



# Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

June 2016

EUROPEAN  
**ifye**  
CONFERENCE  
2016  
ESTONIA

**European 58<sup>th</sup> IFYE  
conference  
is coming!!!!**

**First time in Estonia!**

**Sign up  
Now!**

**HURRY!  
DON'T MISS OUT!**

**Deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> of June!!!**

<http://ifye2016.wix.com/ifye2016>

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# Greetings from the Board

Hi IFYE-friends!

Sitting on a train on the way to a conference and then Eurovision Songcontest for the weekend. Thinking about how many new things I going to learn and how many new and old friends I going to meet. I think that is magic!

This summer many of us are going to, in IFYE contexts, new country, Estonia. We are going to learn about a their traditions and their food and meet new and old friends. I think that is magic!

I hope all of you take the chance to every day learn new things and meet new and old friends, because that is magic!

Hope to see you all in Estonia this summer.



All the best

Your president,

Anna Persson

*IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991*

Hello dears,

since the last Newsletter a lot has changed. Therefore I have to announce that I have to skip this year's conference. 2007 was my exchange to Scotland and 2010 I was able to support the conference in Austria. Since then I have participated at every single conference. But this year something very special happened. Our little future IFYE, Paul, is born. He is carrying 100% IFYE blood, as Jens was an IFYE to Finland 2011. So, dear countries, who wants to host him in about 20 years ;-). We are very happy with our sunshine. Even though he had only 2160g (due to unknown reasons) he is doing very well. After just 6 weeks he put on already 1,5 kg. Furthermore, our little family is also very happy to welcome visitors at our place, which is located in North Germany between Oldenburg and Bremen.



Your newsletter editor,

Anita Eckerstorfer

*IFYE from Austria to Scotland 2007*

# New Homepage – Impressions and Photo competition

As already mentioned, we are busy creating and designing the new homepage and would like YOU to support us in that process. On the homepage we would like to use your favourite pictures from last years conferences and other IFYE events.



We will do a kind of slide show on the top of the homepage with the most popular 5 to 10 pictures out of the competition (see below: like the group picture of the Scottish conference).

Please send in max. three pictures which are your favourite IFYE pictures and add the following information:

- Date/Year
- Location or Country
- Type of Event

send to: **ifye\_europe@hotmail.com**



This is a web site for all who has been on IFYE exchange and for everyone who are interested to learn about our history and activity.

NEWS

★ Country reports January 24, 2016

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## European IFYE Alumni Association

Web address: [www.ifye.org](http://www.ifye.org)

e-mail: [ifye\\_europe \(AT\) hotmail.com](mailto:ifye_europe(AT)hotmail.com) (AT)= @

Deadline next issue:

15. August 2016

# European IFYE Conference in Estonia (23.-30.7.2016)

## Your support is required!

*Hi, hopefully we have great time together this summer on IFYE conference. I have idea how we can share more our lives with each other. Please send for me some photos with you (example: you on your ifye trip or you and your animals, or you and your farm, or you and your favourite tractor etc.). I collect all pictures and I will be making a show with them for all of us to enjoy. Please definitely write your correct name and country if you send pictures for me. Also please make pictures in smaller format, otherwise you can't send them with email. My address [cristina.kaska@gmail.com](mailto:cristina.kaska@gmail.com). You are welcome to send me more as 1 picture but not over 10 for one person.*

*All the best,*

*Cristina*

*Estonian IFYE conference*

If you have anymore questions, dont hesitate to write or call.

See you in Estonia 2016!

Reelika Rütli

*Estonian 4H IFYE coordinator*

<http://ifye2016.wix.com/ifye2016>



# Agenda - 58th Annual General Meeting of the European IFYE Alumni

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016, Pärnumaa, Estonia

1. Welcome and Opening of the meeting
2. Introduction of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Apologies for Absence
5. Appointment of the Counters and the Establishment of the number of eligible voters
6. Approval of the Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
7. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
8. Reports on Past IFYE Activities
  - 8.1 Report on the IFYE Conference in Scotland, 2015
  - 8.2 Executive Committee Report
  - 8.3 Country Reports on Special or New Programmes
9. Financial Matters
  - 9.1 Main Report
  - 9.2 Lifetime Members' Fund Report
  - 9.3 Development Fund Report
  - 9.4 Auditor's Report
10. Applications to the Development Fund
11. Budget 2016/17
  - 11.1 Annual Budget
  - 11.2 Membership Fees
  - 11.3 Development Fund
12. Presentation of new website
13. Proposals
  - 13.1 Newcomer rebates
  - 13.2 Clarification of rules on rebates
  - 13.3 Subsidies for newcomers and visitors
14. Future IFYE Conferences
  - 14.1 Switzerland 2017
  - 14.2 Northern Ireland 2018
  - 14.3 England 2020
  - 14.4 Invitations for 2019, 2021 and beyond
15. IFYE 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2018: Subcommittee Update
16. Election of Office Bearers
  - 16.1 President: Anna Persson (Swe): Elected in 2015 for a two-year term.
  - 16.2 1st Vice-President: Andreas Poelzl (Aut): Elected in 2015 for a one-year term.  
Election required.
  - 16.3 2nd Vice-President: A representative from Switzerland to be elected for a one-year term, to be nominated by the Swiss IFYEs.
  - 16.4 Secretary: Linda Steele (NI): Elected in 2015 for a two-year term.
  - 16.5 Treasurer: Ursula Spillman (Swi): Elected in 2014 for a two-year term.
  - 16.6 Newsletter Editor: Anita Eckerstorfer (Aut): Elected in 2015 for a one-year term.  
Election required.
  - 16.7 Auditor: Two Auditors are required, to be nominated by Switzerland for a one-year term.
17. Any Other Business

# Lifelong learning (or lifelong exchange?)

written by Geir Sandvik Hjelen, IFYE from Norway to Costa Rica 1998

**Every one of us has gone abroad, for a shorter or longer time, on our IFYE-exchange. I have only my own stay to compare with. But surely, to be a half year, in another part of the world, sometimes feels like you have moved. How is it really, the day you actually are moving to another country? Even if it is in the same part of the world?**

*Just letting the thoughts drift a little, on how it have been for all those, through the years. That have been forced to move to another country, or another part of the world, for different reasons. Maybe everything had to happen in a few hours, and they had no idea about where they would end up.*

Nine months ago, it was my turn to move. Not to another part of the world, not very far and not because I was forced to. We were still going to be in Europe, even if we were going from Norway in the far north to the more central Luxembourg. In distance, it would be shorter from Bergen where we had been living for the last 14 years, than it is from Bergen and up to the northernmost parts of Norway. And due to the circumstances, we found it a good opportunity. Of course it is a big step to quit the jobs, sell the apartment and try to get rid of lots of stuff that had been collected through some years.



*Mosel river, floating on the boarder between Germany and Luxembourg from Schengen to Wasserbillig, picture taken in Wormeldange*

Carole had a new job to go to, we had found a nice apartment, decided for some new furniture and a new car. And a few weeks after moving it was time for our daughter to begin in school. For me and our son, the plan was to stay home in the beginning. While looking for a job for me and a «creeche» for him. And of course trying to learn the language, learning to know the area and how things are working in another country.



I have been so lucky, that I have had time to make my reflections. Both on things I have experienced, things I have been asked and things I have seen and heard. And it is just to admit that things are very different from going on an exchange. There is for example no date when you have your return ticket, lots of paperwork that have to be done and a need to learn the language better than the tourist level. (Just like on my IFYE-exchange, I learnt fast that it was not enough to be able to order «dos cervecas por favor». You get hungry after a few days.)

One should think that European countries, with a high living standard are working in a similar way. When it comes to the paperwork when moving, that is not so. In Norway, you are supposed to deliver the correct documentation for where you are moving, before you are leaving the country. Including the confirmation from the place you are moving to, that you have a place to live there. In Luxembourg you are not given a

confirmation that you are living there, before you are actually on site. And being used to most of the public offices working with reduced force during the summer holidays in Norway, but things still getting done. Here we met very nice people at the local offices. But the central ones who had to produce the papers we needed, they were closed for summer holidays. Not one week, but three. And then they had to start turning the piles of paper. All in all, it took us close to six months before everything that had to be done with paperwork was done.



*Gëlle fra  
the monument of  
remembrance*

With the languages, it is a totally different story. Moving from Norway, with a strange language that even comes in two different forms, and is spoken in a lot of different dialects, it should not be too bad to come to Luxembourg, where «everyone» speaks the three official languages. My German was all right, and I had a basic understanding in Luxembourgish, so I should be able to manage without the French. The natives are not the problem, but what about the 150.000 or so, «frontaliers» who are coming to the country every day to work. Do you really think that the man standing behind the fish counter in the supermarket speaks anything but French? And the lady on the Chinese restaurant on the other side of the street, yes she speaks both French and Chinese. And the teacher at my Luxembourgish course have done most of the explanations on the

grammar in, exactly French. But I have reached the point where I read and listen to Luxembourgish without too many problems. Mostly my answers come in some kind of mix between many languages, but I know what I want to say. The people I meet at different places who ask what they can talk, are being told that «Lëtzebuergesch get gutt». And I have to admit, that I have tried not to speak Luxembourgish at home, so that my children manage to keep their Norwegian as well.

In Norwegian I find two words starting on sch that I have used, that is the schnauzer and schæfer. In English I can also get them in one sentence, if I say that «We have to schedule a meeting at the school for some schnapps.» Looking in my Luxembourgish dictionary, I find somewhere around 800 words starting with sch. From Schaarchtechbotzer to Schwonk, both words which I actually might have to use, and lots of those in between. Just as an example.



*the view from our window here in Goetzingen*

*But life is continuing. Since moving here things have changed a little. Our two small ones have grown, and there is a new very small one in the family. But we are here, and we are doing good. That is the important thing. And maybe we will see you, somewhere sometime.*

**Geir (with Carole, Sofia, Emil and Linus)**

# Briefing and evaluation meeting 2016 (Germany)

*written by Viktoria Graskemper, IFYE from Germany to Finland 2015*

In mid of March all German 2015 and 2016 IFYEs came together near Oldenburg at Bettina's home for the annual briefing and evaluation meeting. This weekend is not only well-known for the useful information transfer from last-year to this-year-outgoings but also for the joy it brings to meet each other, exchange experiences and to have loads of fun together.

Until Saturday noon everyone arrived and the weekend started with chats during having lunch. In the afternoon we discussed certain topics concerning IFYE exchange. 2015 IFYEs shared their experiences with this-year IFYEs. This year there are seven outgoing, two to Finland and five to the USA. In the evening 2015 IFYEs gave picture presentations of their exchanges. Everyone was so full of impressions and experiences to share that it was hard to keep the schedule. So it was



already about 10 pm when the actual fun-part of the day started (we didn't have fun beforehand, just hard work...). We started with some games and everyone got to know each other even better despite from having loads of fun. The place to be that Saturday evening was the "alarm party" of the local fire brigade. We danced, drank some beer and had a great party evening which was brought to an end with a fatty "Schnitzel" fried by an old lady in an adjoining room of the location (unique at that party) or some home-fried eggs in Bettina's kitchen.

Next morning everyone was a bit crumpled and the day started with a hangover breakfast... But no time to be lazy, right afterwards the 2016 IFYEs showed some pictures they were planning to take to their destination countries to be able to tell about their lives in Germany. Everything was discussed with the whole group. The weekend ended after lunch and everyone travelled back home - tired but happy after a great weekend.



"I spent a great time of three months up north with lots of blueberries ♥, forests, sauna and contrasts to the busy everyday life in central Europe. During my exchange I lived in families located all over Finland. It was a great opportunity to get to know different lifestyles and characters. Now I have three more families abroad I can proudly announce."

# Austrian Outgoing Weekend (9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April 2016)

written by Rosina Gschaider, IFYE from Austria to Finland 2013



You won't believe, but also Austria has an IFYE Outgoing weekend which took place this year in Salzburg.

We had a unique IFYE weekend, besides the amazing view of the mountain skyline and the view to Austria's highest mountain Großglockner. 12 baby IFYE's are going to make their own IFYE experience abroad this year in the countries Canada, Estonia, England, Finland, Australia and the USA. First the newcomers got the main information and afterwards the "old" IFYE members told them some stories from there

IFYE exchanges and gave them also some useful hints for their exchange.

Also the entertainment was important and so we visited an organic farm where we got very interesting information about dairy farming and the history of organic food production. But not only theoretical information did we get, we also got a taste of the very delicious typical Austrian food – spare ribs with dumplings and potatoes as well as "Kasnockn in da Rein". We celebrated the whole evening by some wine and beer.

On the next day the General Assembly of the Austrian IFYE Alumni Association took place. All members got the newest information and also an overview of this year's IFYE Conference in Estonia. At 1 p.m. the General Assembly was finished and so also this IFYE Outgoing weekend was over. Thank you for the organization of this great weekend and we are looking forward to see everybody 2017 again on the IFYE Outgoing Weekend in Carinthia.



## Congrats to...

### Minna Törmäkangas-Borczech

*IFYE from Finland to Switzerland 2004*

Minna and Radek to their 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter Lilja Borczech.

She was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016



### Gerhard Steinberger

*IFYE from Austria to USA 2001*

Gerhard and Anita to their 2<sup>nd</sup> child, Anna.

She was born on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016.



### Anita Eckerstorfer and Jens Huntemann

*IFYE from Austria to Scotland 2007 +*

*IFYE from Germany to Finland 2011*

Anita and Jens to their first son, Paul.

He was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.



### Geir Sandvik Hjelen and Carole Schumacher

*IFYE from Norway to Costa Rica 1998 + IFYE from Luxembourg to USA 1996*

Geir and Carole to their 3<sup>rd</sup> child, Linus.

He was born on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016

### Doris Maurer

*IFYE from Switzerland to Norway/Vietnam 2002/2013*

Doris and Jesper to their first daughter, Freja

She was born on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016.



## Nadia Tassone-Appert

*IFYE from Switzerland to Finland 2011*

Nadia and Salvatore married in Switzerland, May 21st.



Many thanks for all lovely congratulations on our wedding. We were very excited about all the letters and postcards from all over the world. We were able to enjoy a lovely spring day with our dearest.

Thank you!

Nadia and Salvatore



## R.I.P dear IFYE friends

Unfortunately, besides all these happy news, we had to say goodbye to too many of our dear IFYE friends:

### **Take Time**

*Take time to gaze at a sunset sky  
Where colours blaze to dazzle the eye.  
Take time to watch a moonlit sea  
And look in awe at a towering tree.  
Take time to look in the heart of a flower  
Adorned with diamonds from a gentle shower.  
Take time to view a mountain high  
With snowy peak 'gainst bluest sky.*

*Take time to listen to the song of birds  
A paeon of joy without need of words.  
Take time to tell your closest friend  
Your love and loyalty will never end.  
Take time to stop and stand and stare  
At wonders round you everywhere.  
Take time to make time -  
For all too soon there is no more time...*

*Author Unknown*

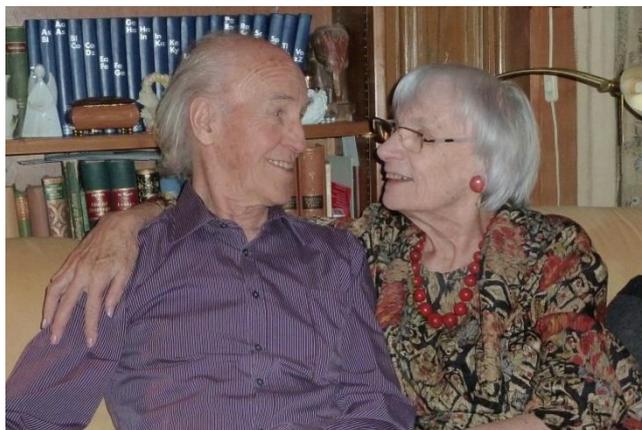
## Rudolf Mumenthaler-Kammer

*IFYE from Switzerland to USA 1951, President of the European IFYE Alumni 1965 - 1966*

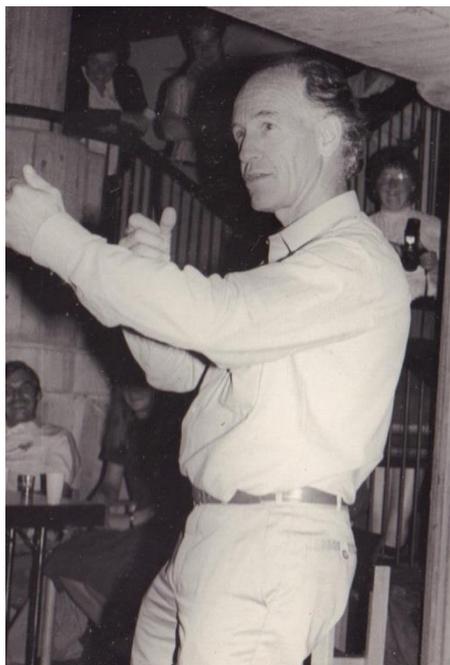
He passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

As we head towards our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary it is, unfortunately, inevitable that we shall lose some of our pioneer IFYEs. Last year it was Piet Dykhuis and, this April, we learned that Rudi Mumenthaler had died. Piet, along with Marianne Geluk, initiated our Association. Rudi played a key part in ensuring that it continued.

The roots of Rudi's invaluable contribution to European IFYE can be traced back to the early 1960s when he accepted the responsibility for organising the 1<sup>st</sup> World Conference. Before the days of instant communication, when letters were sent by snail-mail and took four or five days to reach other European countries and even longer to America, that was no easy task. There were, initially, problems finding sufficient accommodation. During the week some of the meetings were held in marquees and the August weather was cold and wet.



Despite that, the Conference was a success. Had it not been so it is doubtful whether the European Alumni Association would be looking forward to celebrating our Diamond Anniversary and the Americans planning the 11th World Conference.



And any tribute to Rudi must also include Vreny, his wife, as they have always been one of our very special IFYE couples. In 1950 when Rudi was chosen as one of six young men to go on an IFYE trip to the States the Swiss people announced they wanted to send a girl along too. Vreny decided she “might as well go”. And that casual decision led not just to a lifelong IFYE experience but, perhaps even more importantly, to a marriage lasting more than 60 years.

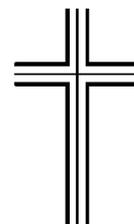
Last November Katharina and I, along with Hans Gfeller, had the privilege of spending a couple of hours with Rudi and Vreny in their beautiful traditional Swiss home. The wine was on the table when we arrived. The chocolate cake followed. And Rudi entertained us with some fascinating IFYE stories. It was one of those uniquely IFYE occasions that we are so lucky to be able to share.

So, in sending our IFYE love to Vreny, let us remember Rudy with gratitude. As Lew Bordeaux wrote in an e-mail to me: he was a great IFYE and a great man.

## **Judith Weber-Fürst**

*IFYE from Switzerland to USA 1989*

Judith passed away on the 10th December 2015.



## **Regula Brandenburger**

*IFYE from Switzerland to Norway 1984*

Regula was a very active and convinced IFYE at national and European level.

She passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016.