



# NEWSLETTER

July 2021

European IFYE Alumni



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## Greetings from the President

Dear all,

I send you a hearty "Servus" from Austria.

Another year has passed without us being able to meet in person, unfortunately. Like last year, we were forced to cancel the 2021 conference in England. After Sweden decided not to host the 2021 conference in favour of England, we had to make this difficult decision and cancel this year's conference as well. So, it will be Finland's turn in 2022 as planned.



For me personally, the cancellation of the conference in England is secondary. It is a pity for all the work and the great efforts that have already been invested by our English friends. However, the health and safety of everyone comes first and therefore we could not decide otherwise. We also hope for your understanding. It is important to me that you are all in good health, have survived the recent challenging times well and that we will see each other again next year. I hope you are all well. Personally, I am already very much looking forward to the visit to Finland, because I remember 2011 very well when we visited Finland last time. I have already heard from the organising committee about where and when it will be, but I have been asked to keep quiet about it. I just want to give you a hint - it will be a great location again and Finland has thought of some special "things".

In 2022 I will be back at this time full of joy preparing for the next conference and looking forward to seeing you again. The tingling and the joy will be palpable again.



We are all restricted and affected because of a worldwide pandemic. Life over the last few months has had many restrictions, but it is quite different from life in 2020. Science has gained more knowledge and we have gained some experience. There are effective vaccines and we could be vaccinated against the virus. It is known that the vaccination does not protect against an infection but prevents a severe course with over 90%. It is everyone's personal decision whether to accept the vaccination offer or not. I have been fully vaccinated since the beginning of June and have already experienced some relief as a result. The frequency of my professional travel is no longer different from the time before the pandemic. Privately, things have also become easier and our summer holiday destination this year will be a bungalow about 100 metres from the beach in Rosalina, Italy. We are really looking forward to it.

With a few pictures and lines from my professional and private travels, I would like to convey a little sunshine and hope to you.



From the end of January to the beginning of March I could spend a few weeks in Spain on the Costa Brava - professionally, of course. But since you don't work 24 hours a day, you find a few hours to explore the landscape and experience the culture. After my return, I went around Central and Eastern Europe and made a detour to Evora in Portugal. For me, it already felt almost "normal" again and the restrictions that still exist for vaccinated people are limited. Hopefully things will not get worse again because of new mutations and we will get used to a life that will be the "new normal".



Due to different circumstances, things have not been the same in every country. Some countries, had to struggle a bit more, some are still in the middle of it, in others the restrictions are just being gradually withdrawn and in some regions the preparations for the next wave are starting, which also brings fear. Despite all the restrictions we have had to go through, we are lucky to be living currently.

It is less than three generations ago that our planet was affected by far greater suffering and misery. I am grateful that I can live in peace in the here and now, have friends, family, a great wife and two wonderful kids. So, I look forward to the future and I am convinced that people will overcome this "problem" together.

Since we do not have a conference this year, just like last year we cannot hold an ordinary AGM. Therefore, we had to think about how we can deal with this situation, which is new for all of us. There are no regulations on how to proceed for this event. However, we have already learned from the previous year and decided to proceed in the same way in 2021 as in 2020. We consulted intensively and were able to work out a proposal on how we would like to proceed. For the 2021 conference, registered IFYEs eligible to vote were contacted again and could vote online on our proposal. There were 109 eligible voters. The exact wording of the proposal, the question and the result can be found further down under **Elections 2021 - News**. First, our proposal was accepted by a large majority. We assume that we have reached a final decision that suits everyone, and with this precedent, a rule can be derived for how to proceed in a case that will hopefully never happen again. At our next midterm meeting, we will also discuss possible regulations, and these will also be written down in our rules and regulations through a vote at the next AGM. That way also future generations will have it easier to cope with similar situations.

After Sweden decided not to host the conference in favour of England and England also had to cancel this year, we will unfortunately have to wait a little longer for a conference in these countries. After Finland 2022, Austria 2023 and Germany 2024, it would be Wales 2025 before Estonia 2026.

There is also news from Austria. A new board has been elected for IFYE Austria, which is already working steadily and pushing ahead with preparations for 2023. The Austrian committee is in final agreement with the venue and will probably be able to sign the contract with the venue already at the end of summer - beginning of autumn. It has been dragging on and has been a bit more difficult because of the Covid-19 restrictions.



For the summer, I wish you all a great time. Maybe we will see or hear each other again at an online quiz.

With the hope that my text and the few pictures will also bring you joy, I remain with kind regards.

See you in the next newsletter,

Andi

## Elections 2021 - News

Just as in 2020, the cancellation of this year's conference demanded for an alternative way of nomination of the board. As a physical gathering to hold an ordinary AGM is impossible under the current restrictions, all IFYEs who had been registered for the conference in England 2021 were asked to give their opinion on the following proposal via online voting:

Proposal for nomination of the board.

*Due to COVID-19, this year's conference had to be cancelled. For this reason, we have no AGM 2021. You were registered for the conference as a voting member of the European IFYE Association and would therefore be entitled to vote at the AGM. The situation is the same as last year and there are, up to now, no rules how to proceed. So, we have thought about how we can cope with this situation. We would like to ask you to vote on our proposal online, via Doodle. Thank you.*

*We have come to the following conclusion and would like to suggest the following: Since it is not possible to hold a proper AGM and thus conduct proper elections and votes according to the IFYE rules, we propose to extend the term of office of the individual Board members by 1 year. We are getting a new Second Vice President from Finland, but our proposal is to also keep Christine Cooper for one extra year, so she can bring her experience on to the new Second Vice President. That means:*

- President Andreas Poelzl, elected 2019 for 2 years - next election after 4 years, 2023*
- First Vice President Sam Hawkes, elected 2019 for 1 year - next election after 3 years, 2022*
- Second Vice President Marita Pynnönen, 2021 for 1 year, next election after 1 year, 2022*
- Second Vice President Christine Cooper, elected 2019 for 1 year - next election after 3 years, 2022*
- Secretary Mari Kindsbekken, elected 2019 for 2 years - next election after 4 years, 2023*
- Treasurer, Ursula Spillmann, elected 2018 for 2 years - next election after 4 years, 2022*
- Newsletter Editor, Nora Feyder, elected 2018 for 2 years, next election after 4 years, 2022*

*Budget: As there has not been any activities the last year, there are no need for any extra money other than what was in the budget from 2019. The only item we might spend a little over budget on, is the Mid-term meeting, as there was only one in the budget, and there will be two meetings during this period. We are planning to pay out the support for the application for the development fund from Finland in 2019, if this is needed and Finland is requesting it. They were supposed to give a presentation at the AGM last year, but there was no AGM last year, or this year. But they will have to give a presentation at the conference 2022.*

*The vote runs until 15.07.2021:*

- 1. If you agree with our proposal, please vote yes.*
- 2. If you do not agree with our proposal, please vote no.*

There were 109 IFYE members entitled to vote. Over 2/3 of the eligible voters took part in the online voting. 100% of the submitted votes consisted of 'yes'-votes. No 'no'-votes were submitted

The board is happy about these results and would like to give a great thank you to all those actively taking part in the online voting.

## Warm Welcome to the new Second Vice President

### Introducing Marita Pynnönen from Finland

*written by Marita Pynnönen (IFYE from Finland to USA, 1992)*

Hello fellow IFYEs!

I have been asked to introduce myself to you all. My name is Marita Pynnönen (Moisio in 1992). I was IFYE in 1992, to USA, TX! It was a life changing experience, and IFYE- life has given me more than I ever expected.



It took me long before I attended my first IFYE-conference. Meanwhile I was hosting IFYEs and when I was taking care of my 3 girls at home, I had the world coming to me, at times when I myself could not go to it!

It was 2011 in Metsäkartano, when I had the honour to meet many of you for the first time! I never forget that week, and the feeling after that! I had found the group I felt I belonged in, and since that, I have been attending as many conferences as I just have been able to.

I am currently president of Finnish IFYE association and will be hosting next year's conference with my fantastic team! We are planning and working hard so that next year about this time you all can come and join us for a week! It will be a reunion that we all have been waiting for for a loooooong time! But I shall not reveal any more details.... I leave that to my team!

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## News from Austria

*written by Lydia Zagler (IFYE from Austria to Switzerland, 2017)*

On Monday, 26th April 2021 members of the Austrian IFYE Association met in a Zoom conference to have their general meeting. New elections were on the agenda. It is a pleasure to have some new faces in the board.

President: Alois Wolf  
Vice-President: Simone Hutter  
Vice-President: Johannes König  
Secretary: Sophie Wolf  
Cashier: Gerhard Steinberger  
Adviser: Andreas Pözl

As already known, Austria plans to hold the World IFYE Conference in summer 2023. There are many things to organise now and we hope that also exchanges are possible again soon.

We wish you a nice summer! :)  
Stay safe.



## An IFYE friend to remember

### Epitaph to Frans Hoefmans from the Netherlands

Dear IFYE friends,

Unfortunately sad news have arrived from the Netherlands. Earlier this spring it was time to say goodbye to Frans Hoefmans, husband of Willy (Wilhelmine) Hoefmans who herself was an IFYE from the Netherlands to the USA in 1964. As some of us might know, Frans and Wilhelmine attended many European Conferences in the past.

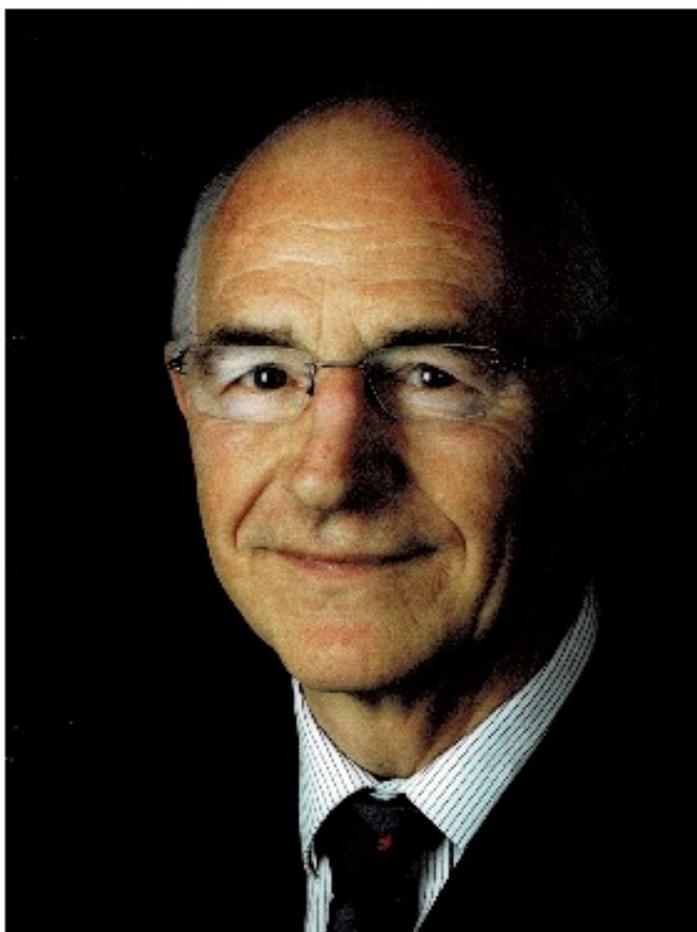
Please do not hesitate to reach out to Wilhelmine in these difficult times.

Willy Hoefmans  
 Willem de Zwijgerlaan, 104  
 2082 BD Santpoort-Zuid  
 The Netherlands

*My dear Frans, our dad and grandfather passed away.  
Tall strong man, how we are going to miss you...*

*Modest, without prejudice and genuinely interested.*

**Frans Hoefmans  
Johannes Franciscus Joseph**



Alphen, 17 July 1935

-

Santpoort-Zuid, 11 March 2021

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## News from Finland

### IFYE Conference 2022

Dear IFYE friends,

The Finnish IFYE organisation proudly invites you to the next IFYE Conference in 2022 in Finland. The official invitation and the video presentation will be launched on 15th August on Facebook as well as on the IFYE webpages ([ifye.org](http://ifye.org)).

Be tuned to receive the relaxing breeze of Finland!

Best IFYE-wishes,  
Finnish IFYE organization



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## Congrats to...



### **Angharad**

*IFYE from Wales to Australia & Finland, 2014 & 2015*

### **& Andrew Spencer**

*IFYE from Wales to India, 2015*

Angharad and Spencer  
got married on June 12th 2021  
in Carmarthenshire, Wales.

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**Deadline next issue: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

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**European IFYE Alumni Association**

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