Bogotá, where some 3,400 persons a day receive a (cooked) meal. The social offices of the city have assigned the task of running eight school refectories where 2,100 children daily get a meal. In three municipal training centres the Kolping Society also offers occupational training and courses in advanced vocational training in cooperation with the city of Bogotá. This offer is also in high demand. At present 13,885 persons are participating in different educational provisions, ranging from language courses to vocational training in services to measures in handicrafts.

Canada

Kolping Family Vancouver opens up for new members

The Kolping Family in Vancouver which was founded in 1956 by and for German-speaking immigrants in the last few months has opened itself up to a new group of immigrants in Canada. Since the number of German-speaking immigrants to Canada is decreasing, the Kolping Family in the last few years had to deal with a certain increase in the percentage of old people among its members. This development lead to the recognition that it had to open itself up to non-German-speaking groups of immigrants and this has now happened by allowing in immigrants from Latin America. With the admission of members from Central and South America, who newly immigrated to Canada, the Kolping Family also has taken over a new assignment. Thus the Kolping Family of Vancouver would like to promote development projects in Honduras.

Nigeria

Kolping supports democracy

The Kolping Society in Nigeria sees an important task in making its members become engaged citizens, who execute their political responsibility in a democratic system. To meet this goal the Kolping Society has carried out educational measures in all Kolping Families to encourage its members to consider their right to vote as an obligation to vote and to go to the ballots. Moreover, 200 members of the Kolping Youth were trained to be electoral observers. In a joint four-day seminar with the Justitia et Pax Commission, the young people received basic training regarding the electoral laws in Nigeria and what has to be monitored in the polling stations, so that the elections are fair and democratic. The Kolping Youth's commitment in monitoring the elections found praise and recognition by the independent election commission INEC.

In its activities Kolping Nigeria can rely on 58 Kolping Families with 2,852 members. 38 more groups with approx. 1,200 members are preparing to officially found a Kolping Family, so that the number of 100 Kolping Families and more than 4,000 members are a realistic perspective for the future in the next few years.

India

Growth of the Kolping Society continues unimpaired

In 2007 the growth of the Kolping Society in India continued. In 2007, 59 Kolping Families were newly founded and thus the number of Kolping Families grew to 1,239. Likewise, the number of members rose to 22,061 in 2007. Not only the number of Kolping Families and members grew, but also the number of activities could be extended. Thus the capital saved in the savings groups of the Kolping Society of India grew by 50 % in the last three years. With its varied programmes the Kolping Society of India was able to make an important contribution to fighting poverty. Also the efforts to gain members for an active engagement in politics were successful. In all three states where the Kolping Society is present, its members were candidates for municipal councils and also got elected.

Particulars

Nigeria

Member of Kolping becomes a minister

The long-time representative for women in the Kolping Society of Nigeria was named a minister for women's affairs in the federal government of the Federal State of Abia State. This is not only recognition for Mrs. Brown's achievements, but it also honours the work done by the Kolping Society in this field, which is also very active in promoting women. The Kolping Society of Nigeria in the last few years has carried out educational measures for women in rural Kolping Families under the guidance of Mrs. Brown. And even today she sees to it that questions of gender within the Kolping Society of Nigeria are still taken into consideration.