



NEWSLETTER

October 2023

European IFYE Alumni



Content of the Newsletter

- Greetings from the President
- Changes in the Board
- My first European IFYE Conference - An IFYE newcomer's report
- IFYE Conference 2023 in Velden, Austria - "We did it!!!"
- Conference report for Life-time members - Information from the board
- Invitation to Thailand
- Invitation to the USE
- Congrats to...

Greetings from the President

Dear IFYEs,

I greet you with an Austrian "Servus".

Servus, the participants of the last conference must have heard this word 10 times a day. It is a typical Austrian word which is usually used when greeting dear friends.



The conference in Austria was already a few days ago, but the memories are still fresh, as if I was still in the middle of it. I hope all participants enjoyed it and everyone took home unique memories. For me, this conference was very special, not only because it was held in my home country, it was a world conference and I was part of the organizing team, but also because it was my first time to run for re-election as European President.

It was a conference where I saw very little of what was happening on the excursions because I did not participate in any of them. For me it was a very busy conference with many different tasks. During the night I was allowed to support in the bar and during the day, together with the other organization team members I was preparing the daily events as well as the agendas of the different meetings like Contact Member Meeting, European- & World Board meeting, European and World AGM. I could not complain about being bored or not being busy enough, but I did it with pleasure and with full commitment. Even though not everything has gone as I had hoped and there have been one or two unplanned developments, I hope to have done everything to your full satisfaction.

This year I ran for re-election for the first time, and I am happy to continue to have your trust to be president of this great community for another two years. If anything has not gone to your full satisfaction, I would like you to let me know, because only if I know what has displeased someone can I reflect on it and take it into account for the future. Suggestions for improvements, complaints but also positive feedback are always welcome....

After the conference is before the conference and therefore the planning for the next year has already started. We, the European Board, will meet at the beginning of March 2024 near Cloppenburg, Germany at next year's conference venue for our Midterm Meeting. Thailand has sent us their invitation for a trip to Thailand. We will try to include this in our planning as well. We are already very far into the future with planning for the next conferences. In 2025 the 65th conference will be held in England, then Estonia welcomes us in 2026, followed by Switzerland in 2027, Sweden in 2028 and Scotland in 2029. Slovenia was strongly represented at this year's conference and really made an impression. Maybe in the future we will meet in Slovenia for a European conference and get to know this beautiful country and charming people. I know these are all future events, but the future is fast becoming the present.

Meanwhile, it is already end-october, and I can still remember very well to have celebrated only the turn of the year with my family and friends. Time passes and many beautiful moments and moments have accompanied me. In about 2 months the next turn of the year is coming and the year 2023 will find its entries

in the history books. We will remember pleasant and less pleasant events. Also, for me in the next few days a somewhat less pleasant event is pending as I must go to the hospital to have a small repair done. My engine needs a major service and a few smaller bumps, which are found during the analysis for the engine repair, will be repaired at the same time. After this major refurbishment my engine will work like new again and I will be able to do a lot of races as well as long distance rides under full load again.

2023 has demanded a lot from all of us and its successor 2024 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

Changes in the Board

Welcome to Katharina Steinrücke

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



Today a real IFYE oldie introduces herself:

Once again the organization team asked me to be available as 2. Vice President for the coming year.

In 1982 I was allowed to travel to the USA as an IFYE. At that time, this was a real privilege and a great adventure for a farmer's daughter. My host states were Colorado and Illinois.

This time opened up many new horizons for me - but you all know that too. Two years later I attended my first European meeting, which took place in Altenberg, Germany. If the time of the exchange hadn't already put a kind of virus inside me, it happened this week at the latest. After that - I just couldn't do anything else... In the following years I was there whenever I could for work reasons. My family would say: IFYE first. That hasn't changed to this day.

Within the German association, I held various positions on the board and was also involved in organizing the meetings that took place in our country. Despite a lifelong protest that I would not do this, I married a farmer, but I also always worked full-time as a ecotrophologist, i.e. housekeeping manager. The activities included training of disabled people, retraining of unemployed people to become housekeepers and the domestic management of various old people's homes.

And now - I'm enjoying my "almost" retirement - to become a little more active again in things like traveling and hobbies that had to be put aside for a long time.

I'm looking forward to working on the board again and hope to meet many of you in Cloppenburg next year!

Katharina Steinrücke

My first European IFYE conference

An IFYE newcomer's report

written by Tadej Drnovšek (IFYE from Slovenia to Switzerland, 2022)

On Sunday afternoon, we met in Ljubljana at the train station. Since we were already a little late, our route led directly to Velden. After just under two hours of driving, we arrived at our final location, Cap Worth. The location is located right next to Lake Vrba and has a well-kept pier designed for relaxing in the water and sunbathing. We received a warm welcome from the organizers from Austria. We were assigned a room that we shared with four German participants. The latter were younger and we quickly caught up. After settling in, we went to dinner and started getting to know the others. The participants were of all ages from 18 to 88 years. Despite the age difference, the company was pleasant and the dinners were accompanied by laughter and good mood. After the tiring drive, we went to bed earlier that first evening so that we would be rested and full of energy for the next day.



We started Monday with an early breakfast, because later the bus for the first excursion was already waiting for us. First, we took a look at the maschinenring company, which started its entrepreneurial journey in the 1960s.

After the excursion, we had some free time, which we used to rest. Another meeting followed, which had the key word precisely with newcomers (new participants). The problem is that many countries cannot even find young people who would go on such an exchange. We talked mostly about how to encourage them, now the new participants will also get some financial support, which they hope will attract young people at least a little.

New day, time for a new trip. We started the day very early, as we went on a trip to Carinthia, Slovenia. We had some problems with road transportability, as they were still repairing the effects of the floods. At night, they were caught by another storm, which again caused inconvenience. Mežica mine. First, they gave us a brief history of the mine, and later we took a mini-train ride deep underground. The ride lasted 15 minutes in complete darkness and with loud rumbling. I really liked the tour of the mine, and I hope that others also enjoyed it and experienced a new crazy experience. At night, just like the previous day, night swimming followed, with Tadej's friend from Switzerland, who hosted him last year as IFYE.



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After the European afternoon, we all got together in a bar, where we had fun long into the night. I remember the stories of older people the most, who told how they were in the 60s and 70s. Years went on exchange. No phones, no knowledge of the language,...



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On Thursday afternoon, the general assembly of the European IFYE Alumni Association took place. As part of it, diplomas were awarded to silver and gold IFYE participants. I was surprised how many people were on the exchange 25 years ago, those are silver IFYEs. There were also a slightly smaller number of people who had taken part in the exchange before 50 years or even longer ago. The end of the assembly was marked by the awarding of prizes from the lottery ticket, which we both (Tadej and Rene) had sold the most tickets for, and that's

why we were successfully awarded, as we received a very special gift from the first vice president, a bottle of real Irish whiskey.

Why did we go to this conference in the first place ?

Hmm, this is indeed a good question. As young farmers, we feel obliged to preserve our farms in the future, to improve them, to make work easier and, above all, to bring new hope, new light to the farm, which will give us the impetus for new ideas. And that's why right now, when our parents are still young enough to take care of the farm themselves, we can participate in international exchanges. In doing so, we gain new experience, new knowledge, competences, see good practices, make new acquaintances and possibly new business partners or even a life partner, who is a very important element in the success of the farm.

Tadej, as a former IFYE exchange participant, has already brought some good practice to his home farm, and he is also happy to pass on new knowledge and experience to his peers, relatives... so by participating in this conference, we wanted to bring this experience closer to someone else. , and encourage it for IFYE exchange. We also passed on our knowledge, our competences and especially our habits from our home farm to this year's exchange participants. Each exchange is also an unforgettable experience that you can never forget. And we can't wait and sincerely hope that we will be able to pass on our experiences and beautiful memories from exchanges to our children, grandchildren,...

IFYE Conference 2023 in Velden, Austria

“We did it!!!”

written by Sabine Gallagher (IFYE from Austria to Northern Ireland, 2009) on behalf of the Austrian organizing team

In a nutshell, this is how the organising team felt at the end of the week!

Organising a World Conference is a special challenge - apart from the sheer number of guests, there are more languages and cultures to take into account than at a European Conference.

It was always our goal to make the conference as inclusive as possible, hosting a memorable week for all nations and age groups. We are proud of what we have achieved - it was a fabulous experience to spend this week with all of you.

We had lovely food and drink, fantastic tours, fun evening entertainment and lots of laughter in the bar but also very informative presentations and productive talks to move the IFYE program further.

A few surprises

The committee tried hard to make the conference a relaxed experience for all of you but of course there were moments when the committee were not quite as relaxed as we pretended to be!

When the evening entertainment on Monday fell victim to heavy rain (the musicians' houses were flooded), we had to improvise and luckily our very own Franz Winkler saved the day (evening) by casually improvising Austrian folk dancing.

A big THANK YOU

The Austrian Organising Team was a small but dedicated group. Some were visible for everyone, but others worked hard in the background, late at night or

even hidden away... a big thank you to ALL of you.

We also had lots of motivated European helpers who assisted us with a variety of jobs, from support on the bus tours such as translating, to flower arranging for the farewell dinner – we could not have done it without you. Once again, Thank you!

Would we do it again?

At the end of the week, some of us were already gathering ideas for the next European Conference in Austria so clearly we were not put off completely! But until then, we will enjoy our well-deserved break and attend many relaxing conferences over the next decade... see you there!



Conference report for life-time members

Information from the board

During the conference in Austria, a few questions about the conference report came up. A couple years ago, the decision was made to prioritize the digital version of the report in order to save costs. Conference participants who still prefer to receive a paper copy of the report are asked to confirm this when they register for the conference.

As for life-time members, conference reports are still sent out, whether they participated in the conference or not. Several years ago, life-time members received a paper form, which they had to fill out and send back to the board if they still wanted to receive the paper version of the report. After the feedback that the board received during this year's conference in Austria, however, it seems that this specific information needs some serious revision. So, in the coming months, the board will get in touch with the contact members and ask them to check the information with their life-time members.

Generally speaking, the board, however, wants to remind all members to inform either the secretary or the newsletter editor about possible changes in their contact information (e.g. postal address, e-mail, etc). With the number of members in the European Alumni Association it is impossible to yearly check all the contact details for any potential changes. So thank you, for letting us know in time about any adaptations that need to be made.

Invitation to Thailand

A delightful Excursion to Thai 4-H and Agriculture (2024)

IFYE Thailand have planned to organize a Delightful Excursion to Thai 4-H and Agriculture (2024) from 19 – 24 May 2024. The program will arrange the participants who are our IFYE friends and other interested persons to update about 4-H club, agriculture and pay visits to well-known agro-tourism places in the eastern provinces of Thailand. Moreover, the period of visit is the tropical fruit season such as durian, mangosteen, rambutan and others.

Come to join and have a good time with us: sharing with smile and happiness for everlasting friendship and peace! More information can be found on our website (<https://www.ifyethailand.org/?p=3337>) and the attachments there. Online registrations start on 1 October 2023 and are open till 31 December 2023 .

Looking forward to welcoming all of you!



Congrats to...



Kira Reuter

*IFYE from Switzerland to Sweden
and Finland, 2012*

&

Stefan Gerber

Kira and Stefan got married in
Switzerland on 5th May 2023.

Deadline next issue: 15th December 2023

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