



NEWSLETTER

December 2023

European IFYE Alumni



A " sun waterfall" falls from the sky down to earth.

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- Congrats to...

Greetings from the President

My dear IFYE friends,

It feels like it was yesterday when I wrote the greetings for the December 2022 newsletter. How quickly a year can pass is indescribable. It has been a year with many events for us IFYEs and for everyone individually.



A year with pleasant events and less pleasant events, both in the private and public sphere. Please allow me to express a few personal thoughts and words which are exclusively my personal opinion and in no way relate to the IFYE organization or the issues addressed. For me, the unpleasant public events include the war still raging in Ukraine, where there is currently no prospect of a peaceful solution and the guns will unfortunately continue to talk. Personally, I hope every day that this war will end unexpectedly overnight, but every day my hopes are not fulfilled. In my opinion, the longer this war lasts, the more dangerous it becomes and now that the EU has promised Ukraine membership negotiations, the possibility that the whole of Europe will have a war with Russia in its living room has grown.

The Middle East is once again a theater of war. What began on October 7 with an insidious attack has developed into a terrible war that is causing much suffering among the civilian population. It is terrible what has happened. Personally, I don't think violence is a suitable solution for finding peace. My grandfather used to say, talk first and never use violence, that will bring peace into your life. I wish for a quick diplomatic peace solution for these two wars mentioned here, as well as for all conflicts on earth, so that people can once again live side by side in peace, happiness and love, regardless of their affiliation.

An exciting year is coming to an end for IFYE with a major event. In the summer, we held the World Conference in Austria. We were able to welcome 309 participants from 24 different nations. This World Conference was a great success for IFYE

Europe, but like every conference, it came to an end, and after the conference is before the conference. Germany is hosting the next European conference in 2024 and from what I have seen so far, it will be an exciting and varied program.

As you may have heard, I had to have an operation on my heart in November. It was no small matter and I'm not looking for sympathy or anything like that, but just want to let you know that I'm currently unable to fully perform my duties as President due to this major procedure. I am currently recovering from the operation in a rehabilitation hospital. The European Board has been informed of the situation and as per the Blue Booklet, I have asked Sam as 1st Vice President to cover for me in the tasks that I am unable to perform. I am very confident that I will be sufficiently recovered by the middle to end of February to be able to carry out all my tasks independently again.

So much for the somewhat different greetings from the last newsletter for 2023. During the meetings at the 2023 conference, two points have arisen that require further discussion and where we have also asked members to think about how we should proceed. I would like to ask you to send us your thoughts on the following two points via the respective contact members so that we already have your feedback at the Midterm Meeting at the beginning of March 2024 and can enter into a more in-depth discussion taking it into account.

Point 1 consisted in an application from England / Wales from 2019 which had started as an open discussion. People who have not done an IFYE exchange but are members of Rural Routh should also be given the opportunity to become members of the IFYE association. This proposal is based on a change in the law in the UK, which could make it almost impossible to find IFYE host families in the UK in the future, which could result in the possible end of the IFYE program in the UK.

Point 2: Austria has presented their proposal at the 1st contact member meeting that the annual membership fee to be canceled for conference participants under 18 years of age. The contact members were asked to discuss this point again in the respective country meetings and in their own organization and if one or more nations find a clear formulation that is easily understandable for everyone, please forward this to the European Board so that we can discuss this at the midterm meeting and prepare it for the conference in Germany.

During the 2023 conference, the issue also arose as to why the conference report for Lifetime Members is no longer sent out in paper form. We also addressed this issue in the previous newsletter and promised to address it further. In 2018, the former European Executive Board decided to enclose a letter with every conference report

sent to Lifetime member, asking each recipient to actively reply to this letter if they would like to continue receiving the newsletter in paper form or by e-mail as a PDF. The background to this procedure was the now very high cost of sending out the paper conference reports by post. The additional printing costs for the extra reports sent to Lifetime Members are also not negligible, and both together have already cost a considerable amount in the thousands of € / CHF. The Board at the time also hoped that this procedure would provide feedback on whether the contact details were up to date in order to ensure that the mailings were delivered correctly. As a result, from the next conference in 2019, conference reports were only sent to Lifetime Members who had provided feedback. Then came Corona and we had no more conferences in 2020 and 2021. In the meantime, the costs for sending and printing have continued to rise, and, in consideration of the global climate discussions, I personally ask myself whether we should not continue to pursue the more modern, climate- and cost-friendly way of sending the conference report electronically. I am aware that every Lifetime Member is entitled to receive a conference report from every conference, even if they did not attend it, but in view of the high costs (sending hundreds of letters across the globe is not climate-friendly either), we should think together about whether it would not be better to switch to electronic delivery of conference reports in general. The issue will be considered separately for the group of people who have absolutely no possibility of receiving electronic mail. We will also discuss this topic at the midterm meeting and, if it has already been prepared accordingly, also at the conference in Germany. In the end, it will probably come down to a vote at one of the next AGMs, but we would like to have data and facts prepared for this so that we can offer every member a good basis.

Thank you for your understanding that my greetings are a little different this time than usual, but I wanted to take the opportunity to remind you and give feedback to a few points.

Finally, I would like to wish you a happy new year and hope to see you again soon in peace and in good spirits. Don't forget to register for the 2024 conference in Germany, it will be another great event for our organization.

Happy New Year and see you soon...

Andi

A lifelong dream finally come true

written by Guy Feyder (IFYE from Luxembourg to the USA, 1984)

Having experienced a 6 months lasting IFYE-exchange to the US back in 1984, I ever since hoped to go back 'as soon as possible'. Well, time has been running: I stepped into farming, got involved and took on responsibility in farmer organizations, got married and got children... In a nutshell, getting back to the US remained for many years only a hopeful possibility. Eventually, however, last October, our dream came true: Together with my wife, I made the journey across the big pool once more and travelled the west coast of the US.

As a young, 21 year old IFYE, I travelled together with two German IFYEs, adding 3 weeks to the regular IFYE-programm. Back in time, our goal was see as much of the States as possible and thus to cross the US from east to west by car. Looking back, I have to admit that it wasn't really the smartest idea. Especially for the western states there wasn't nearly enough time left and we crossed them rather in a hurry. Therefore, the destination of this second trip to the US consisted specifically in sightes of Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California. We visited amazing and marvelous national parks like the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Brice Canyon, Antilope Canyon and Yosemite National Park. We stayed in San Francisco for 3 days and ended up in Los Angeles after a total of 16 days. During this journey we rediscovered a IFYE-hosting country with a hospitality that made me remember my IFYE-experience from almost 40 years ago.

Certainly I'll never forget!



IFYE Swiss Winterweekend

The official registration deadline is already over, but for those who still want to join the traditional IFYE Winterweekend in Switzerland do not hesitate to get in touch quickly.



More information:

<http://www.ifye.ch/aktuell/agenda>

or:

zuberei@bluewin.ch / +41 79 962 11 32

Registration until 30. December 23: zuberei@bluewin.ch / +41 79 962 11 32



Finnish 60th Anniversary

Save
the Date

5TH OCTOBER 2024

MÄNTTÄ CLUB, FINLAND

THE FINNISH IFYES
60TH ANNIVERSARY

INVITATION AND DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Congrats to...



Maria Hull

IFYE from Finland to Scotland, 2009

&

David Hull

*IFYE from Northern Ireland to Finland,
2004*

Maria and David to their baby boy
Daniel Markus Hull, born on 25th
August 2023.

Deadline next issue: 15th March 2024

European IFYE Alumni Association

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IFYE Europe Newsletter - December 2023

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