



# NEWSLETTER

April 2026

European IFYE Alumni



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## Greetings from the President

My dear IFYE friends,

With Easter just past, I hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed time with family and friends enjoying your own celebrations and festivities and didn't eat too many Chocolate Eggs..



For myself I was at home all over Easter lambing my sheep and some cows have been calving so it's a busy time of year. With the awful weather - lots of rain and wind its been a very slow and a difficult spring for those of us who are farmers or those who want to get into our gardens.



I had the great pleasure of visiting Estonia back in the middle of March for the Boards mid-term meeting at Nelijarve where the Conference is being held 1-8 August 2026, there are still a few places available so if you haven't booked, please get online and register and come along. The venue is in a very beautiful setting with lakes and wooded area, and the local train station is only a few minute's walk. A fun filled week is planned for all those who attend. Special thanks to Kadri for a great weekend showing us round the holiday centre, Tallinn and finding me an Irish Bar in Tallinn to watch Ireland playing rugby (Ireland won the match).



Over the past few weeks it has been a very sad time for some of my IFYE friends and work colleagues who have lost close family members. This can be a very difficult, tough and even lonely time, but remember you have a large IFYA / YFA family out there to help you and hopefully give you some comfort when times are difficult. We remember all those within our organisation who are sick and have them in our thoughts and prayers.

Finally I look forward to welcoming you all to the next IFYE Reunion planned for Estonia in 1- 8 August 2026, all I can say is - "DON'T GO"...

All the best and take care

Sam Hawkes

President of European IFYE Alumni Association

IFYE from Northern Ireland to Australia 1995

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## Finnish IFYE'S Christmas meeting

*written by Heli Aaltonen (IFYE from Finland to Hungary 1996)*

This year the Finnish IFYEs organized a "Cut the Christmas tree" meeting on the 24-25th January in snowy Längelmäki. There were fifteen participants. This time we cut the real Christmas tree! 🌲



We played curling in the Längelmäki ice rink. Most of us played curling for the first time! The ice was slippery and curling stones were slipping.



We also went for a walk in wool socks on the snowy road. We got a foot massage at the same time. What an experience!



We guessed each other's songs from my life from the 1970's to the 2020s and of course enjoyed the sauna!



## News from Luxembourg

*written by Nora Feyder (IFYE from Luxembourg to USA 2015)*

I'd like to share the birth of my little daughter Lucie.

She was born on August 12th 2025.

Parents: Nora Feyder (IFYE from Luxemburg to USA, 2015) and Charel Kayl.



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## News from Finland

*written by Minna Kaunela (IFYE from Finland to Germany 2016) & Heli Aaltonen (IFYE from Finland to Hungary 1996)*

**Congratulations to the following:**

**A birth -**

Emma and Waltteri Svahn have a little daughter, Leanna Svahn. Emma was an IFYE-exchange in Scotland 2018 and in Germany 2023.

Wished for, loved, and unique.

Our little daughter came to complete our family on December 16th in 2025. She

has filled our hearts with her smile and laughter. We can't wait to watch you grow and discover the world.



**In memory of -**

Marja Tiiri (IFYE from Finland to USA 1989)

Marja sadly passed away on 13th February 2026.

She was born 6th April 1962.

The IFYE-spirit was important in her family.

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**European IFYE Alumni Association**

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