



NEWSLETTER

August 2022

European IFYE Alumni



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Greetings from the President

Dear IFYEs,

This year it was that time again. After two years of deprivation, the annual IFYE Conference and AGM took place in KorpiLahti, Finland from 16-22.07.2022.



It was a pleasure to see your faces and hear your voices again.

Finland had planned a fabulous program with lots of action and fun, but also time to relax and chill out. There was something for everyone and you could see the joy on all the faces.

We spent a wonderful week together and I was especially pleased that the next generation was already so strongly involved. Many IFYEs who now have young families brought their children with them and it was a joy to see that "open-mindedness" is not just a word on a piece of paper in our Blue Booklet, but something that is truly lived. In my opinion, the little ones were an enrichment for the whole event.



We also had to say goodbye to a long-time member of the European Board this year. Ursula left the Board after 8 years as European Treasurer. Ursula was elected to the European Board as the new Treasurer at the AGM 2014 in Germany and ultimately held the position of Treasurer for 8 years due to Covid-19 related extensions. We already had the opportunity to say goodbye to Ursula at the AGM and at the Fare Well Dinner. I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank Ursula for her long and hard work. Every farewell also allows for a new beginning. At the 62nd AGM, Marc-Andre Zuber was unanimously elected as Ursula's successor. I wish Marc-André great success and may he remain with us as treasurer for a long time. There is also a new 2nd Vice President. Austria nominated Johannes König and he was also unanimously elected as 2nd Vice President.



With all the good things that have happened, it seems that everything is back to normal, and we can carry on without any worries. However, the Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet and personally I think the situation will worsen again in autumn and winter and we will all have to accept more restrictions again. The virus has come to stay and will continue to be with us. We have only learned to deal with it better, but it is there. There is also still the war in Ukraine, which will probably drag on for a long time. Personally, I am afraid that the fighting may extend beyond the borders of Ukraine because no one knows what is going on in the aggressor's mind and it looks like he is ready for anything. Let us hope and pray that this war ends quickly.

Austria has presented the planned 12th World and 63rd European Conference 2023, which will be held in Velden. The location is stunning with a private beach on Lake Wörthersee. For more information, have a look at description further down in the newsletter. Also, information will be continuously updated on www.ifye.at.



Registration will not start before January 2023 and will open for everyone at the same time. I am really looking forward to the

conference in Austria and hope for a full house. Austria has space for about 300 people (no mattress camp) and we will be accommodated in a family and youth guesthouse (Cap-Wörth).

Dear IFYEs, enjoy the summer, find rest and relax in your holidays or free time. Recharge your batteries for the months ahead and stay healthy. May we all meet again in health, joy, love and peace at the 2023 conference or sometime when fate brings us together. I am always available for questions, suggestions, complaints but also for compliments and would be happy if one or the other feedback would reach me.

I wish you a wonderful summer.

Kind regards,
Andi

Changes in the Board

Goodbye to Ursula - Treasurer for 8 years

Ursula Spillmann (IFYE from Switzerland to Northern Ireland, 2003)



After two extra years on the board of the European IFYE Alumni Association I finally could stand back from the board and hand over all the necessary files to the new treasurer. I was supposed to leave the board in summer 2020 at the Conference in England at Myerscough College. I was looking forward to that moment after six years as a treasurer in the IFYE board. But as all of you know and had to learn, plans for 2020 had to be changed. For all board-members the term for being re-elected or stand back was extended for one year.

This procedure had to be done twice. Other board-members were joking about how I would probably be treasurer for the longest period in the history of European IFYE. Who knows....?

When I was cycling together with Karin Jakob to Hesselberg, Northern Bavaria, Germany, where the Conference in summer 2014 took place, I never expected to be part of the IFYE-board after that Conference. But one evening our president at that time, Gerhard Steinberger, explained to me, that Norbert Winkler wanted to stand back and asked me, whether I wanted to take over. "Why not...?", I said and some days later I was elected at the AGM as the new treasurer. The first re-election was in 2016 at the Conference in Jõulumäe, Estonia, the second was 2018 at the Conference in Antrim, Northern Ireland. During all these years I got to know many people closer and probably from another side, than just from Conferences. Many different board members joined me during these eight years and I could work together with three IFYE Presidents (Gerhard Steinberger, Anna Persson and Andreas Pölzl). On our digital-meetings via Teams, Skype, Zoom etc. we always had big fun but were working properly too. The midterm meetings were always great. When on Friday night everybody had arrived, we usually worked for a while on the points on the agenda. Saturday morning we did the rest from the agenda with the goal that all would be discussed and decided until noon. In the afternoon we went discovering the surrounding places and often we could visit the Conference Venue in winter time.

I enjoyed being part of the IFYE board very as the treasurer for so many years and I thank everybody who did support me and helped me doing this job. But now I'm happy, that I could stand back and I'm sure, that Marc-André Zuber will do a very good job too.

Ursula Spillmann
Treasurer 2014 - 2022

Welcome to Marc-André - Treasurer

Marc-André Zuber (IFYE from Switzerland to Finland, USA & Australia, 1985, 1986/87, 1991)

In 1984, Iwan Biedermann, a very good friend of mine, came back to Switzerland from the IFYE exchange in the Netherlands. His stories interested me so much that I went to Finland myself as a trainee in 1985. After more than 6 months as an IFYE in Finland, I was completely infected by the IFYE virus. I did further exchanges to the USA and Australia.



When I finally settled down in 1993 and I started a family with my wife, I told her, that she was also "marrying" IFYE with me. Because of our 4 sons and work, I held back a lot on traveling. But as one of the first Livetimemembers, I was always informed about the happenings of the European IFYE Association. In the Swiss IFYE Association, I have participated and gotten involved in various events since my exchanges, whenever possible.

Since 2012, I no longer work in the agricultural cooperative with a grain collection center and we do not have arable farming with my brother-in-law on the farm, so I take the liberty to participate regularly in the European conferences since 2015. So, in this year's conference in Korpilahti, Finland, I was asked to take over the vacant position of Treasurer of the European IFYE Association. Because of my poor English skills and not so young age, I thought this would not be such a good idea. After long discussions and since I do almost everything for IFYE, I agreed to the nomination.

Thanks to the confidence of the participants in this year's general assembly, I am now your treasurer for the next two years. I will do my best to carry out the task to your satisfaction and to contribute that way a little bit, so that further young people can have an unforgettable life experience as IFYE also.

Marc-André Zuber

Welcome to Johannes - 2nd Vice President

Johannes König (IFYE from Austria to USA & Scotland, 2008 & 2014)



Hello, my name is Johannes König and it is with great pleasure to introduce myself as the Second Vice President for 2022/23. It's an honor for me to participate in the European board of this organization which has given me so many wonderful experiences. It took me a while to attend my first European conference three years ago, but soon I realized

that is exactly how I want to spend a part of my holidays. As former IFYEs we get this very unique chance to do another mini-exchange trip (as I like to call

the conferences) each year while gathering with old and new friends from all over the world.

In my everyday life I am a IT systems administrator working for the Constitutional Court of Austria. In addition to that I am a freelance falconer specialized in Goshawks and Peregrine Falcons. I recently refurbished an old farm house where I just moved in together with all the birds. In the time that remains, I enjoy various kinds of sports as well as spending quality time with friends and family.

Certainly I am part of the organization committee of next years European and World Conference in Austria where we are looking forward to meet you all!

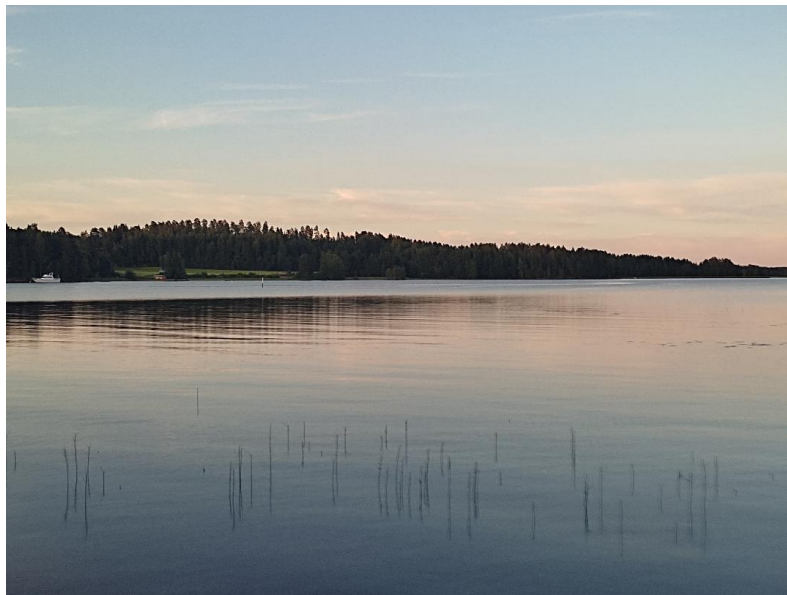
Johannes König

My first European IFYE conference

Newcomer IFYEs tell their stories

written by Bettina Hänni (IFYE from Switzerland to Finland, 2012)

When returning to Switzerland in 2012, after an intense IFYE exchange in Finland, I was sure I would return to this beautiful country soon and stay connected to IFYE. But then life happened and suddenly 10 years had passed and only some contacts to my host families remained. The fact that the European Conference took place in Finland in the jubilee year of my exchange was therefore a very welcome opportunity. I just had some concerns whether it might be a bit too many people and action for a rather quiet person like myself.



But already in the bus to Korpilahti, I was again positively surprised by the friendly and warm IFYE-atmosphere. The best memories of the week are certainly the shorter or longer conversations about various topics and a lot of laughter. Additionally, of course, the dense program that brought back many memories.

First, the high value of nature, for example of the forest. The visit to the huge bioproduct mill of Metsä in Äänekoski, where 6.5 million cubic metres of wood are processed annually and an interesting workshop on the Taimiteko seedling action of 4H Finland to finally even planting seedlings ourselves for the IFYE-forest illustrated the close relation of the Finns to their surrounding nature perfectly. Furthermore, I learned about beekeeping in Finland and experienced environmental education by means of a sensory path

Second, there was a lot of cultural activities: The impressive church visit, folk dances, the Serlachius museums and insights into the school system of Finland. A refreshment of some important words of the beautiful language was also included: from A for aurinko (sun) over J for järvi (lake) to K for kahvi (coffee) and L for lettu (pancake) to M for metsä (forest). Not to forget S for sauna, be it in the fantastic sauna village with various smoke saunas or in the venue's own sauna by the lake. Back in 2012, after numerous relaxing sauna sessions, I had already taken a sauna thermometer with me with the firm intention of getting a sauna of my own. Since we now got another beautiful thermometer at the graduation ceremony this year, it is definitely more than time for this project to become reality.



At the end, there remain many beautiful encounters and impressions from this week (which felt much longer than just 7 days). I am very happy to have taken part. And afterwards, the quiet on a remote Finnish farm of a former host family was a good contrast. Many thanks to the organization committee and to all for the pleasant atmosphere. I wish health and peace to everyone. Hope to see you again.

written by Venla Pynnönen (IFYE-guest and part of the organization team)

My experience of the 62nd European IFYE Conference was simply the most heart warming event I have ever attended. At first I wasn't quite sure how I would fit in since not being an IFYE yet, but from the beginning of the week my fears were proved unfounded. Everyone made me feel welcome, for which I'm very grateful.



A lot of fun programs had been organized during the week, but all the fun was simply concentrated in the evenings. For a shy girl like me, dancing past midnight and singing karaoke were something special. Of the day trips, the visits to the sauna village and the felt slipper factory were the ones I remembered the most.

The theme of the week was the Finnish school system, sauna culture and Finnish forests. For example we made our own graduation caps for the graduation party, planted tree seedlings and got to test the tent sauna. Everything was organized well, the food was great and the decorations were always on point. Above all, my first IFYE Conference was an unforgettable experience that I carry with me with warmth. I hope there are many more conferences to come.

written by Jens Häußermann (IFYE from Germany to Finland, 2016)



The 62nd European IFYE Conference in Finland was my first one and it was a homecoming to my lovely IFYE-country Finland. Back to my first footsteps as an IFYE, back to where it all began in 2016. Even if I didn't know many people of the international IFYE-family, I felt

welcome and familiar with all those people from the very first moment. Because it was my first Conference I had no idea, what would happen and what we would be doing all the time. So I decided to just wait and see what would come next and tried to enjoy every moment.

If it was the new people I met at every activity, whether it was the trip to Metsä or our hiking trip - I always tried to inhale the experience and establish new contacts. The moments we had during the Sunday dancing event or the evening programs and also the many many sauna sessions during the week – every single moment was like holiday and helped to empty my mind and escape from daily life.

Even though I am part of the German IFYE association, I now learned more about the IFYE-family and our true spirit. So all in all it was a real upgrade of all my IFYE experiences so far.

Thank you all for being part of it!

Greetings from southern Germany



Upgrading IFYE 202.2 - A reflection



A Silver Couple

written by Helen Ramsay (IFYE from England to Finland & New Zealand, 1983 & 1990)

This year, at the IFYE Conference in Finland, both Colin and I received our silver pins. Later this year it is our Silver Wedding Anniversary. Because Colin is from Scotland and I am from England we often get asked how we met, was it on Exchange? Was it through Young Farmers? At the Conference we were again asked and it was suggested that I should write an article for the newsletter, so here goes....

Colin and I both went on our exchanges in 1990, Colin from Scotland to America, Colorado and Wyoming and me to New Zealand. After his exchange, Colin still had itchy feet and went to New Zealand for a year and then Australia for a year, before returning to Scotland. He still didn't settle and took a job in Nottinghamshire, England. After a couple of months or so he phoned the young Farmers County Office and spoke to Sue Crawley (some of you will know Sue, she was an IFYE to Australia) and asked if there were any:

- Single
- Over-aged
- Socially active
- Young Farmers

And Sue gave him my name and the rest is as they say history.



Welcome to Velden, Austria, in 2023

The 12th World and 63rd European IFYE Conference will be held from Sunday 27th August to Saturday 2nd September 2023 in Velden, Austria.

Registration will start no earlier than January 2023.



Velden is a picturesque town on the banks of the beautiful Lake Woerthersee in Austria's southernmost state of Carinthia. Situated less than 20km from the Slovenian border and less than 40km from the Italian border, it's the perfect location if you're looking to extend your trip beyond the conference!



Our accommodation will be the fantastic Family Hostel 'Cap Woerth' which we are taking over for the week. It offers 300 beds with a variety of room options, and boasts stunning views of the lake, including our very own lake access and exclusive sports facilities. Rumour has it we might even have our very own Personal Trainer!



We are spoilt for choice when it comes to the programme but we are aiming to give you a taste of Austrian farming life, offer cultural insights and of course give you the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the area.



To get to the conference, you have various options such as flying to Vienna (AT) or Munich (DE) and taking the train to Velden, where a pick-up service will be provided.

Alternatively, you could fly to smaller airports such as Graz, Salzburg, Klagenfurt (all AT), Ljubljana (SI), Zagreb (HR) or Venice (IT) and make your way to Velden from there.

More information will be published on our website www.ifye.at in due course so please check regularly for updates.

The Ifye Austria Event Committee

News from the Archive

Dear IFYEs, please be aware that the Conference Report from Norway 2019 is now also available in digital version in the IFYE Archive under <https://archive.ifye.eu/> or via the link under 'Museum' on the IFYE website (<https://www.ifye.eu/>).

A tribute to old friends

written by Dorothy Wilson (IFYE from England to the USA, 1967)

Photos by Katharina Steinrücke (IFYE from Germany to the USA, 1982)

Sally Ann Narhi

IFYE from the USA to Taiwan, 1970



Sally came from up-state Michigan and once told me that she grew up “quite near Lew Bordeaux”- a hundred miles away! She was an IFYE to Taiwan in 1970. In the days before mass communication and international travel, that must have been quite an adventure.

With her trademark large hat in recent years, Sally has been a regular visitor to our European Conferences and, being of Finnish origin, was particularly looking forward to this year’s meeting. Sadly that was not to be.

Our condolences to her son and her wider family.

Thekla Bauer

IFYE from Germany to the USA, 1967

Thekla was a ‘67er and my IFYE sister. Whilst we were in the States, Greyhound buses lost her luggage. By the time it turned up she had put on so much weight nothing fitted anymore - a problem we all faced! Too much Angel Cake and Ice Cream!

On her return to Germany Thekla married Klaus and settled down to raise her family. She was a natural home-maker and an extremely skilled craftswoman. I remember one dress she had made with beautiful lacy sleeves she had either knitted or crocheted. It was lovely!

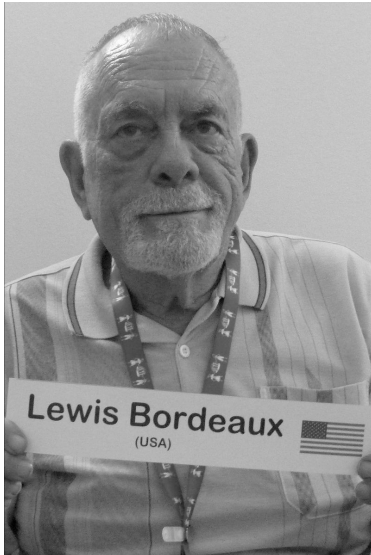


I last heard from her at Christmas when all seemed well so it was a shock to hear from Klaus that she had died on 22 June.

Condolences to all Thekla’s family and a big hug for Klaus.

Lewis Bordeaux

IFYE from the USA to Japan, 1966



Over the last few days I have been shocked to learn that we have also lost Lew. Like Sally, he originated from up-state Michigan. His IFYE exchange to Japan was in 1966 and seems to have started with quite an adventure. After a 30 hour flight from Chicago to Japan the plane was diverted due to a storm. It landed in a disused American airbase where there was nobody to meet the passengers. Fortunately, they were eventually rescued.

For a short period Lew taught in a school in Detroit – an experience he didn't want to repeat. Following his IFYE trip he spent two years in

India with the Peace Corps. That was followed by 40 years in Saudi Arabia where he taught English to the armed forces and airline staff. Apparently, on one occasion, his students had their passing-out parade in 40 degrees of heat. He remarked it was a passing out parade in more senses than one!

After a meeting with Risto Pesu - a fellow '66er- in Finland, Lew attended his first European meeting in the late 1970s and, until this year, had attended every one since then. He was very touched to be referred to as an "adopted European IFYE". He was deeply upset that he didn't manage the trip to Finland this year.

Since his retirement Lew had lived in an apartment over-looking the sea in Estepona in Spain. It was there that he had a fall a couple of weeks ago. Though his health and mobility had been deteriorating in recent years, the news of his death still came as a shock.

Losing these three friends in such a short time has brought home to me just how precious our IFYE-friendships are.

Deadline next issue: 15th October 2022

European IFYE Alumni Association

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IFYE Europe Newsletter - August 2022

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