



## Executive Committee Report 2024 - 2025

(To be read out at Country Meetings prior to the Annual General Meeting or if agreed in the country meeting only hang out at the conference info board is also fine)



The 64<sup>th</sup> European IFYE Alumni Conference was held in Cloppenburg, Germany, Austria from July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The conference was blessed with some rain and sunshine and a unique location in Cloppenburg. 161 participants from all over the world came along to meet old friends and make new ones on the 64<sup>th</sup> European Conference. Our thanks and appreciation must go to our German hosts who provided an excellent program and gave us the opportunity to learn a lot about their beautiful country.

### • AGM 2024

The agenda for the AGM 2024 was worked through. There was no application. One proposal came up from the Contact members during the conference. More details will be found below.

Financial Matters: the financial main report was presented, checked by two auditors and approved from the AGM. The budget 2024 / 2025 was presented and approved by the AGM. More details will be found below.

**Elections was taken place for 1<sup>st</sup> President, Newsletter Editor and Treasurer.** Formal proposals have been received for Sam Hawkes (NI) for the post of 1<sup>st</sup> President, Kelly Renals for the position as Newsletter Editor and Marc-Andre Zuber (SZ) for the post as Treasurer.

- The following candidates were duly elected.
  - President: Andreas Poelzl (Aut) Elected in 2024 for a two-year term.
    - Next Election of President is required in 2025.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Sam Hawkes (NI) Elected in 2024 for a two-year term.
    - Next Election of 1st Vice President is required in 2026.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Christine Cooper (Eng) Elected in 2024 for a one-year term.
    - Nomination from Estonia for 2025/2026 required.
  - Secretary: Mari Kindsbekken (Nor) Elected in 2023 for a two-year term.
    - Next Election of Secretary is required 2025
  - Treasurer: Marc Andre Zuber (Swi) Elected in 2024 for a two-year term.
    - Next Election of Treasurer is required in 2026.
  - Newsletter Editor: Kelly Renals (Eng): Elected in 2024 for a two-year term.
    - Next Election of Newsletter Editor is required in 2026.
  - Auditors: Helen Ramsay (Eng) and Alistar McCormack (Eng) were elected by the AGM for a one-year term.
    - Election of two Auditors from Estonia required.

The Executive Committee met for the mid-term meeting in Region of Cumbria, England 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 amongst the many items discussed, the following should be of interest:

- **Financial Matters** – The financial year is not closed yet and for this reason more detailed finance information will be given at the conference 2025. (The executive Committee Report must be sent four weeks prior to the conference. Since the conference will take place in early August this year, this timing does not align with the end of the financial year. Therefore, not all financial information can be disclosed in advance and will instead be presented in detail at the conference.)
  - European IFYE got CHF 2700.- from Austria to feed the newcomer found. This was a donation for the newcomer found from the plus of the world conference 2023.
  - We got 3 new lifetime members.
  - Austria sends also ~€1000.- seat money to IFYE Europe to forward this to the next host of the next world conference (New Zealand).
  - Newcomer IFYE support → more details at the conference.
  - Mid-term meeting → more details at the conference.
  - The cost for the website, webhosting, layout → more details at the conference.
  - Regarding bank charges and bank investments, → more details at the conference.
  - Last year Tombola. → more details at the conference.
- **Tombola rings** → all rings are in England and could be used. This year we will have expected only one newcomer and for this reason we need to think who will sell tombola rings at this year's conference together with the one newcomer. Decision who should sell with the newcomer will be taken latest at the first board meeting on the conference before the opening ceremony.
- **Silver Pins:**

We bought 50 Silver pins last year. This will cover hopefully the next 10 years. According to the Blue Booklet, chapter Silver Certificates / Pin and Golden Certificates, the Executive Committee must ensure that we are able to issue the necessary certificates and pins / pendants each year. In this case the executive Committee must start the ordering of additional silver pins / pendants. The amount is considered in the budget for 2024/2025.
- **Letters of Introduction** were sent out to last year's European IFYEs via e-mail, with links to the Conference website and fb page.
- **Correspondence** – Correspondence with IFYE US is in place regarding the future of the IFYE Exchange program between Europe and US. US is offering only 5 exchanges in 2025. Chile, Germany, Norway, Taiwan, Switzerland. The exchange will start from September to get the harvest season.
- **Applications to the Development Fund**
  - Young Farmers' Ambassadors (Ulster) applying for 1000.- CHF

The application will be introduced at this year's conference to discuss it on this year's conference and to vote at this year's AGM. N-Ireland should come back with a report on how the money was spent and if it was success. It will be taken to AGM.

- Switzerland applied for support from development fund for special projects

The deadline to send the application is January 5th, we received the application March 14th. This application can be considered next year. It needs more details in the application. Switzerland should apply again next year, and with a budget and more details. Our answer was sent to the applicant per e-mail.

- **Reports on Past IFYE Activities.**

Report on the IFYE Conference in Germany 2024 has been sent out.

- **Matters arising from the Minutes of the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

No open points or attritional points from the last AGM. The point regarding US – exchange can be found under “Correspondence”

- **Newsletter** – This has been produced 4 times during the years and is available via e-mail and on-line.

- **Finances** – The Executive Committee has reviewed all finances and is satisfied that no increase in the Membership fee is required this year, remaining at 20.- CHF for an Annual Membership and 240.- CHF for a Lifetime Membership. However, we suggest that this should continue to be reviewed annually.

- **Hosting of Future IFYE Conferences** – max. 5 years preview.

Arrangements are in place to host the European Conference in:

Estonia 2026

Switzerland 2027,

Sweden 2028

Scotland 2029.

2030 – open (Slovenia?) → conversation with Slovenia has started in Feb.2025.

- **Update the blue booklet**

The Blue booklet is written in a very complicated way, things like membership are written in several places. That makes it difficult to read and to make sure we update correctly and all places when there are changes. We will suggest to the AGM to rewrite the Blue booklet to make it easier to understand.

Swiss society laws are the base of how the Blue booklet is written. To make sure we do it correctly, someone from Switzerland should be part of a group.

Andreas addressed this information via newsletter to reach as many as possible and got one reply who want to be on the working group. This point will be discussed on this year's conference in the contact member- and country meetings. We, the board suggest making a group of 4-5 people, one from each region + one from Switzerland and the lead should be by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. All necessary meetings could be done online and on the conferences. Marc Andre will try to find someone from Switzerland.

- **Any other business:**

We installed the e-mail address [lifetimmember@ifye.eu](mailto:lifetimmember@ifye.eu) to contact all European

lifetime members on the members list to ask if they still want to receive the conference report, and if they want it printed or via e-mail as pdf if the lifetime member is not attending the conference. At last year the contact members of each country got a list with names we got no answer, to check in their country and asked for replay earliest possible or come back at 2025 conference latest with their answers. For every lifetime member, we have no answer by this year's conference will not get any conference report from conferences he didn't attend from 2025 on.

We look forward to seeing you all in England in the coming weeks.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

Andreas Poelzl

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