

## **Executive Committee Report 2015**

(To be read out at Country Meetings prior to the Annual General Meeting)

The 56th European IFYE Alumni Conference was held in Hesselberg, Germany from 19<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. It was a wonderful week, with a welcome as warm as the weather, and, once again, we had the opportunity to make many new memories along with both old and new friends. Our thanks and appreciation to our German hosts who provided an excellent programme, and gave us the opportunity to learn about the beauty, history and marvels of their country and Weißwurst!

The Executive Committee met for the mid-term meeting in Dublin in February and amongst the many items discussed, the following should be of interest:

- Country Reports for 2014 will be available on [www.ifye.org](http://www.ifye.org).
- A Letter of Introduction was sent out to last year's European IFYEs via e-mail, with links to the Scottish IFYE Conference website, fb page and the promotional video.
- IFYE Conference Promotion of Attendance – In addition to the six minute 'teaser' on Youtube a flyer is available which you can use at a local level or customise to suit yourself.
- The outcomes of last year's workshops were discussed at length and a compilation of useful ideas is attached.
- Lukas Helfenstein (Swi) represented EIFYEA at the European Rally, held in Port Talbot, Wales in 2014 and Mary Roberts and Alison Spencer also attended to promote future IFYE reunions.
- Newsletter – This has been produced 3 times during the last year and emailed to recipients.
- Website – The Executive Committee is looking at how this might be developed, perhaps to include more photographs or reports on conferences and would welcome comments, expertise or advice from interested members.
- Finances – The Executive Committee has reviewed all finances and is satisfied that no increase in the Membership fee is required, and that it should remain at 20CHF for an Annual Membership and 240CHF for a Lifetime Membership.
- 60th Anniversary of IFYE European Conferences in 2018 – This was discussed at the mid-term meeting and ideas forwarded to the sub-committee which will give an update of its work, ahead of the 2015 AGM.
- Hosting of Future IFYE Conferences – Arrangements are in place to host the European Conference in Estonia (2016), Switzerland (2017) and Northern Ireland (2018). If your country is interested in hosting a conference in 2019 or beyond we would be grateful if you could discuss this prior to the conference.
- Short workshops will again be included in the conference programme to allow members to contribute ideas or expertise on a range of issues.

We look forward to seeing you all in Elgin in July.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Gerhard Steinberger (Aus) Chairman

# Appendix

## **Conference Workshops**

It was agreed that the short workshops had been useful and had prompted some interesting discussions. It was decided that these should be included again in 2015 to allow members to contribute their ideas and expertise.

### **Promotion of IFYE and newcomer IFYEs**

- \* Consider the idea of a mini-conference or meeting within your own country to introduce the idea and provide information, online or in leaflet form.
- \* Use the title 'Reunion' rather than 'Conference' to make it sound less intimidating.
- \* Offer a range of price levels or accommodation.
- \* Be flexible about the length of their participation.
- \* Members should be vigilant at the start of the conference to ensure newcomers are included and made welcome.

### **Website and Publicity**

- \* Use facebook more effectively by having one reunion page which passes to each country in turn, hence building up the members and creating photo albums for each one.
- \* Investigate the possibility of adding links to our website to photo galleries or a blog.
- \* Advertise in as many ways as possible.

### **Future Conferences – new ideas?**

The following ideas are something for future hosts to consider.

- \* Certain elements need to be maintained i.e. board, country and Annual General meetings but these should be kept short and informative.
- \* Be careful not to overload the programme and allow time for relaxation and informal contact. Different age groups should also be considered when designing the activities to keep the programme balanced with something of interest to each.
- \* Stress the individuality of the country you are in by keeping visits local, showing how people actually live. This should also help keep the price down.

- \* If possible offer different accommodation options and different prices i.e. single, double or group rooms.
- \* The timing has to suit the hosts and there is no perfect solution as different countries have different summer timetables.
- \* People who wish to bring children should be considered but each host country has to decide what is feasible for them.
- \* When choosing a venue hosts should remember the importance of social areas and seek somewhere with room for music and dancing alongside quieter seated areas.

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet 2018**

It was agreed that the production of a large book was physically and financially unfeasible and of limited appeal to members but that it was important to conserve the history of the organisation. This could be done in several ways.

- \* The information which is being collected and compiled by the group should be correlated and made available online, in digital form. They should also outline what they already have and what else they need so members can help collect the information.
- \* The minutes and newsletters which are archived could be scanned and also made available digitally. This would involve someone volunteering a lot of time.
- \* The host country for 2018 could investigate the possibility of producing a souvenir anniversary booklet, at minimal cost, which would contain a small selection of photographs and limited text for distribution at the anniversary.