



NEWSLETTER

August 2017

European IFYE Alumni



Newcomers 2017

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Greetings from the Board

Dear IFYE-friends,

First of all I have to say thank you for that the AGM gave the board and me the confidence to lead the European IFYE Alumni Association another two years. We prepare now for the anniversary and it is exciting to think about what the organisation has been but also what it is going to be forwards. The anniversary group make a fantastic work with documenting what has happened and it is going to be very interesting to read.



The board has to think about how the organisation should develop. How do we get new members to the organisation and how do we get old back, is one of the clues.

I'm very sorry that I couldn't attend the conference this summer, I miss you all a lot, but my brother got serious ill, the night before I should fly and at that moment my family was the only priority. He's better, but it's a long, long way back. This reminds me about how quickly life can change and the must to love the people around you and tell them that every day.

So all the best to all of you. I love you!

Best regards

Your president,
Anna Persson
IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991

European IFYE Conference 2017

A Newcomer's Experience

written by Alessa Walz (IFYE from Germany to the USA 2013)

My week as a Newcomer IFYE at the European Conference in the French Swiss was packed with a lot of fun, adventures, old friends and new friends. While hiking, on a E-Bike-tour or simply every morning again I got to see the beauty of the Swiss and the mountains. I also got to learn many new things: for example, about Swiss culture like Paper Cutting or Swiss agriculture on farms. The visit of the 2nd biggest farm in Swiss was especially interesting: it belongs to a prison! At the camp itself I also had fun during several activities –



official ones like the rural youth competition or unofficial ones like the international Flunkyball competition where I had the honorable task of playing the referee. For sure I can say that I will join many more IFYE Conferences.





written by Angharad Thomas (IFYE from Wales to Australia 2015, Finland 2014, RYE seminar 2013, Northern Ireland 2012)

After recently attending two YFA reunions it took very little persuasion to get me to attend my first IFYE conference and it did not disappoint. The location was amazing with a stunning view to wake up to every

morning and often helped clear the heads after having a few too many the night before! I thoroughly enjoyed every day in Switzerland and feel I made the most of every activity. I made new friends and had interesting conversations, sharing stories and learning about their exchanges from the method of travel to the experiences they had gained.

It is impossible to choose a highlight but I thoroughly enjoyed the competition day where it soon became clear some people had hidden talents and some others didn't!

I really enjoyed any activity where we were in groups and had to work together. These helped me get in contact with people I hadn't met before or had the opportunity to meet. Working within the teams was helpful when completing tasks, such as selling the tombola tickets or finding answers to clues on a treasure hunt around a local town. I am grateful that such events are organised and that everyone was so welcoming and was a great company. It was also great to see a strong team from Wales at the conference this year.

Cannot wait to see you all in Northern Ireland 2018. Angharad xx



written by Fabian Jacob (IFYE from Ireland to Switzerland 2017)

I am delighted and grateful, I could attend the conference as part of my IFYE stay in Switzerland. As an incoming IFYE I had no idea of what to expect. Entering the French region of Switzerland for the first time. The conference was a great chance to meet up with the other incoming IFYE's who were in Switzerland at the same time. The location of the conference was spectacular overlooking Lake Neuchatel. With a keen interest in agriculture I attended most of the agricultural trips. Sleep was treasured at the conference. The weekly itinerary was very well planned, allowing all the generations to mingle and have a bit of 'craic' at the same time.



One night I will remember JT (South Korea), Matthew (Northern Ireland) and I were determined to stay up till sunrise. We were accompanied by other IFYE's in the bar until about 3 am, but sunrise wasn't until 6am. Three of the most energetic bar staff were there to keep us occupied and awake. Other incoming IFYE's began to emerge around sunrise and we gladly joined them. It was a rather strange moment meeting people getting up. Just as the sun was about to rise we started to hear all the surrounding wildlife come to life. The sun just peeped over the low-lying clouds and we could feel the energy in the light, as it cut through any coldness left in the air. It deserved a well-earned sleep; which accurately describes the week.





written by Gunhild Haustveit (IFYE from Norway to Switzerland 2017)

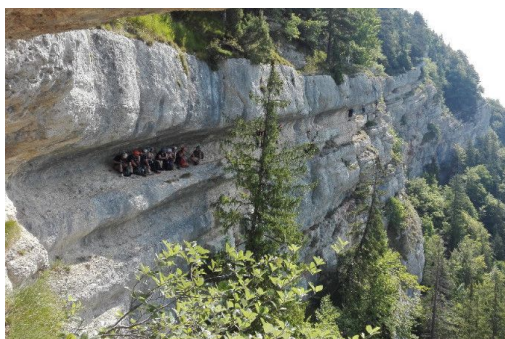
As an ifye to Switzerland this year, I didn't really know what to expect. A conference doesn't really sound fun, but it was amazing. I learned how to sew a shopping bag, and how to make chocolate and mix cocktails. I got to taste absinthe (French-swiss type of alcohol), visit two hydro power plants, a chocolate factory and a vegetable farm. I got to play "children games" with 65 year olds. All this during the day. In the evenings we were partying.

The bar was open 24/7, so some people stayed up all night. I didn't wanna miss the

tours and workshops, so I made sure to sleep a little bit during the nights. But I went to some amazing parties. There were two theme parties, one Swiss evening and one fancy dress evening. For the swiss evening my host mom borrowed me a Swiss dress, which was really cool, because a lot of people thought I was Swiss. For the fancy dress evening I didn't know what to wear, none of the incomings did. But the veterans did. The theme for the whole confidence was "rock around the clock", so a lot of them dressed as Elvis or as clocks.

I feel really lucky that I got to go to an IFYE conference as a part of my IFYE trip. It was an amazing experience that I'm gonna remember for the rest of my life.







The First Vice President's Experience

written by Andreas Pölzl (IFYE from Austria to Colorado 2000)

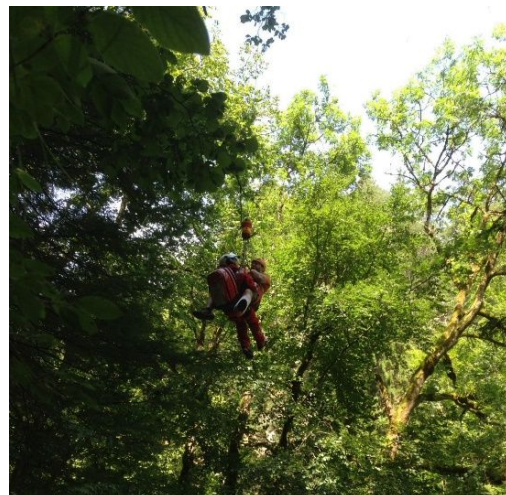
Each conference is special and is what you make of it. This year's conference, the days spent in Switzerland, and the weeks that followed were something special to me and certainly something that I won't easily forget. But more on that later...

On Arrivals 'Day, I was greeted with the unfortunate news that our President, Anna Persson would not be able to join us in Switzerland and that I, as First Vice President, would be acting on behalf of her. For the first time, I had the honor and privilege of officially opening the conference and delivering a short welcoming speech – it was a real pleasure. Our newcomers are a matter of particular concern to me. Already last year in Estonia 2016 we tried to put more focus on the newcomers together with the Estonian Organizing Team. This year, together with the Swiss committee, especially Sonja (2nd Vice President), we developed the idea further and took it to a new level by „auctioning them off “to experienced Ifyes. I would love to see this idea grow even further next year in Northern Ireland and I am looking forward to come up with a revolutionary plan together with the Northern Irish Ifyes.



Each conference is unique and special in its own way but now I would love to explain why this year's conference was particularly special to me. As mentioned previously, I had the honour of opening the conference on Sunday which was a true highlight. At that point, I had no idea what an unexpected turn the conference would take. Monday after breakfast we made our way to Noiraigue to hike through the Areuse gorge, one of nature's treasures. We were impressed by its stunning beauty. Less impressive was what happened next: About two thirds of the way down a little mishap occurred - I slipped and broke my left lower leg! The rescue operation out of the gorge was rather challenging and so it happened that REGA (Swiss Air Ambulance Service) had to transport me to hospital.

After primary care by a paramedic I was winched up in a basket and transported by helicopter to a nearby field where we landed for further treatment. Also included in the „helicopter tour“ back to Neuchatel Hospital were the Areuse Gorge and Lake Neuchatel. At hospital, it turned out that I had broken both my tibia and fibula in my lower leg. An operation was unavoidable and a seven day stay in Neuchatel Hospital followed until I could be transferred nearer home.



You might ask yourself why I am so excited when describing this experience. It is because the time in the hospital turned out to be rather special. It showed me what makes the IFYE family so special and what a unique bond Ifye conferences can create. Several times a day I had visits from IFYE friends who were supporting me in every possible way. Special thanks to Annemarie Forestier and “the Brigitta trio” who were standing by me through the incident. Annemarie was also interpreting and translating at the hospital and came to visit me every day. I would also like to thank my IFYE friends from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the USA, as well as all other Ifyes at the conference, who were supporting me with their kind thoughts and good wishes.



After my transfer to a hospital in Austria, further tests showed that I had in fact taken another souvenir from Switzerland with me – I had broken my ankle joint too. Initial treatment had been focused on saving my lower leg which was in danger of compartment syndrome so the broken ankle had been overlooked. Looks like I have hit the jackpot with my injuries. Well, a jackpot of sorts at least and certainly one no one would like to win! However, what I have learned from this experience is that you can always rely on the support of the Ifye family and that you will never be alone. This unique community is a great enrichment in my life.

In the meantime, I have been able to leave hospital and I am on the mend. I spend my time annoying my wife Sabine who is doing an incredible job, supporting me through this difficult time. And my kids enjoy finally being able to spend a summer with me!

Ironically, I've never returned home from a conference as well rested as I did from Switzerland this year.

Last but not least I would like to thank everyone for their help and continued support. Thank you so much! I am looking forward to seeing you all again in Northern Ireland to spend another unique, amazing week amongst friends.

A Life Time Member's Experience

written by Pauline Armstrong (IFYE from Northern Ireland to Finland 1982)

As we climbed up through the vineyard, and paused for breath, on the way to The Camp the stunning scenery around the lake at Neuchatel unfolded in front of us.

The setting provided a perfect backdrop to a really excellent conference! Sonja, Doris, Nadia and the Swiss team worked so hard to provide us with enjoyable experiences! They, and their happy band of helpers, deserve warmest congratulations and thanks!

I was especially impressed with the talent among the Swiss IFYEs who led such a variety of workshops! Jacques led our group through the vineyards and after lunch we took part in an informative wine tasting session. Our small group also enjoyed the chocolate making session with Marianne and tasting the results.

One of my nicest moments was not on the official programme at all. I was in the coffee

shop when some of the Swiss IFYEs were taking a break. Soon there was accordion music and singing, some people played spoons and Annemarie played on her brush! All this with beautiful sunshine and a fantastic view over the lake! A happy memory!

In fact the music through the conference was fabulous - The drumming, the Alpen horns and accordions, the yodelling and traditional songs and finally the choir who entertained us at dinner. And mustn't forget the DJs who kept the music going in the bar! Every day we did something new and enjoyable – for example the treasure hunt in Neuchatel and the trip to the castle. But we also had plenty of time to talk, meet with old friends and make new ones and sit in the sunshine or the bar.

And it was great that so many Newcomers and the incoming exchange students to Switzerland were there too for such a good experience.

The NI Group have a hard act to follow but we have already planned a great week for you in 2018. Hope to see you in Greenmount for the IFYE 60th Anniversary celebrations!



Being 50 years an IFYE

written by Lennart Lindquist (IFYE from Sweden to the USA 1967, former president)

Dear IFYE-Friends,

Once an IFYE, always an IFYE. I have now had the privilege to be an IFYE for unbelievable 50 years! I want to make two comments.

My first comment is that IFYE stands for peace and a better world understanding. That is what we learned during the IFYE introduction week in Washington DC 50 years ago.

My first question is: Have we got more or less peace and understanding since then? In 1967 the cold war was a reality and in Europe we had a wall dividing Germany and closed borders from the Arctic Ocean to the Mediterranean. All together, 15 countries now members of the European Union, were under communist and fascist regimes. My two Israeli IFYE-brothers, I met in the US, came directly from the 6 day war. It was also in

the middle of the cruel and long lasting Vietnam war.

When I travelled by ferry over the Irish Sea to my first European IFYE-conference in Belfast the first week in August 1969, we saw a huge column of smoke from the burning streets of Belfast. The troubles in Belfast started the weekend we arrived and the violence of Northern Ireland lasted for almost 30 years.

From this background I dare to say, we have more peace and reconciliation today than 50 years ago. Certainly that is true in Europe and in Northern Ireland and perhaps generally all over the world. But of course there are many dark clouds at the horizon, both in Europe and in all directions. We must take that seriously.

My second question: Can international networks such as the one we have taken part of this week, promote more peace and understanding? Of course IFYE itself can't change the world. But together with all the other international networks it can. The more there are people who are participating in international economical, political and cultural work and in other international social intercourses such as in the IFYE-movement, the more strange it will be to close borders, to build walls or to start wars. You will not easily be in favour of starting a war against people you meet and have had fun with during a week such as the one we have experienced here in Vaumarcus!

My second comment is about the past and the future of the European IFYE-conferences. I mentioned my first conference in Belfast 48 years ago. We were 60 to 70 participants. One of the topics during the meeting was how to avoid the conferences to become too big. There were serious talks about limiting the conferences to include only long term IFYE-exchangees from Europe to the US. The intereuropean and other exchange programmes would not qualify for participation. That position was justified by the worry that no country could be able to arrange large conferences. We, the young and critical IFYEs at that time and belonging to the "save the world generation", were fighting for almost 10 years to get also the non US IFYE programs fully accepted. The sizes of the conferences have been growing all the time and they have been very well organised regardless of size.

However, I have been worried during the last years that so few new IFYEs have attended the European Conferences. The participants have become older and older. Therefore I'm very pleased to see many newcomers at this the 59th conference. The newcomers this year are almost as many as all the participants at my first "too large" conference. I hope many of you now attending your first conference will come back to many future conferences. I have participated in almost 40 European- or world IFYE-conferences. I can tell you that on each of them I have met IFYE-friends that I first learnt to know at my first conference in Belfast. I hope some of you now attending your first conference here in Vaumarcus, will get the opportunity to meet old friends you learned to know here at this IFYE conference 50 years ahead in time in year 2067!

Thank you, Swiss IFYE-friends, for a wonderful week and the best of luck for the future of the European IFYE-organisation!

Silver Pin and Golden Certificate



Silver Pins

Andreas Langgartner (Austria, IFYE to Finland 1992)
Marita Pynnönen (Finland, IFYE to USA 1992)
Roger King (Northern Ireland, IFYE to Netherlands 1992)
Jörgen Andersson (Sweden, IFYE to USA 1992)
Adrian Marti (Switzerland, IFYE to USA 1992)
David Paterson (Scotland, IFYE to Northern Ireland 1991)
Dale Wylie (Northern Ireland, IFYE to Netherlands 1990)
Jürg Bärtschi (Switzerland, IFYE to Australia 1990)
Christa Anliker (Switzerland, IFYE to USA 1987)
Jacques Olivier (Switzerland, IFYE to USA 1987)
Colin Manson (Scotland, IFYE to USA 1972)

Golden Certificates

Lennart Lindquist (Sweden, IFYE to Sweden 1967)
Lew Bordeaux (USA, IFYE to Japan 1966)

Invitation to Northern Ireland 2018

Since 1958 European IFYE
alumnis have been coming
together annually
to exchange stories and
adventures and to share the
IFYE spirit.



In 2018 the Northern Ireland IFYEs would like to invite you to do it all again as we
celebrate the Diamond Anniversary Conference at Greenmount College from

21st to 28th July 2018.

Greenmount College, which boasts courses in agriculture, horticulture and the environment
is in the town of Antrim, approximately 20 miles from Belfast.

(www.cafre.ac.uk/explorecafre/greenmount/) You can fly to Belfast International or Belfast
City airport, or to Dublin which has a direct bus service from the airport to Belfast city
centre.

We aim to show you some of the historical, cultural and natural highlights of Northern
Ireland as well as provide a lot of fun and frolics along the way. Registration will begin
soon and we will notify you as soon as everything is online.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact

Avril: avrilherdman@outlook.com or

Linda: lstelekilrea@yahoo.co.uk or any of the Northern Ireland crew.



Invitation to 11th World IFYE Conference



11th World IFYE Conference
8 – 16 September 2018

The IFYE Association of the USA salutes
"Cruisin' with IFYE"
at the 11th World IFYE Conference.
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

ifyeusa.org

Invitation to Swiss Ski Weekend

ifye swiss winterweekend

05.-07.01.2018



Klewenalp NW

More information:

<http://www.ifye.ch/aktuell/agenda> or: zuberei@bluewin.ch

Registration until 26. December 17 at Marc-André Zuber

Congrats to...



Eveline Liechti (Gfeller)

IFYE from Switzerland to Northern Ireland 2010

Eveline and Adrian married on 11th July 2017.

Joelle Seyler

IFYE from Luxembourg to Sweden 1997

Joelle to her son Lars,
born 23rd May 2017



Ville Isoniemi

IFYE from Finland to Austria 2009

Ville and Soile to their 2nd boy Eelis
Herman,
born 28th July 2017

Deadline next issue: 15th November 2017

European IFYE Alumni Association

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IFYE Europe Newsletter - August 2017

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