



NEWSLETTER

March 2019

European IFYE Alumni



IFYE Mid-term Meeting 2019 – Larvik, Norway

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Greetings from the Board

Hi all,

spring is here and it gives me some new energy. I started to take care of my body and of my soul. It's very important that we take care of ourselves. What do you do for feeling better? I dance. For the moment I dance two to four times every week. I dance lindyhop, kizomba and fox. Some for exercise and some for just feeling good.



We have had a meeting with the Swedish group who organizes the conference 2021 and we have hopefully found a place that offers all what we need. I had hoped to find a place near my town, Karlskrona, but it is hard to find places in Sweden that can take in around 200 people. I hope I can show my beautiful town on some of our tours instead. We have ended up in the south of Sweden, in Småland. The place for the Swedish glass, Astrid Lindgren and for Kristina from Duvemåla. The list of what we want to show is so long... So now we have to shorten it to the best tours.

Today I have chosen among my favorite tours for the Norwegian conference and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in August. The time flies by and we will soon meet again.

That's all for now, see you soon.

Anna Persson
President of European IFYE Alumni Association
IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991

First experiences as a member of the IFYE Board

IFYE Mid-term Meeting

written by Nora Feyder (Newsletter Editor of European IFYE Alumni, IFYE from Luxembourg to USA 2015)

At the beginning of February, the Board met for the annual mid-term meeting. This year the board members got to travel to Larvik, Norway and see where Anette lives. Having been a part of the team for only six months, I have to admit that I was quite excited about this new experience ahead of me. And to be clear: I didn't get disappointed.

Indeed, right from the beginning, I was overcome by that typical curious, a little nervous but mostly eager anticipation that is always linked to traveling in the role as an IFYE. It all started at the airport in Copenhagen where I was waiting for my connecting flight to Norway.



Anna trying to climb a huge snow pile

To make it short: the flight kept getting delayed and nobody seemed able to give us any information for quite a while. That was when I felt like being back in Northern Ireland, spending hours waiting and wondering what might happen next. It made me think about all those adventurous stories I have heard from people trying to fly home from Belfast on that specific Saturday after the conference last summer.

Luckily, I still arrived in Norway the same evening. Although, it has to be said that again it had been the weather conditions that were causing all the trouble. Snow. Tons and tons of snow. There actually were small snowy mountains along the runway. Staring out the window during the landing and seeing the airstrip glitter under small swirls of snowflakes, I really started wondering what I had gotten myself into. Finding Anette and her car in all that whiteness turned out to be a task in itself.



Even though these amounts of fluffy white joy do not correspond to the regular winter conditions in southern Norway, most locals seemed to be pretty calm about the situation. Thanks to Anette's expert driving skills, we all got to join for a late supper the same evening.

I had the chance to stay in Anette's guest room for the nights. Although my stay was quite short, it felt a little like being on exchange all over again. It certainly brought back quite some memories about my first nights with some of my host families.

The next morning was entirely dedicated to discussing IFYE matters among the board. Andreas was pleased to report his progress in contacting new European countries and getting them interested in the IFYE Programme. We might have the joy to meet some representatives during the next European Conference. Anette filled us in on how the organization of this summer's Conference is coming along. For those who have registered for the week in Hamar, let me tell you that you definitely made the right choice: It is going to be great!



As some may know, the next IFYE World Conference is scheduled for 2023 and it will be Europe's turn to organize it. Austria has volunteered to host. Andi shared information about the work that is already being done to prepare for this big event. Although the conference will take place in Austria, it is clear that it will be a group effort of all the European IFYE countries.



Furthermore, there was some feedback about the 60th anniversary booklet that turned out to be a great success. Thanks again to the 60th Anniversary Group for all their work.

Finally, the discussion came to the upcoming elections. Both, the position of President and of Secretary will be due for election during the next AGM. Anna and Linda have declared stepping down. So we are eagerly looking for candidates who feel motivated to join the team.

For the rest of our stay in Larvik, we got to see some more of the area (even if some things were hardly recognizable under all the layers of snow). To warm up again from our expedition in Winter Wonderland, we settled in a small café and tried some typical Norwegian cake.



On Sunday, we all had to say goodbye again. Fortunately, the journey home was a lot less eventful. Even though it had been a really short trip, it left me excited about seeing more of the country next summer. As I said at the beginning, it truly was a nice weekend. Working as a member of the IFYE Board has so far turned out as a great experience and it is suited for anybody who wants to get involved a bit more into European IFYE Alumni. So do not hesitate to candidate for the next elections. There are some quite exciting years ahead!



Report from the Swiss Ski Weekend

written by Marc-André Zuber (IFYE from Switzerland to Finland and USA, 1985)

Some individuals in Switzerland are in the wintertime not infected by an influenza, but with the rare IFYE-good-mood-snow virus. The course of this specific disease is often very intense, so you rarely get any sleep. After three days, you are completely groggy but funnily enough, very happy.

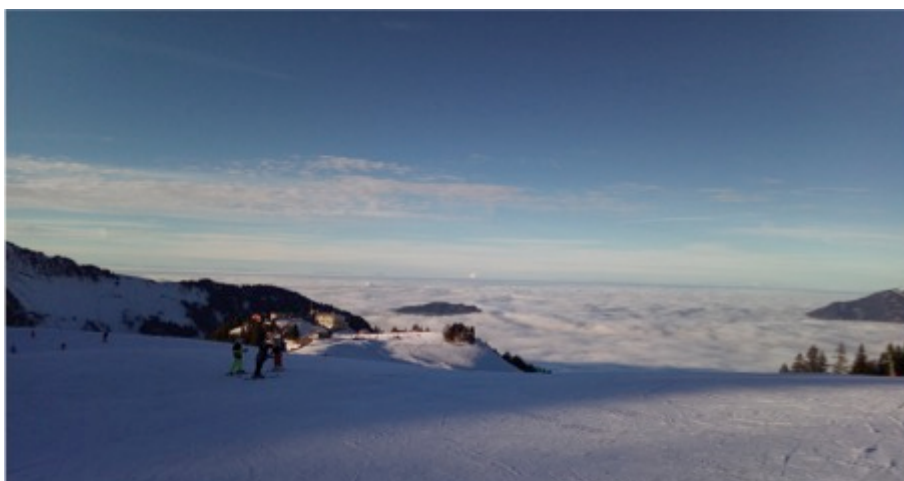


Every year at the beginning of January, these poor people will be isolated at Klewenalp for three days Dr. Marc-André, himself incurably infected, developed a three-day therapy:

1. Lots of fresh air, snow, sunshine and some fog
2. Bar-visits with good ambiance and nice view
3. Fondue, 24h dessert buffet doused with several different drinks from tee and milk, over wine, cider and divers (homemade) spirits to Bundaberg Rum



All of these therapy days should include: Chat-, discussions- and game-sessions till early in the morning....





Conference ALMANAC

Reflection on the Conferences

Personally, I find it quite difficult to assess whether a conference was 'better' or 'worse' than previous ones.

I think it's good that the conferences all have a kind of basic concept that runs like a thread through the entire week. Each country and organizing committee form and design the week according to their ideas (preferences) and the given possibilities.

The weeks are always very varied and have something to offer for 'every taste'. It is logical that I like something better and something else a little less. It's the other way around for someone else. It is precisely a principle of the IFYE movement to experience something new, different, foreign, even if it may not be the way you are used to or how you would like it to be. That's the interesting thing.

Sometimes, some participants, more often newcomers and 'IFYE-friends', find the 'official' occasions such as the Opening Ceremony, the General Assembly, the meetings or partly even the evening events as unnecessary, boring and stay away from them. But these events just are part of this very special week, just as much as the site seeing and the parties are. Also, the contacts between the generations, 'foreign' people and totally different philosophies of life I find very important and interesting. This corresponds exactly to the IFYE spirit. In order to carry out such an eventful and multi-faceted week, it also requires a certain structure and basic discipline of the participants, otherwise it will not work.

What I really want to pass on to everyone: It is up to us, old (and middle aged) IFYEs, to explain these facts to the 'greenhorns'.

Sweet memories from over 60 years ago

written by Nora Feyder (Newsletter Editor of European IFYE Alumni, IFYE from Luxembourg to USA 2015)

pictures by Jim Gooch (IFYE from Kansas to Italy, 1958)

A few days ago I got an e-mail from Jim Gooch, participant in the IFYE program over 60 years ago. He told me that he had some pictures about the very first European IFYE conference that he would like to share.

In 1958, a first European IFYE Alumni Meeting was held in Dinant, Belgium. Jim, as well as another American IFYE, on exchange in Italy during that time, got to be among the total 15 participants. He says, he remembers some of the names and people's respective home country but not all. Maybe some of you will know more about it.





European IFYE Ski Weekend in Saalbach

written by Carolyn Gehrke (IFYE from USA to Germany, 2010)

On the slopes of the world cup ski tour, we had our first European IFYE Ski – Weekend.

11 people from 4 countries (Austria, Switzerland, Scotland, and the USA) enjoyed the European ski weekend in Saalbach-Hinterglemm, Austria, from March 1-3.

Besides skiing in the beautiful Austrian Alps, we went night sledding, ate a "hat" and had lots of fun together during après ski.

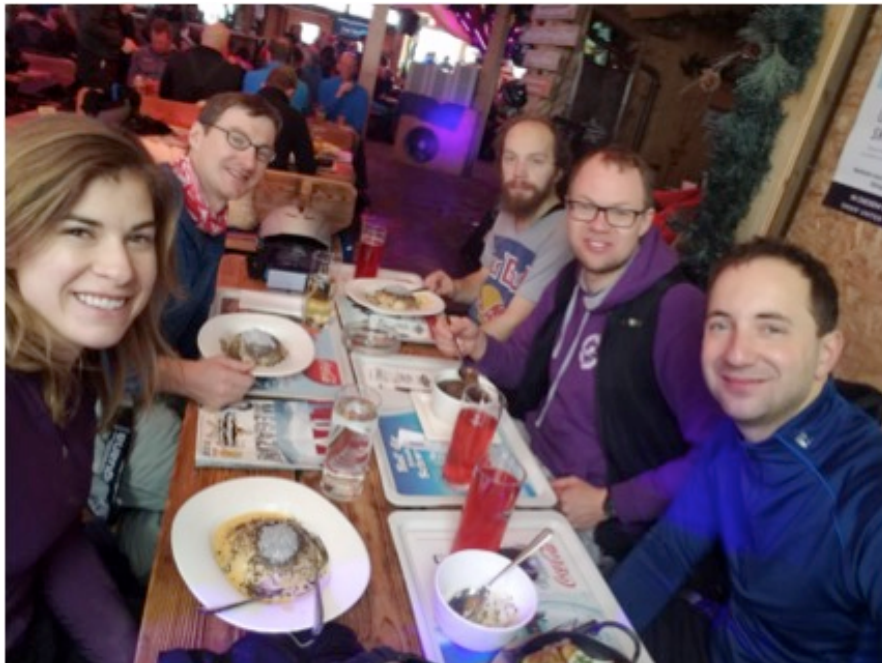
While the weekend started with rain, the weather gradually improved until we were sent off on our separate ways with sunshine.



On the way up – Switzerland , USA, Austria and Scotland



'Hat eating'



Thank you to the Austrian IFYEs for organizing this fun weekend!

Thank you to our guests for coming and hope there will be many more EUROPEAN IFYE SKI Weekends to come.

See you in Norway.....

Come to the Pre-Conference!

IFYE19pre_meeting

Theme: Norwegian Vikings legacy
and short-traveled food

discover Viking Energy drink



Registrations so far:

Just a smaller group of IFYEs from USA has registered.
Apparently low interest for the event among Europeans.

Question Raised: Are Vikings actually from Norway – OR WHAT?

Europeans should come and convince others that the Nordic countries are the real original base for the Vikings.

Despite the facts mentioned above: THERE WILL BE A IFYE19PRE_MEETING - even with a smaller group.



IFYE19pre_meeting Program - High lights:

- * Visit Viking exhibition with Viking Reception
- * Short_traveled food presented by *The Golden Road*
- * Basic skills for Vikings to be successful in battles (practical activities)
- * IFYE19pre_meeting spectacular VIKING PARTY

We are now rearranging the means of transportation when hosting a smaller group of participants.

It is not too late to register: Registration is open until May 1st

<http://193.213.14.148:8083/ifye19premeeting/Default.htm> ↩

Please contact Tomas Gunnarsson for any questions.

tomas@progserv.no



News about the Conference in Norway 2019

All registered participants should have gotten an email with information about how to register for the different activities and tours. If you haven't received an email, please check the spam folder. Everybody who doesn't choose something, will be added to the tour and workshop where's space!



The conference is now fully booked and we have set up a waiting list. If you want to be listed, send an email to Marianne Hjerpeset: hjerpset@hotmail.com.

Congrats to...



Doris Maurer

*IFYE from Switzerland to Norway & Vietnam,
2002 & 2013*

&

Jesper Kleis

Doris, Jesper and Freja to their
daughter and sister

Laura,
born 28th January 2019

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European IFYE Alumni Association

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IFYE Europe Newsletter – March 2019

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