



# NEWSLETTER

October 2022

European IFYE Alumni



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## Greetings from the President

Dear IFYEs,

An Austrian "Servus" to start with and welcome to autumn.

Some time has passed since our last conference in July and a few events have happened.



Weather-wise, we had a mixed summer in Austria and preparations for next year's conference are progressing. The conference homepage has been updated with some new information and the program is almost finished. Also, the first meeting with the European IFYE coordinators took place where the individual countries were informed about how Austria plans to involve the European regions in next year's world conference. More information will be given by the Austrian organizing committee in the next newsletter. If you have any questions about next year's conference, you can find a direct link to the Austrian "Mrs. Secretary" and the other organizing committees on the conference homepage [www.ifye.at](http://www.ifye.at).

Unfortunately, we still have a war in Europe and there seems to be no end in sight. I hope that the various threats will not be carried out, but that a way to de-escalation and peace will be found. I dream of peace, but I am also realistic and do not see it at the moment and fear that there will be further escalations before it becomes peaceful again. That is my personal assessment of the situation.

We are also living with the Covid-19 pandemic and have learned to understand the virus better and better and how to live with it. I hope you are all well and see you in the best possible health next year in Velden am Wörthersee at the 63rd European and 12th World Conference.



*Donegal - Ireland*

In October I was in Wales, England and Ireland on business. While there I remembered the 2013 conference in Wales and the 2018 conference in Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, the conference in England was cancelled. I think back fondly to those great times in Wales and Northern Ireland, where in Wales I attended the Royal Wales Show with other IFYEs and spent a memorable week in Mounmouthshire, and in 2018 the 60th anniversary we celebrated in Antrim. Each time I was totally captivated by the beautiful scenery and my current trip brought me closer to the beauty of the countryside again. I would like to share the beauty of the landscape with you and leave you with two

pictures. I'm looking forward again when it's Wales or Northern Ireland. It will probably not be my last visit to Llanelli and Donegal. I am planning another visit before Christmas and there will be a few in 2023 too. So, if anyone would like to meet me, just get in touch and we can go for a drink or a dinner if my work schedule allows.



*Llanelli - Wales*

In not even 2 months we will celebrate Christmas again and the year 2022 will also be moved to the archives. 2022 has not been an easy year. We are all struggling with high energy prices and daily life is tangibly getting more expensive by the day. We are also experiencing an exceptionally warm end to the summer with up to 26° Celsius, at the end of October in Austria. Normally, at the end of October, we have about 10 - maximum 15°Celsius and our heaters are already running.

We are all affected not only by the high inflation, but also by the warming on our planet, which is so obvious when I look at the current temperatures and precipitation that nobody can deny climate warming anymore. 2022 has demanded a lot from all of us and its successor 2023 will probably continue in the same way. I wish us all to stay healthy, to continue to live in peace, to be surrounded by people who love us and to enjoy our lives.

I wish you a beautiful autumn and I am already looking forward to the next newsletter where I will contribute a few lines again.

Until then, all the best and stay healthy.

Greetings,  
Andi

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## European Rally 2022

*written by Iiristiina Heinonen (IFYE from Finland to Germany, 2017)*

Hello from Rural Youth Europe!

A couple of weeks after the European IFYE Conference in Finland it was time for Rural Youth Europe's main event of the year, the European Rally. Rural Youth Europe's annual European Rally was organized this year in Northern Germany in the beginning of August. The Rally was hosted this year by Rural Youth Europe's German member organisation 'Bund der Deutschen Landjugend' (BDL). Every year the Rally brings young people together from all around Europe. During the week together participants will dive into a theme, meet young people from rural areas from other countries and experience new cultures and meet local people.



This year the theme of the event was sustainability, and the theme of sustainability continued from the study session held earlier this year in Budapest. During the Rally week, young people experienced the theme through teamwork, excursions and workshops, not forgetting having fun and making new friends. After the worst times of the pandemic and having to look at the screen for almost two years it was amazing for everyone to meet people face to face again.

Rural Youth Europe is honoured to make co-operation with European IFYEs. We aim to break boundaries and build bridges, and bring young people across Europe together.





## To my secret IFYE friend

*written by Nora Feyder (IFYE from Luxembourg to the USA, 2015)*

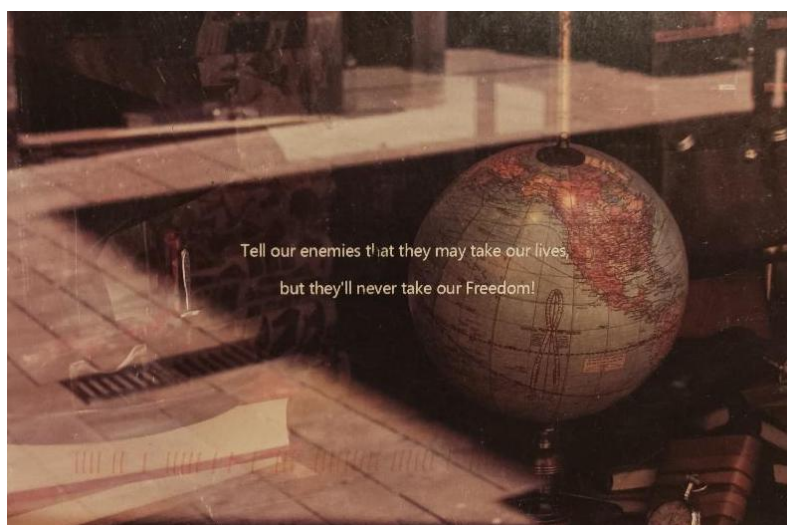
Dear mysterious IFYE friend,

Slowly but surely the year is nearing its end and it feels like yesterday that we celebrated the end of 2021. Nearing the end of 2022 also means that it will soon be already a year since I found the very first one of your regularly arriving postcards in my mailing box. This made me think about how one-sided this game is getting. Although I always smile when finding another one of your signature surprises, it starts feeling unfair on you. Doesn't it get boring to send greetings and stories out to people and never get any cards or letters back in return? Maybe that is why you reached out to me in the first place, basically begging me to go digging around a bit...? Anyway, I've come to the conclusion that it is time to reply to your constant efforts of keeping the IFYE-spirit and our special IFYE-friendships alive. And what better way than to use the newsletter for reaching out to someone you do not even know the name of? So, in some ways the newsletter is going to serve as some sort of journal, through which I will try to pass back some of my thoughts and stories as reply to your postcards. I hope it doesn't bother you that it is going to be a rather 'public' journal. And to all those who also receive postcards from the secret IFYE-friend: please feel free to just do the same if you feel like it and send me your replies to our common friend, to be published in the newsletter.

So much for the introduction. Now let's get to business. Eight postcards in nearly twelve months: it is safe to say that I've gotten used to the game. While going over all the cards you have sent me so far, there are a couple things that I noticed. First, I have to say that I am relieved you finally learned how to correctly spell my full name... Don't be offended, but it is funny to compare the different variations you tried out. From "Nora Feyers" over "Norah Feyder" to "Nora Feyder", I am glad you eventually decided for the correct combination and are sticking to it



Then, there is one card that clearly stands out from all the others. It is the second one I received and while at the time I didn't notice, it now keeps me thinking. I guess with all the postcards you keep sending to members of the IFYE-family you probably do not remember the specifics about that card. So let me point out the details: The postcard shows an illustration of the London Bridge. The front side is all kept in yellow and brown shades and there is a writing on the front side saying "To someone special. Thinking of you and wishing you all of life's best today and always." Now that is of course really sweet and it isn't lost on me how that might have been a reply to what I wrote about the intimacy of a postcard in the December newsletter 2021. But actually that is not the point here. What really takes me aback when looking at the card more closely is how the front and the back side do not fit together. Let me explain to all of our readers. On a first impression, there is nothing unusual about the back side. There is of course the text with the greetings on the lefthand side. Then, on the right side, there is my address (the L you always write behind the house number 25, dear secret friend, actually belongs in the next line in front of the ZIP code as it is the abbreviation for Luxembourg and has nothing to do with the house number; just saying



What first caught me is that it is a stamp from 2019. Somehow, I thought it was weird to have a stamp dating back two years ago. But then I told myself that maybe you got the postcard and the stamp at a lovely tiny store that maybe isn't all that known among tourists and therefore the turnover of the stamps sold

there simply isn't all that fast. It was only while staring at the stamp that I realized the real weirdness about it: The stamp shows the drawing of a snowman under the northern lights and guess what is written on it... It says "Suomi Finland". To the other readers: Is this ringing a bell? How come, a postcard supposedly sent from Finland is showing an illustration of the London Bridge?? Or the other way around: Why would someone visiting England send a postcard with a Finnish stamp on it? Does that even work? Even if the sender lives in the United Kingdom and decided to rather use a stamp from his/her private collection than an original UK stamp would the post office accept a Finnish stamp? Somehow that is hard to believe... but at this stage it seems to be the most logical explanation. Then there is also the thing about the postmark missing entirely on this card, but that is another discussion I do not desire getting into right now.

Of course, I immediately checked all the other cards and sure enough, the pattern continues. The German card has a stamp with the former Queen of England on it. The postcard showing the Colosseum has Serbian stamps (also from 2019), the card from Paris is marked with a Romanian stamp and the latest card, the one showing a Dutch café, has a Spanish stamp as well as Spanish postmarks... And one more thing: the card from Paris looks way too similar to the one with the London Bridge for it to be a coincidence. It even has the same saying on its front side. Did you buy it at the same store? Some sort of international store?

So, it seems as if you like travelling around with a bag of postcards that you bought somewhere way earlier and then send them from some very different location? As you suggested, I am trying to read in between the lines. But if I am honest, I do not really want to find out where exactly the postcards are coming from. I enjoy the game way too much.



Before ending let me tell you briefly about my favourite postcard from you so far. While not giving any indication about where it originates from (the stamp is a Swedish one) it still has the strongest symbolism of all cards so far. It shows a globe among other things and is marked with the wording "Tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take our Freedom!". Funnily enough, the message you left on the back doesn't have anything to do with the message on the front. You wrote about the funny sticker on a car driving in front of you and how you like driving like a grandpa on highways (yes, I know, not exactly your wording but still the same meaning). Anyway, the reason why that card



touched me so much is that around the same time it arrived in my mail box, our parliament had a video conference with president Wolodymyr Selenskyj. And during that call, the Ukrainian president underlined the willingness of his people to fight for their freedom and their identity by using a saying that carries great meaning in my home country: "Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sin!". It basically means 'We want to remain who we are!' and became the maxim of the Luxembourgish resistance against the German invasion during World War II. Of course, Selsnskyj used this exact saying on purpose at the time. I think everything he does and says publicly is well thought through and always targets a very specific reaction. Without judgement, it is a fact that he is a media-person and a showman after all.

I do not know why you chose that specific postcard at the time. Even though I am not a superstitious person there are sometimes moments in life where coincidences so striking arrive that it is almost impossible not think it was fate.

So long, dear friend. I hope to hear from you again soon.

Your not-so-secret IFYE-friend,

Nora

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## Invitation to the IFYE Swiss winterweeked

ifye swiss winterweekend  
06.-08.01.2023



### Klewenalp NW

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

or:

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+41 79 962 11 32

Registration until 30. December 22:

[zuberei@bluewin.ch](mailto:zuberei@bluewin.ch)  
+41 79 962 11 32





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## In Pace

### Robin Blair

*IFYE from the Scotland to Norway, 1982*



Robin Blair sadly passed away at home on 5 October, 2022 after a 26-month struggle with cancer. With the help of neighbours and friends, he carried on farming, it was something on which he could focus, his cattle and sheep, and helped him through, especially during the pandemic.

Robin was an IFYE from Scotland to Norway in 1982 and over the years, he attended many European Conferences and indeed Norway in 2019 was his last, where he could also re-connect with host families. Robin loved a challenge and always chose tours to test his stamina, and he proved how fit he was. Even whilst we were in Finland, he was so

happy to get messages and photos of what we were getting up to and he really appreciated that. Robin was quiet and unassuming, but always someone who was keen to help, a reliable person to have in your corner, and a good friend. He will be sorely missed.

*written by Mary Turner (IFYE from Scotland to Switzerland, 1977)*

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### Målfrid Fuglås

*IFYE from Norway to Scotland, 1982*



IFYE-member Målfrid Fuglås (63) unfortunately passed away 19 April 2022 in her home, Trondheim, Norway after a long time suffering due to the Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis.

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Deadline next issue: 15th December 2022

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