

Executive Committee Report 2019

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

The 60th European IFYE Alumni Conference was held in Antrim, Northern Ireland from 21st-28th July 2018. As always the sun shone and well over 200 participants came along to meet old friends and make new ones. Our thanks and appreciation must go to our Northern Ireland hosts who provided an excellent programme, and gave us the opportunity to learn a lot about their beautiful country.

The Executive Committee met for the mid-term meeting in Larvik, Norway in February 2019 and amongst the many items discussed, the following should be of interest:

Development Fund - There has been one application for support from the Development Fund from Finland and the documents are attached for your consideration. Also, for the third year of the special project the Board has agreed support for some of the new participants from Slovenia. The Board also proposes that this project be extended for a further period with a view to inviting more countries to participate and encouraging existing countries to nominate participants.

Website – The Executive Committee, led by Andreas and Nora plan to further explore the possibilities of the website to make it more useful and user friendly. Minutes of meetings, newsletters and country reports will be made available on the website. www.ifye.eu

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 - A letter has been received from the American IFYEs asking IFYE Europe to emphasise the original aims of the IFYE programme. The Board agreed that for most IFYEs these aims remain integral to the programme but that the specifics of each arrangement are currently agreed between the individual countries as a lot has changed in the last 70 years with regard to education, employment etc and this can affect the length of time IFYEs and hosts can commit. It was suggested that one of the discussion workshops at the conference could consider this question at more length and allow members to air their views and discuss the situations in their own countries.

Newsletter – This has been produced 4 times during the last year 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 20CHF for an Annual Membership and 240CHF for a Lifetime Membership. However we suggest that this should continue to be reviewed annually.

There are still some copies of the **60th Anniversary book** available. Please contact Linda if you would like some more copies. A limited number will be available at the conference.

Hosting of Future IFYE Conferences – Arrangements are in place to host the European Conference in Norway (2019), England (2020), Sweden (2021), Finland (2022) and Austria (2023). We are therefore inviting applications from countries to host from 2024 onwards.

Elections will take place for President and Secretary. Formal proposals have been received for Andreas Poelzl (Aut) for the post of President and Mari Kindsbekken (Nor) for the post of Secretary. Should Andreas be elected proposals will be required for the post of First Vice-President. Please give the matter some thought and if you have any further nominations you can forward them to the Board in advance or make them known at the beginning of the conference to allow members time for discussion and consideration during the country meetings.

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

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

Anna Persson