



# NEWSLETTER

March 2018

European IFYE Alumni



*Mid-Term Meeting in Northern Ireland*

## Content of the Newsletter

- Greetings from the Board
  - IFYE Mid-Term Meeting
  - The Joys of being an IFYE Coordinator
  - The Finnish IFYE's Annual Summer Meeting
  - IFYE Conference 2018 Update
  - Congrats to...
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## Greetings from the Board



Dear IFYE-members,

It's a beautiful morning in Sweden, when I write this greeting. The snow falling slightly outside the window. Beside me is the television sending Vasaloppet, one of the biggest ski competition in the world. Over 15000 people ski from Sälen to Mora 90 km. The power when all this people start is amazing. I'm so overwhelmed about the strength of the skiers who start and all the training behind.

I have always been impressed of people who decide to do something and dedicate themselves to it. People who decide to do something for themselves or even more impressing for someone else. Many people in the IFYE organisation have that little extra. A big heart for other people. I can see it in the small, then younger people help older at our conferences. It makes my heart so warm.



I am looking so forward to see you all in Northern Ireland, the crowd there works hard to make place for everyone who wants to come. So fun that so many will celebrate the 60th anniversary with us.

Have a nice spring, see you  
Best regards,

Your president,  
Anna Persson  
IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991

# IFYE Mid-Term Meeting

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

IFYE Board members Anna, Andi, Ursula, Anita and Pauline received a warm welcome from Secretary Linda who hosted the mid-term Board meeting at her home in Kilrea. After a delicious meal and a very comfortable night discussions commenced early on Saturday and continued all day with a break for Mrs Steele's tasty soup and a walking tour of Kilrea.



A brief summary of items on our agenda included the promotion of IFYE and ways to encourage new IFYEs to attend conferences. Andi has distributed the Newcomers information and, with Helen Ervin, will provide a welcoming and mentoring service to the new IFYEs in NI in 2018.

Ursula was pleased to report that we have acquired 5 new lifetime members in 2017! Anita was congratulated on her excellent newsletters. Andi and Anita reported on progress of the website which just needs a few final adjustments before going live – thanks were extended to Andi's brother for his help in getting to this stage.

Pauline reported on progress to date on the 60th Anniversary Booklet and Display which will be unveiled at the conference in NI. Thank you to the 60th Anniversary Committee for their work so far!

Ursula reported that our accounts are healthy and we discussed ways in which we could encourage applications to the Development fund.!



Linda, as Chairman, reported on preparations for the 2018 conference and was pleased to report that it is completely full! The NI IFYEs look forward to welcoming you all to Greenmount in July! We also heard that many European IFYEs are planning to be on the World Conference Cruise to Alaska in September.

Future conferences are 2019 Norway, 2020 England, 2021 to be confirmed, 2022 Finland, 2023 Austria – IFYE and World Conference combined.

The election officers to the IFYE Board was discussed. Fortunately some have another year of their term left to serve and those at the end are positively considering standing again.

Saturday's discussions drew to a close and Avril, Janette and Helen joined us for dinner in a nearby restaurant where we unexpectedly and enjoyably encountered some other NI IFYEs who were equally surprised to meet us!

Sunday morning began with a lovely breakfast followed by further discussions before the overseas members left for the airports.

As a new member of the Board I was surprised by the amount of business covered during the weekend – it is definitely a necessity in order to be well prepared for the meetings and General Assembly during the Conference.

We are very grateful to Linda for her hospitality in hosting the meeting and providing such pleasant and comfortable surroundings for our discussions!

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## The Joys of being an IFYE Coordinator

*written by Reelika Rütli (Estonian IFYE coordinator from 2004-2017)*

The IFYE exchange program is wonderful thing. We have met with great people at conference each year. We all have one common thing – we have been participating in the IFYE program. To make this program work you need people to make it happen. Somebody who looks for families for you, someone who coordinates the outgoing and incoming – IFYEs. I guess that's why I had the idea – maybe we should introduce you to these people – the coordinators.

My favorite "hobby" over the last 13 years has been the Estonian 4H IFYE program. Over the years you get to meet and know people from all over the world. Some of them you even might call friends :-). Estonia has a few countries to make cooperation with. One of the wonderful persons to make cooperation with is Austria's Lydia. I like that you can be sure that program is ready and you don't have to worry about your "babies" (*read IFYEs*) and you can just relax, because you know that Lydia will make everything so that your ifye-s have great program. This year I sent one girl to Austria. She went and came back with a huge luggage full of emotions.

I guess I was lucky over the years that I have made cooperation with good coordinators. It's like a secret society where you have people other side of world and they know your



feelings and sometimes they can finish your thoughts and sentences.  
Thank you for making my hobby so good.

Reelika



*written by Lydia Zagler (IFYE Coordinator and IFYE from Austria to Switzerland 2017)*

In December 2016 I got an email from Silvia Nöbauer. She told me that she is interested in an IFYE exchange after her final exams. I told her that I have just one more place for Switzerland and Estonia. She was immediately enthusiastic and sent me her application for Estonia although she hasn't known many things about Estonia. I asked Reelika if the planned start date of Silvia is fine because she was not able to start before August. Only some hours later I got the positive answer from Reelika: Yes, Estonia is able to host Silvia in this time 📅 Silvia was so happy about this message, she decided to stay 4 weeks. We had a 2-days preparation seminar in April where all Outgoings come together. Also some Alumnis joined the group to tell about their IFYE exchanges and to talk about their experiences. Maria Winkler was in Estonia in 2015 she showed us a presentation with many pictures from Estonia. So Silvia was able to ask her many questions and get to know

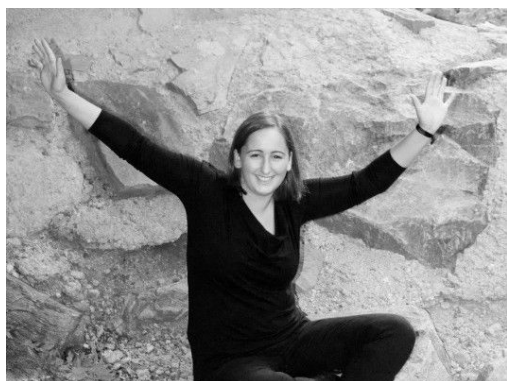
more about Estonia prior to her exchange. I think it was very helpful for her to speak with somebody who has also been in the same country :-)

Then Silvia booked the flights and I forwarded the information to Reelika. Silvia has got a family plan in July so there were some more weeks to contact the families and get ready for her adventure.

Here in Austria we had also an Incoming form Estonia. Unfortunately Kreet was not able to arrive in July so she couldn't take part in the IFYE Incoming Orientation in Vienna. I was not able to meet her at the airport on her arrival day so I ask a former colleague which was also Kreet's first host family if she can pick her up from the airport. I informed Reelika and Kreet about this solution and both were happy. Kreet has got all the documents and information she needs from the first host family. I was not able to meet her in person but we have been in contact during her stay and there were no problems.

I really like to work together with Reelika because she answers very quickly and you can feel that she truly love to work as the IFYE coordinator for Estonia J. As I know she tries to host every Incoming at least one night and I think this shows that she makes it with heart.

Lydia



*written by Kreet Treiberg (IFYE from Estonia to Austria 2017)*

I haven't always been the adventurous one, so for me, going alone to Austria, was a really big deal. But I shouldn't have worried about anything. This was really the summer of my dreams. People in my host families were more than just welcoming. I got to go hiking in the mountains and see some amazing historical places. The best part of my programme was that I can actually see the real life of Austria, not only the tourist attractions. Only thing I would have changed, was the staying time, because you need more than a month if you really want to discover Austria. I learned a lot of new things and I also got the chance to introduce my home country Estonia to them. I can honestly say that I will always miss Austria and the warmth of people living there. And now I know, that I should never be afraid of a new adventure.

Kreet



*written by Silvia Nöbauer (IFYE from Austria to Estonia 2017)*

I did my one month - IFYE exchange this summer in August 2017. My decision to take this kind of opportunity to get to know another European country and its culture was rather spontaneous. Also I have to admit, that I really did not know a lot about Estonia, so I also didn't know what to expect about those weeks, but afterwards I wouldn't count this as a disadvantage.

A few days before end of signing in, I wrote an Email to Lydia, the IFYE coordinator of the Austrian Landjugend. Unfortunately I did my final exam this summer and wasn't very flexible depending travel dates etc., so I actually just wanted to have a few more information about the programme. I was amazed how nice and easy things were going, so a few days later I had my forms signed and 4 weeks of staying in Estonia were a deal. Everything else was also organized well and there was even an information weekend, where I got to know all the other Austrian IFYE Outgoings.

When I came to Estonia I was welcomed warmly by Reelika, who is the coordinator of the Estonian organisation and helped me a lot to orientate in the new country. On my first day in Estonia, I even got the chance to go on a trip with two other IFYEs from Northern Ireland and Switzerland! Then I went off to my host families, Reelika found for me. It was great for me to know, that she would take care of me all over the time. Otherwise my time in Estonia wouldn't have been such a great experience for sure.

All in all there's not more to say, then a huge THANK YOU to those two. The weeks in Estonia have brought me memories and experiences I would never like to miss! :)

Silvia

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# The Finnish IFYE's Annual Summer

## Meeting

*written by Kati Nurminen (IFYE from Finland to Switzerland 1993)*

For a quite long time Finnish Ifye's have had the habit of gathering together during summer time to meet ifye friends and go hiking. As we all know, summer is full of all kinds of parties, festivals, conferences, holidays and so on, so for the past 3 years we have had a late summer meeting. That means that the meeting is in the end of August or in the beginning of September. This way we can also hear the news from the European ifye conference and of course see the photos when someone lucky has been in a conference.

This year we had the meeting on the first weekend of September at Jarkko's parent's cottages by the lake Päijänne. We went hiking to the Vaaruvuori to see a great view over the lake Päijänne from the top of a cliff. The path is not too long even for the kids to walk it through. Well, the kids were quite eager to come with us hiking, since there is at least two Pokestops and three Pokemon gyms by the path. We were also talking how great it would be to take Ifye's from all around the world to see this beautiful place.



After the hike we had a cooking programme. Everyone had to bring some foodstuff with and the food's name had to start with your name's first letter. I can't translate these, but I assure you, that the ifye's had used their imagination and maybe googled some synonyms, too... We had fun combining these some even exotic ingredients to feed the hungry ifye's with kids. We had three course evening meal and noone had to go to bed with an empty stomach.

We spent the evening looking back the wonderful Swiss conference and thinking of the future Finnish conference, having sauna and discussing more about the Finnish conference in the sauna. We didn't get any new members to the Finnish Ifye's sauna club though... The most courageous ifye's went also swimming in the lake under the almost full moon.

The Finnish Ifye's are looking forward to the next summer meetings. You are welcome to visit us and may be join to the Finnish Ifye's sauna club!



## IFYE Conference 2018 Update



Dear IFYE friends around the world,

Although the first daffodils have appeared in my garden the latest snow flurries would suggest Spring isn't here just yet. However it won't be long until we are welcoming you to 'sunny' Northern Ireland and we will try our best to live up to your expectations.

In the meantime here are a few answers to some of your questions.

### REGISTRATIONS AND TRIPS

We have been blown away by your enthusiasm to register and although we originally had a limit of 200 beds we have managed to squeeze a few more in and we are now full to capacity.

We are currently working on the trips so if you have not recorded your preferences please do so at [www.ifye2018.com](http://www.ifye2018.com). Some trips are very much in demand so please don't be too disappointed if you don't get your first choice; we hope that all the venues will be interesting for you.

### TRAVEL

If you are flying to Dublin there are bus links directly from the airport to Belfast city centre through [www.aircoach.ie](http://www.aircoach.ie) and [www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk). You can book your tickets in advance and this is probably advisable as these routes can be quite busy in the summer.

If you are flying directly to Belfast or staying in the city centre prior to the conference there are Airporter buses which will bring you to Belfast International Airport, close to the site or you can take a train to Antrim.

At a later date we will ask you for your arrival and departure times so we can pick you up or drop you off at the most convenient train station, bus stop or airport.

### WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a more comprehensive list in June but for those who like to be extra organised please bear in mind:

- You will need clothes for all weathers – we can not guarantee sunshine but we can almost guarantee rain.
- If you want to go hiking with Claire bring suitable footwear.
- Northern Ireland uses £ sterling, the Republic of Ireland uses €.

There is more information and useful links on the website or you can email us at [ifye2018@hotmail.com](mailto:ifye2018@hotmail.com)

Looking forward to seeing you,

IFYE 2018 Committee, NI

**[www.ifye2018.com](http://www.ifye2018.com)**

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## Congrats to...

### Andreas Langgartner

*IFYE from Austria to Finland 1992*

Andreas and Katharina married on 23rd September 2017 in Scotland (Callanish Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis).



### Naddia Tassone

*IFYE from Switzerland to Finland 2011*

Nadia and Salvatore to their 1st son Emilio Bruno.  
He was born on 25th December 2017.

## Laura Sartamo + Simon Garlough

*IFYE from Finland to Switzerland 2008 +*

*IFYE from Canada to Switzerland 2008*

Laura and Simon to their 1st daughter.  
She was born on 10th February 2018.



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**Deadline next issue: 31st May 2018**

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### European IFYE Alumni Association

web address: [www.ifye.eu](http://www.ifye.eu)

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