



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

February 2017



IFYEs travelling to Peru

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Greetings from the Board

Dear IFYE-friends,

The spring is slowly coming. Now we all have the possibility to start up the things we have dreamed about. Have you dreamed about sing, loss weight, travel to Burma. Why don't start to live that dream? I love to dance, but for a couple of years I haven't done it, because of different reasons. So a couple of weeks ago I started a new dance-course and I have so fun. It's a new life for me.



The best thing with being an IFYE, is that I have to try new things or see new places the whole time. In the end of January we had Midterm meeting in Switzerland, the first time in Switzerland for me (and yes I go again this summer, hope to see you too). The whole board was together and we had a couple of days with lots of discussions. One of the matters we discussed was the cost for the spouses and IFYEs from other continents at conferences and we will come up with a solution at the AGM. We also discussed the website, coming conferences, the 60th anniversary and the boards work. As president I'm very pleased with my board members and a thank you to Ursula who arranged the Midterm meeting.

So see you all in Switzerland and don't forget to live your dreams

All the best

Your president,

Anna Persson

IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991



Hard working team in Switzerland
and our teambuilding snowman ☺

European IFYE Alumni Association

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Deadline next issue:

1st June 2017

What are my top experiences?

Last newsletter Anna has asked for your 3 top experiences. Maybe you share some of them as your top experiences but I am sure that you agree with Marianne: “You gave us a difficult task- not easy to choose among so many wonderful experiences.”

David Steedsy Stevenson (Scotland)

- Attending my first world IFYE in Sigtuna - amazing (wild) week
- experiencing many different beers from many countries
- my Exchange to Ontario Canada was one of best summers ever!

Nadia Tassone (Switzerland)

- Clay pigeon shooting in Scotland
- My hen-party with my IFYE-friends in Scotland
- Sitting together around a fire at the lake in the early morningtime in Finland
- Dancing the whole night in Sweden

Johanna Hakkarainen (Finland)

- Driving a combine without any experience. (see picture)
- Spending a night in a fancy hotel suite.
- A week without a smart phone in Estonian conference.



Mary Roberts (Wales)

- Isle of Man – Tynwald Garden Party and opening of Manx parliament
- Finland - sauna, lake swimming and beach yoga
- Meeting lots of wonderful people and making new friends.

Marianne Svensson (Sweden)

- The IFYE-spirit, the choir and the torches at the church service in Sigtuna 2003
- The "Fantasy journey" with Mario in the relaxation room after the Brocken walk, Andreasberg 2005
- Canoeing (and turning over) on a stormy Lake Erne; Enniskillen 2006
- Burns Supper with address to the haggis; Dunblane 2004 and Elgin 2015
- Meeting people on the host village day; Joulumäe 2016

European IFYE Conference in Switzerland (15-22 July 2017)



European IFYE Conference 2017, Switzerland

European Conference 2017 in Switzerland – sign in now!

Enjoy a very exciting, tasty, funny, sporty and / or cozy week with good music, delicious food, fantastic views and interesting insights into different manufactories.

Bake your own swiss bred (Zopf), produce a bath salt for your relaxation or learn how to mix your favourite cocktail. After this conference, maybe you can play « Alphorn » or you learned to yodel with your IFYE-friends!

There are still some beds left – sign in now on our website and find more informations about the program for the conference week: www.conference2017.ifye.ch

We're very excited to see many of you in july!

Nadia, Doris, Sonja



Alphorn

Tere, Namaste and Hey

written by Alyssa Dye (IFYE from USA to Estonia and India 2016)

Many of you met Alyssa at the IFYE Conference in Estonia. She was very lucky to explore more as an IFYE. After Estonia she continued to travel for a short period to Germany and finally to India.



Tere, Namaste and Hey Y'all from snow-packed Sandhills of western Nebraska!

45,000+ kilometers. 90 days. 2 countries. 14 host families. This shines only a sliver of light on the relationships and experiences that occurred in six months— and really, my exchange is just the beginning to a life-long IFYE adventure to come!

Not only did I pick up a lot of the language, but have fallen in love with the people, potato salad, sunsets, folk sayings and everything in Estonia. It's possible I'm part Estonian, but I would also attribute that to my "baptism by sauna." Stepping outside my comfort zone to sit and sweat and skinny dip with my families was nerve-wracking to anticipate, yet the traditional Eesti sauna was thoroughly satisfying after my first go. In Estonia, I lived with seven families, taking on some of the day-to-day projects of

gardening, rolling up electric fence, packaging sausages, serving in a café kitchen, prepping for the first day of school, teaching country western dances, and picking berries galore. With long summer days, we had time to play – exploring festivals, forests, lakes, castles, beaches and bogs. I have treasured the opportunity to see Estonia through the eyes and hearts of the amazing families that live here, and I am looking forward to returning to my kodu away from home.

The icing on the Eesti cake was getting to go to the European IFYE Conference held in Estonia this year! Less sleep = more fun. IFYE Conference = life-long friends in 17 countries = couches to crash on around the world. During my free time between countries, I landed in Wüstring, Germany for bonus IFYE time with new friends Bettina, Neele, Jens, Anita and baby Paul.

Lesson #1 in India was learning how to embrace the ebb and flow of traffic, language, culture, food, life, and time relativity. Incredibly beautiful and diverse, life is an organized chaos of cultures, religions, languages, and people. Caitlyn and I stayed with seven families throughout northern India. We spent time in New Delhi, Agra, Chandigarh, the terraced apple orchards in Himachal Pradesh (foothills of the Himalayas) and the agricultural breadbasket of Punjab. We went with our families to Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras. We help juice apples, cook, milk cows, groom horses, update farm ledgers, and create a video for one family's farm stay. (Google "Himalayan Orchard" and check it out for your next trip to India.)



On November 8, Prime Minister Modi announced without warning that all 500 and 1000 rupee notes were no longer valid, slamming the brakes on the Indian rhythm of life with wedding season, wheat planting and paddy harvest, people had to get creative to carry on. Hundreds of people in queues for banks and ATMs were (and still are) a common sight. Caitlyn and I queued for days to get needed cash. With a cap of withdrawing 2000 rupees/ day (\$30 USD), it took a while. It was an interesting time to be in India and see demonetization from many different perspectives and empathize with some of the challenges of this change.

Of course, traveling by car, bus, cab, train, tempoo, Uber and camel in Indian traffic was half the adventure. We crossed off some major bucket list destinations like the Taj Mahal, Golden Temple, Rock Garden, and the India-Pakistan border with our families and friends or on our own. I was so challenged and humbled by this experience and am looking forward to trekking back.

Travelogue from an IFYE trip to Peru

written by Fia Ihrfors (IFYE from Sweden to England/Wales 1988)

15 IFYEs from four countries enjoyed an interesting trip to Peru in October 15-27, 2016. The program included different hiking destinations. More below in the travelogue from the participants:

The trip started we IFYE 15's from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Netherlands gathered in Lima.

Our first stop was Cusco then we proceeded to a village called Ollantaytambo. There, we visited including à Inkafort which was very interesting.

Our great experience was the day when we visited Machou Pitchu. It started that we went by train, bus before we got to hike to the site itself. It was absolutely incredible!

After that we continued back to Cusco and then take us by boat on Lake Titicaca located at 3812 m above sea level. We went among others to an island that we got to see how it had come about through the reeds and earth. There, they board 4 families.



We even slept over on an island where we were dressed up and that we had to help with family chores.

After one day on the lake so we continued towards the Colca Valley, where we got to see everything from the bird Condor to the mountains, volcanoes and deep valleys.

The last stop was the city Arequipa, where we a monastery that was absolutely fantastic. We visited also how to make clothes of Alpaca wool!



After 13 days so we went home with a lot of experiences i baget!

Warm greetings from
Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and Dutch IFYE's

By
Fia Ihrfors

Who, what and where are the Roving IFYEs?

written by Linda Steele (IFYE from Northern Ireland to Germany 1994)

Did you hear already about the Roving IFYEs? Can you remember the full story and background of them?

The Roving IFYE phenomenon began in Wales 2013, when a Welsh teddy bear was raffled and the proceeds were given to a local charity and for the next two years she went to stay in Scotland with Elizabeth Millar. 'They said to me at the time that she was a very special doll, so I thought I would give her a suitable title and name,' and so Lady Alison Mary Spencer-Roberts of Wales was christened.

Two years later she reappeared at the conference in Elgin with her Scottish maid Kayleigh and this time the travellers helped raise money for a cancer charity in memory of our IFYE friend Sally Young and went home with Sam Hawkes and Helen Ervin.

Over the next year the duo had many adventures. Kayleigh became Duchess of Bruges, they travelled to South Africa where they met Hope, another travelling companion, and in their adopted home of Northern Ireland they became rugby fans, regular attendees at YFA functions and hosted many visiting IFYEs. They also discovered social media so their friends could follow them between reunions. In the summer they arrived in Estonia, via Russia, and once again encouraged members to dig deep for a local charity.

Currently they're in residence in Norway with Jon Kåre but like all IFYEs they continue to travel and meet interesting people wherever they go. Already they have had trips to Italy and Estonia for a second time. We look forward to seeing them in Switzerland but in the meantime you can follow them on their FB page, [The Roving IFYE's](#).



Congrats to...



Liisa Nevalainen

IFYE from Finland to Switzerland 2006

Liisa and Ari to their first daughter Kaisla Hilja Maria
born 22.12.2016

