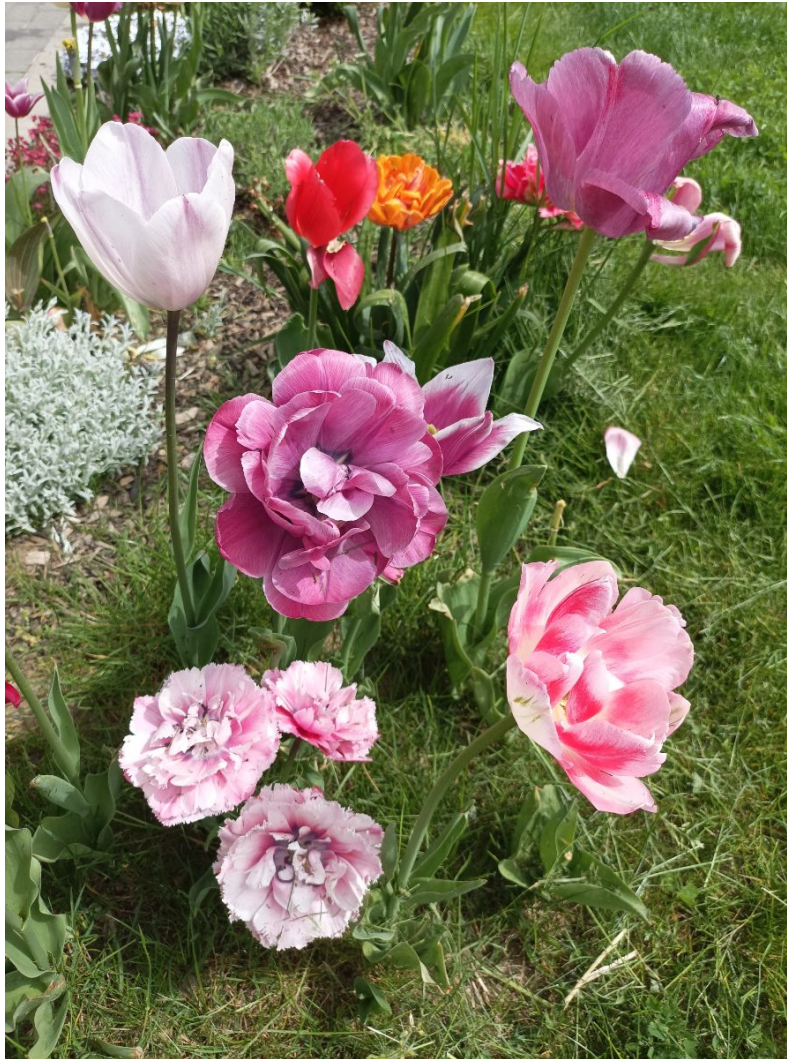




# NEWSLETTER

April 2024

European IFYE Alumni



## Content of the Newsletter

- Greetings from the President
- Midterm meeting in Stapelfeld
- News about the IFYE Conference 2024

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## Greetings from the President

Dear IFYEs,

In the previous newsletter, I informed you that I had had a minor surgery. I was stunned by the many wishes for recovery that I received afterwards and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support.



I am now feeling much better again and have been discussing with my doctors for about 5 weeks that I would like to return to my job. The doctors are not yet as enthusiastic as I am and they are a bit hesitant. However, I am confident that I will be back to work in the next 3 - 4 weeks.

In the meantime, the board met for the annual Midterm Meeting in Cloppenburg. You can find more information about the Midterm Meeting in a separate report in this newsletter. I would just like to say a few words about it. We were warmly welcomed with a sweet surprise and had a lot of fun with the German organization team on Saturday. I would also like to thank the German IFYEs for giving us a wonderful Midterm Meeting. We were allowed to try out some games and I personally had a lot of fun and I think the others had the same impression.

After a not too long and hard winter, I'm already looking forward to the rising temperatures and spring. I've modernized my garden a bit and expanded the BBQ area. There would be enough space for a spontaneous barbecue - get-together and if someone is in my area we could get together for a sausage and a drink when I'm at home.

I am also already looking forward to the next conference this July in Cloppenburg, where Germany has prepared a great and varied program for us. The location is currently being renovated and we can expect very comfortable accommodation.

I think the next conference can come.  
Look forward to a great time with lots of fun and variety.

Have a beautiful spring & see you soon,

*Andi*



## Midterm meeting in Stapelfeld, Cloppenburg

*written by Andreas Poelzl and Nora Feyder*

From 9th to 11th of March, the board met at the *Katholische Akademie Stapelfeld*, the venue for the upcoming IFYE conference in Germany. Despite acutally getting there on that specific weekend turned out being a challenge in itself (both security staff on several big German airports and staff of the German railway were on strike on March 9th and Marc-André for sure has a good story to tell you in the bar in summer...) reaching the venue under normal conditions should be rather easy if you fly in to Bremen or Hamburg. Cloppenburg itself has a small train station and the German team is organising a shuttle from there to the actual conference site, which is situated in the neighbouring village Stapelfeld.

Below, you will find some more information about the midterm meeting and the points discussed by the board. The text looks rather long, but there is some important information that we would like to share with you before we meet in the summer. So I hope, you will still read to the end ;)

### **Some words about the venue**

The venue of the upcoming conference is a beautiful site consisting of several buildings, a church and a lovely garden area including a sports field. The former children orphanage is nowadays a very modern center for varied sorts of training, educational and cultural events. It is a very calm and peaceful place full of light. It is also a very, very clean and well maintained place. All the rooms, including the bathrooms, in the main building are newly renovated and super comfortable. There is enough space on the site for smaller group gathering and the bar area is very authentic. Last but not least, the food is great!

### **Some words about the conference program**

The German organisation team joined the board on Saturday evening to give a short update on the current plans for the program. You should be able to get a first overview of the planned activities on the conference website [www.moin2024.de/program](http://www.moin2024.de/program). More details will follow via e-mail but you can be sure to benefit from a very diverse and educative program. We also discussed how to possibly share information about the participants without violating data protection rules. The German team will look into this matter as several countries like to organise their travel plans together among participants.



### **Some words about the board meeting**

#### Suggestions at the last conference

During the board meeting, several matters were discussed. First, we discussed the three points that could not be finalised during the conference in Austria and where we asked for your feedback via the contact members in the last newsletter. We received various constructive responses, which we have also considered in our discussions. Here is a summary on the individual points:

**Point 1** was an application from England / Wales from 2019: People who have not done an IFYE exchange but are members of Rural Routh or have taken part in the European Rally instead of an IFYE exchange should also be given the opportunity to become members of the European IFYE association. The various feedback that we gathered through the contact members on this subject points all in the same direction. There seems to be a common understanding that each country organisation should be able to define their own criteria for membership in their national IFYE organization. If someone is a member of a national IFYE association, there is no reason why this person should not be allowed to become a member of the European IFYE Alumni Association. The formulation in the Blue Booklet under point 3 - Membership - also implies this line of thought. The board asks England / Wales to bring a suggestion for a different formulation to the contact member meeting in Germany if they feel that there is still something missing in the current text. Comparing two text options will make it easier to keep discussions to the point.

**Point 2:** Austria suggested in the first contact member meeting in Austria to cancel the annual membership fee for conference participants under 18 years of age.

The executive committee's suggestion is to add this to the blue booklet on page 4, under Membership, with the wording: "Membership fee shall not be collected from children under the age of 16 years attending an IFYE conference."

We will further discuss both points during the contact member and country meetings at this year's conference.

#### Conference Report for Lifetime Members

We also worked on solving the issue about the conference report for Lifetime Members. On 15.03.2024, all Lifetime Members of whom we have an e-mail address were contacted via [lifetimemember@ifye.eu](mailto:lifetimemember@ifye.eu) and asked to reply by 25.03.2024 whether they would like to receive the conference report by e-mail or as a hard copy if they did not attend the conference. For Lifetime Members who regularly receive the newsletter but did not find the e-mail in question in their inbox, please check your spam folder or contact us as quickly as possible. Lifetime Members with a valid e-mail address who do not reply to the e-mail within the near future are believed to not want any report when they haven't attended the conference. Regarding Lifetime Members of whom we do not have a valid e-mail address, we have planned to reach out to the contact members and ask for their support. The goal is to have checked-in with all Lifetime Members by the end of this year's conference.

#### Debriefing of the World Conference hosted by Europe

Several matters appear to have arisen from the organisation of a world conference in Europe. The board discussed the feedback received from various IFYEs who attended last year's conference. As there seems to be a need for some in-depth analysis and real debriefing on a level involving all countries representing IFYE Europe, the board suggests to form a group of volunteering IFYEs whose task it will be to conduct an analysis on the past world conference and to put together a framework or guide that could be useful for the future organisation of a world IFYE conference in Europe. This idea will be discussed at the upcoming conference in Germany.

#### Upcoming elections

At this year's AGM, 3 positions in the board will be up for election. Both Sam Hawks and Marc-André have announced their willingness to stand up for re-election as 1st vice president and as treasurer respectively. As for the position of the Newsletter- and Webeditor, however, the board is actively looking for candidates. After six years on the board it is time for me to make space for someone new, who is motivated to work with a great team and for a very unique organisation. So if you are interested in getting a closer look behind the scenes and in tightening your IFYE-friendships even further, do not hesitate to

get in touch.

#### IFYE-program in the USA

The information has reached the board that there is currently no running IFYE-exchange program with the USA. As the US have, however, since the beginning of the IFYE program formed a strong backbone of the exchange and seem to now be in serious trouble, the European IFYE board has reached out to the US IFYE association to inquire about the problems they are facing and to offer support. This matter can be further discussed at the conference in Germany.

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## 64th European IFYE Conference in Germany



Hello IFYEs or as we say in northern Germany "Moin" IFYEs!

The greeting "Moin" stands for a short and warm "hello". It originally means "pleasant, good, beautiful" and under this motto we would like to invite you to our European Conference in Germany

This year's most beautiful week of the year will take place from July 27 to August 3, 2024 in the town of Cloppenburg. We are located in a rural region that offers the best conditions for a great conference and is easy to reach. The accommodation is large and modern and offers all kinds of opportunities for great days out and in. Our program is full of great activities for all ages and tastes, but of course the focus is always on exchange.

You can find more information about the activities and registration as well as FAQs here: [www.moin2024.de/](http://www.moin2024.de/)

As we can rely on us IFYEs, the rooms are already fully booked, but you are welcome to register for the waiting list. Experience shows that there are always last-minute changes.

We are looking forward to a great time with you!

Your organization team





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**Deadline next issue: 30th June 2024**

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**European IFYE Alumni Association**

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IFYE Europe Newsletter - April 2024

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