

Dear Reader,

many non-governmental organizations count on public funding. Most could not survive without it. This is particularly the case for many institutions in the countries bordering the Mediterranean. The European Union's work has special relevance in this regard. Not only does the Union seek to set itself apart from other donors through a soft, structural approach to aid. Through its "neighborhood policy", it also offers funding resources of substantial power and breadth.

One group of actors active in Egypt too is particularly dependent on EU funding: audiovisual artists. For their sectors, the Union has implemented a strong programme to support their work and their mobility that has been available to Mediterranean states for an extended time. For example, it supports film production and organizes art festivals and exhibitions.

In the past months, several artists from Europe have also been able to visit SEKEM with the support of public donors. Particularly non-European artists still encounter many pitfalls when, for example, they intend to work together for a certain time with artists from other countries. However, experience continues to show the importance of making additional steps in removing barriers to practical artistic exchange, because eventually common work, particularly in the arts, far outweighs the impact of purely theoretical dialogue.

Your Editorial Team

News

13-Villages-Project

Projects

Second Seminar in Medicine

Businesses

New products for Babies

Advancing Individuality and Community

Education and Institutions for Individual, Communal Development



The children profit from the future prospects by work on the project in the villages

The fourth and last part of the "13-Villages-Project" for integrated and holistic development in rural Egypt takes on the educational development for adult learners, the introduction of a micro credit financing scheme and the strengthening of communal decision making structures.

Until today, two additional vocational training courses could be integrated into the portfolio of SEKEM's Vocational Training Center. In the long run, 90 new students shall be admitted to the new programmes in computer maintenance and plumbing to open up to them new ways of self advancement. The curricula had to be developed, infra-

structures and facilities had to be set up at SEKEM's mother farm in Belbeis to achieve accreditation by the state. Project managers could also begin to hire teachers and assistants for the new courses.

During the last year, the first 15 students in plumbing and 12 others in computer maintenance could take up their studies (as reported). In the coming year, an additional 30 shall be admitted followed by the full number of 90 in the third and last year.

Together with renowned and experienced partners in Egypt, SEKEM also set out to create a new concept for a micro credit financing scheme to applied to the

Continued on page 2



Vocational Training Center: the carpenter's workshop



Vocational Training Center: the metal workshop

small enterprises in rural Sharkeya. SEKEM has begun cooperation with two local NGO's experienced in the field. The team is further supported by experts from the University of Zagazig, a neighboring town of Belbeis. A first draft has been finished and is currently in negotiation among the partners. Moreover, Dr. Hussein El-Gammal, former manager of the Social Fund for Development in Egypt, could be won to support the partnership through practical and technical advice and by finding competent experts to serve on the management team.

In the framework of the programme, a new educational component in literacy training for children is also being tested. The new component is meant to increase the chances of 100 children in the labor market at a very early

stage through basic training measures. These children, who are often forced to contribute to their family's income through manual labor, are allowed to take part in special classes offering traditional subjects such as reading, writing and arithmetic, complemented by courses in artistic classes, such as music, arts, handicrafts, sports and Qur'an studies. The children also receive warm meals, medical care and are instructed in hygienic and sanitary issues to improve the circumstances of their lives.

On the communal level, SEKEM and its cooperation partners have begun with the implementation of local working groups and centers to assure that positive change is rooted deeply in the enthusiasm of the villages' leaderships. 7 local "steering groups" were thus set up on the level of the villages.

In the future, they will be in charge of discussing, planning and implementing measures in the areas of waste disposal and recycling, public health or environmental safety.

SEKEM's experiences show that individual and communal development do not exclude but build upon each other. In the various fields of action of the initiative, their correlation and compatibility has always been at the forefront of all activities. It is only through the support of and by societal structures that social cohesion can be ensured in a durable way. But it is based on individual development that needs the necessary structures and assistance to advance itself in an integrated and holistic way. Personal and societal fortune can complement each other.

Bijan Kafi



Dieses Projekt wird finanziert von der Europäischen Union.
Die im Text dargestellten Ansichten entsprechen nicht notwendig denen der Europäischen Kommission.



The Idea of Anthroposophic Medicine

Second Seminar in Anthroposophic Medicine Successfully Concluded

The seminar that had been offered for the first time in las March for the doctors currently working in the Medical Center and SEKEM's Academy (see SEKEMInsight 48) was continued in November 2006. While Dr. Hans Werner could not be present, Christoph Tautz, child physiscian at the Community Hostpital Herdecke, Christoph Graf, Artistic Manager at SEKEM and Hansueli Albonico, Manager of the Department of Complementary Medicine at Langnau, Switzerland, organized the event this time. The permanent presence of Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish lent a particularly remarkable atmosphere to the event and allowed for intense discussion and review of the lessons learned and all questions that appeared during the course of the seminar.

The workshop was held at SEKEM throughout the whole day for the first time. This allowed for more room and time for personal encounters and informal professional discourse. More interactive learning methods were used this time thus responding to the express wish of the participants of the first seminar. Real histories of patients and practical experience from applying therapies were of particular interest to the Egyptian professionals.

Through the contributions of Christoph Tautz, issues of central relevance to child therapy turned out to be of predominant interest to the participants. Any medical professional working with children must continually be aware of the fact that any medical treatment will lay the foundation for the later healthy life of the child. The child's body needs the challenge of having to cope with an illness, though in an appropriate and assisted form. His forces of life, initially guaranteeing the healthy building of the physical functions, will through this process continue their evolution into forces of consciousness and reasoning. Throughout the seminar and the final



The participants in the second physician seminar in SEKEM

evaluations, the participants voiced their interest in learning more about the particularities of anthroposophic therapies and medicine. Which particular forms of understanding will lead the anthroposophic doctor to the right choice of medicine or artistic therapy? How can the medical professional be empowered to develop an approach to medicine based not only on intellectual reasoning („Evidence based Medicine“) but a „perceiving judgment“ („Cognition based Medicine“)? It is laudable that a desire exists to learn more about these issues, particularly since it highlights the core of the anthroposophic medicine as such: the reinstatement of the dynamic relations of the patient to his surrounding, animate world.

Several concrete tasks remain for the long-term success of the seminar: Firstly, the event must be developed into a vocational training programme to be attended alongside regular professional duties and offering a recognized, official certificate. Substantial experience exists from other countries. To motivate participants and to assure the quality of the offering, of-

icial accreditation must be achieved on both a national and an international level and supported by compliance with all relevant regulations. Ideally, the curriculum will be integrated into the SEKEM University. The courses would have to pay attention to the time medical professionals would have available to attend and should be based on interactive learning methods.

Secondly, all participants must have better and faster access to therapies, particularly anthroposophic medicines, but also to curative Eurythmy and artistic therapy. Participants have, during the past events, concluded the need for the creation of a list containing a limited number of essential medicines that can be obtained or produced locally. Naturally, several obstacles will have to be overcome to realise these visions. Meanwhile, the seminar will be continued in its present form in March and November 2007.

Dr. Hansueli Albonico



Artists Set Up Workshop in SEKEM

The two painters Marianne Wachberger, Switzerland, and Gerlinde Wendland, Germany, visited SEKEM during 8-26 January 2007. In the spacious rooms of the weavers' shop, both set up a temporary workshop to paint and house their works. The rooms were immediately transformed into a bright new world of colours.

Great interest in the colourful work was incited with the workers of the weavers' shop. They quickly realized they were not alone anymore and that artistic work is "work", too, even a real handicraft. The news that something remarkable was going on in the new atelier spread quickly throughout SEKEM. Many people were subsequently drawn to the place who decided to visit the artists during their breaks. Many of them felt encouraged to try their hands on the brushes, too, and made their first



Studio in the weaving mill

artistic steps under the guidance of the two professional artists.

During the two weeks, a large number of small and large works were created by the two women. They could be admired by the audiences at a later exhibition at the SEKEM Academy during the concert of two young musicians from Germany. With both world of painting and music merging in one space, a beautiful atmosphere



Henja Semmler und Tido Semmler

was created that enabled all visitors to experience art at its best.

After completion of their work, both artists decided to donate their paintings to the SEKEM University that is presently in development to allow its new rooms to be adorned with colourful art. SEKEM and its coworkers extend their gratitude to the artists for their generous donation.

Martina Dinkel

Benefiz Concerts for SEKEM

Series of Concerts in Germany and Egypt Promote Work of Initiative

Thanks to the enthusiasm and passion of two young people, SEKEM could enjoy the art of music in its highest form from 16 – 23 January 2007. Henja Semmler, the concerts' violinist, had read the book "The SEKEM Vision" and recounts: "As I reached the chapter on education and culture, I noticed a photo of children playing the violin. This picture incited my enthusiasm to contribute actively to SEKEM's development through my means – the arts – and by visiting and playing for its people." Henja's brother Tido joined into her passion and wished to take part in the forthcoming performances.

Both young artists focused on the intercultural aspect of their contributions. They realized that art can be a means of promoting identities but that their ways of creating art and communicating with people also contribute to greater mutual understanding. With perseverance and without hesitation they set forth to

seek the necessary funding that was, eventually, provided by the Goethe Institute.

With no obstacles in their way, Henja and Tido Semmler prepared their first concert in Heidelberg on the eve of their journey to SEKEM. The evening was opened by an introduction into the aims of the SEKEM initiative delivered by Mr. Hoffmann, member of the board of directors of SEKEM's German support association. In SEKEM, many children from the school, workers and other guests and friends were already waiting eagerly without suspecting that they would soon be able to enjoy European classical music at its best on several occasions and places inside SEKEM.

Violin sonatas by Beethoven and Mozart and Schumann's Fairy Tales for piano and Viola captured the audiences' senses in just the same way the Violin sonata by Schostakowitsch or the Sequenza VIII for Violin solo

by L. Berio and Bach's Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue did. Both artists understood well how to capture the audience and speak to listeners through music. Their passion and sympathy for them literally radiated from all their performances and created a warm and heartfelt atmosphere. Both artists showed clearly their fervor for their listeners as they captured their hearts fully through their music.

It was an additional surprise for the audiences to learn that, next to his career as a musician, Tido Semmler is also a scientist. He offered to hold a presentation on climate change and was asked several times to repeat it on various occasions and in front of different audiences.

SEKEM and its coworkers and friends extend their gratitude to both Henja and Tido Semmler in the hope that additional encounters of the cultures through music may be possible in the future.

Martina Dinkel



Two New Products

Innovative product increase Atos' impact in Egypt

Biozinc was launched in November 2006. It uses only biologically produced Zinc-Aspartate and is generally used in case of acute Zinc-deficiency. Biozinc can counteract hair loss and acne and supplies the body with vital minerals that are particularly indispensable during pregnancy. Biozinc is mostly in use with dermatologists and gynecologists in Egypt. It is a 100%-biological product that is particularly safe. Even though it is more cost-intensive to produce due to its high quality, its price is very competitive.



Statosan reaches the market as a new concept of treating cholesterol and triglyceride levels in the blood. The advantages of the product include high compatibility with liver patients and a very affordable price, particularly when used long-term. Statosan will mostly be used by specialized medical doctors and pharmacies.

First medical and marketing trainings have been completed and the initial feedback received by medical doctors using the new products is very promising.

Bijan Kafi

Impressionen from SEKEM



Taubenhäuser sind in Ägypten ein Zeichen von Wohlstand oder gar Reichtum. Die meist mehrere Meter hohen, konischen und in der Regel weiß getünchten Taubenschläge finden sich auf fast allen Farmen. Sie verleihen der umliegenden Landschaft einen doppelten Reiz. Durch ihre eingewilligte Form und die wie Verzierungen wirkenden Schlupflöcher der Vögel erscheinen sie wie Kunstwerke in der sonst oft eintönigen Landschaft. Gleichzeitig ziehen sich Vögel an und tragen so zur Pflege der Fauna bei. Auch auf SEKEM finden sich zwei Taubenschläge (siehe Bild).

New Products for Babies

New body care products enter the Egyptian market

On 1 January 2007 SEKEM launched its new line of body care products particularly aimed at caring naturally for babies. The series contains the products: Baby Shampoo, Baby Lotion and Baby Oil, Baby Cream and additional items. Despite their natural quality all products are only marginally more expensive than competing articles.

The products are 100% without harmful chemicals and contain calendula flower extracts which calm the skin and have an anti-inflammatory effect. They also promote its healing with bactericidal and fungicidal effects. Furthermore, baby's delicate skin is nourished with essential vitamins and minerals preserving its natural softness and moisture. All products



are pH-neutral and do not cause allergic reactions.

In the coming months, SEKEM will introduce the products in new attractive presentations including selected items and a children's doll made by Conytex as a gift.

Bijan Kafi



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