



# NEWSLETTER

March 2022

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## Greetings from the President

*What is Easter actually? Easter is always associated with spring. It is certain that Easter is not only celebrated by Christians, but also symbolically stands for the beginning of spring, i.e. a new awakening of nature, a new beginning, a start into a new chapter....*

Dear IFYEs,

This time I am writing my greetings to you with very mixed feelings and emotions. On the one hand I feel confidence, happiness, and joy, but on the other hand I feel sadness, fear, anger, and incomprehension. It is not easy to deal with these mixed feelings, but I will try to put this into words somehow.



Old, frail, flattened and with an overweight backpack on its back, the old year staggers to the calendar door and opens it with difficulty. Outside stands the new year - young, dynamic, confident, and vigorous. It is startled when it sees the pathetic figure and asks cluelessly, "What happened to you, how can I help you?"

Confidence, happiness, and joy on the one hand, because this year I am firmly convinced that we will have a conference again in the summer. After two years without seeing each other, I am looking forward to a week together with you in Finland. No, the pandemic is not over, but I am convinced that we have learned to deal with it under certain conditions and rules and that together we can look forward to a year that is close to what we know from the past as "normal".

We had our Midterm Meeting from 11-13.03.2022 in Korpilahti (Korpilahti is a former municipality in Central Finland and now part of the city of Jyväskylä. Korpilahti is located 30 kilometres south of the core city of Jyväskylä on the shore of Lake Päijänne, the second largest lake in Finland, in the middle of the Finnish Lake District) and I can tell you, it is beautiful there. The Finnish IFYE organization has prepared a great program and the location is unique. It is also easy to get there. We tried it out for you, and it was easy. You can get on a train straight away at the airport. The station there is about 50 meters belowground. From there we took the train to Tikkurila, where you have to change trains and then via Tampere or Lathi to Jyväskylä where we were picked up by the organization team. For the train journey I recommend using the app "VR Matkalla". More detailed information about the arrival and departure will be announced by the Finnish IFYE team. All this brings up the positive feelings in me.



Lack of understanding, anger, sadness, and fear, on the other hand, are stirring in me because we have a war in Europe. It is terrible what is currently happening in Europe, and we are largely condemned to watch. We can't really do much about the war, as all our protests and words against the aggressor go unheard. We can help the fleeing people who have been driven from their homes, give them a place to sleep, food and care, we cannot give them back their homes and peace, let alone the loved ones they have lost. I am saddened by this situation and the anger that stirs within me comes from the fact that there is someone sitting at the levers of power and at the nuclear button who will press it if given a reason to do so. If even one Western country behaves actively or unintentionally against the ruler, he will probably use these terrible means and the bombs can fall on all our heads. The saber-rattling that is currently taking place is very dangerous and can be the trigger for another world war. Also dangerous is how the second largest economic power is behaving. They are watching with interest what the community of states is doing and already have one eye on one of their neighbors, which is not recognized as a state by the rulers of the second largest economic power. This tense situation makes me fearful, and I hope that my fears will not come true. This is my personal point of view and has nothing to do with the international IFYE organization.



Spring has almost arrived, and the cold season is mostly behind us. We have already used the barbecue for the first time and spent a nice afternoon / evening with family and friends. The sun kissed our skin, and it was really relaxing to sit outside again and enjoy the time together. In a few weeks it will be Easter, the spring festival that symbolizes the awakening of nature.

I would also like to thank the Finnish IFYEs who made it possible for us to have a wonderful Midterm Meeting. It felt wonderful and we even had a "Room - Party".

So, I think the next conference can come.

We are ready for it and looking forward to a great time with lots of fun and variety.

Have a beautiful spring & see you soon,

Andi

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## IFYE Winterweekend in Switzerland

*written by Marc-André Zuber (IFYE from Switzerland to Finland, USA & Australia, 1985, 1986/87, 1991), pictures by Yvonne Bischof*



winterweekend

07.-09.01.2022

It's time to leave the dull days behind and to get out of the gray alleys. During times, where many things are strange all over the world, the IFYE-winterweekend is needed more than ever!



The group of people that came together was understandably smaller, but that did not harm the mood in any way. The IFYE-spirit, all most like a good ghost, not only when you travel out into the wide world, heals many wounds, especially when you make your rounds on the good slopes, visit the Panorama-Bar with IFYE-friends, discuss, play, and tell IFYE-stories. There wasn't a lack of humor either.

The only thing that came in short supply was sleep. But of course that is never a big surprise when spending time in IFYE circles, you can make a bet about it in advance.

After three days, everyone went home tired but decidedly satisfied and happy.

We are already looking forward to the IFYE-winterweekend next year, hopefully again with many dear IFYE-friends from abroad.





## Midterm-Meeting in Alkio-Opisto, Korpilahti

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

Midterm- meeting in Alkio- opisto, Korpilahti 11.-13.3.2022

After two full years without any travels for IFYE purposes, it was time again for the IFYE-board to meet up in person, to test the conference place and take a look at its surroundings. Lucky me, as I had the pleasure to host our international group.



At the beginning of March, when the board came to visit, the weather in Finland was still very different than it -hopefully- will be in July. In central Finland, this time of the year we had still lots of snow- with sunlight, it is the best kind of winter weather.

During that weekend, we had the chance to taste the food and test the accommodation of Alkio-opisto. The board also checked out the sauna by the lake. (It took a little convincing, but finally Andi believed that there actually is a lake! In fact with the typical Finnish winter climate, the lake had been completely frozen and with the layer of snow on the surface it was not easy to be recognised as a massive body of water anymore.)

As the organizing committee of the conference had had meetings with the school that same weekend, the board also had the chance to meet up with

them and spend some fun hours with the Finnish IFYEs. There definitely was a lot to catch up on!



Meeting up with the board represented coming one step closer to the conference, and now all of a sudden it starts to feel very close and very real!!!! For every organizing team, the moment when the flag arrives, is a special one. Even if this time we didn't get to share the moment with others at a conference. The meaning and the feeling was still the same!

Finnish IFYE's are very excited to host you this summer, and all is getting ready for you IFYE's!

See you in July!

P.S.: For those who have not registered yet, you are strongly encouraged to do so. If the midterm-meeting is any indication to go by, the conference will be a blast!



## Upgrading IFYE, Upgrading sauna experiences

### News about the upcoming conference in Finland

*written by Jenna Järvenpää and Hanna Taala (IFYEs from Finland to Switzerland, 2008)*

Sauna is an integrated part of Finnish culture - and of course also of our IFYE Conference in July 2022! During the last conference in Finland, Metsäkartano in 2011, we had one sauna for each six IFYEs. Because this time we are Upgrading IFYEs, what do you think if we took you to a whole village of saunas?



Oh yes, give me more löyly\*!

\* löyly = steam that arises from a stove in a sauna. "Lisää löylyä!" is a Finnish expression to tell your friends to throw more water to the stove. It can be translated to "More steam!" or even "More steam, please!", but since Finnish language lacks word "please", we tend to be quite direct in our requests.

Sauna Village is the center of living sauna culture in Finland and it offers an exclusive journey into the hot and relaxing history of Finnish saunas. There are 24 historical smoke saunas from different parts of Finland in the village. The oldest sauna is from the late 1800s, the youngest from the early 1900s. Around 10 of the saunas are still in use!



The village is taken care of by a union called Suomen Saunakulttuuri ry (Finnish Sauna Culture). During summer time the village is open every Saturday for anyone to enjoy the relaxing and unique löyly of smoke saunas.

All the fascinating stories about saunas and the history of sauna, told by our unbelievable guide (and the saunas themselves), take the listeners away from this moment to another world of sauna magic and mysteries. And the saunas - they speak their own language. Saunas can actually be like their own personalities with their own type of löyly and atmosphere!

Located in Jämsä, just on the boarder of the lake Päijänne, surrounded by beautiful nature, Sauna Village is a perfect place to spend an afternoon with IFYE friends.



Can you already feel the fresh scent of birch and wildflowers?  
What about the hot steam and adventure?

If you want to upgrade your level of relaxation with IFYE friends, please check our registration on our websites: <https://ifye.fi/conference2022/registration>, and follow us on social media: European IFYE Conference (Facebook) and @ifyefinland (Instagram).  
We still have some places open!

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## Congrats to...



**Sabine Gallagher**

*IFYE from Austria to Northern  
Ireland, 2009*

&

**Daniel Gallagher**

Sabine and Daniel  
to their daughter Emilia Martha, born  
on 26th January 2022.



**Gerda Varese**  
*IFYE-friend from Estonia*

&

**Tarvo Saarinen**

Gerda and Tarvo  
to their son Thor Saarinen, born on  
27th March 2022.



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Deadline next issue: 30th June 2022

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IFYE Europe Newsletter - March 2022

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