



## Executive Committee Report 2019 - 2022



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

The 61st European IFYE Alumni Conference was held in Hamar, Norway from 10th-17th August 2019. 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 Norway hosts who provided an excellent program and gave us the opportunity to learn a lot about their beautiful country.

The Executive Committee met for the mid-term meeting in Bilsborrow, England: 6th – 8th March 2020 amongst the many items discussed, the following should be of interest:

- **Development Fund** - There was one application from Finland for support to run a homecoming seminar for returning exchanges. A budget was submitted and the proposal to approve the application was passed unanimously.
- They also proposed that the Special Project, to support new organizations or older members from existing organizations, costing a maximum of 1000 CHF per year from the Development Fund, be continued for another 5 years, finances permitting. This was passed unanimously.
- **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 in 2018 from the American IFYEs asking IFYE Europe to emphasize the original aims of the IFYE program.
  - The letter from IFYE USA was discussed and everyone felt that the ideas expressed were already encapsulated in the ethos of IFYE Europe. However, as the exchanges are agreed between individual countries and organizations, and may have to adapt to accommodate local circumstances, the meeting felt that it could not impose strict regulations. As expressed in the Blue Booklet our objective is simply to promote exchanges and assist and support national Alumni Associations. This has already been expressed to IFYE USA via e-mail.
- **Newsletter** – This has been produced 4 times during the year since 2019 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.
- The Board proposed that the newcomers support, from the Sweden Fund, should be continued for the next 5 years, instead of the usual 3 years, finances permitting. This was passed unanimously.

- **Hosting of Future IFYE Conferences** – Arrangements are in place to host the European Conference in England (2020), Sweden (2021), Finland (2022), Austria (2023), Germany (2024), Wales (2025) and Estonia (2026) We are therefore inviting applications from countries to host from 2027 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.
  - The following candidates were duly elected.
  - President: Andreas Poelzl (Aut) – Elected in 2019 for a two-year term.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice –President: Sam Hawkes (NI) – Elected in 2019 for a one-year term.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Christine Cooper (Eng) – Elected for a one-year term.
  - Secretary: Mari Kindsbekken (Nor) – Elected in 2019 for a two-year term.
  - Treasurer: Ursula Spillmann (Swi) – Elected in 2018 for a two-year term.
  - Newsletter Editor: Nora Feyder (Lux) – Elected in 2018 for two-year term.
  - Auditors: Helen Ramsey (Eng) and Christopher Ramsey (Eng), were elected by the English IFYEs for a one-year term.

- **Covid-19 pandemic:**

After all preparations were made for the 2020 conference in England, the Covid-19 pandemic forced changes. The 2020 conference had to be cancelled. Sweden withdrew from hosting the 2021 conference in favor of England. However, the 2021 conference also had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The registered members for the 2020 and 2021 conference in England were informed via an online survey about the possibilities to proceed and an online vote was taken. The situation was in 2020 new to everyone and there were no rules on how to proceed in the event of a pandemic cancellation. A proposal was worked out and put to the vote. This proposal was accepted by a large majority. As the 2021 conference also had to be cancelled, there was another online vote and the proposal already evaluated in 2020 was also accepted for 2021 with a large majority. The proposal was to extend the term of office of the individual Board members by 1 year.

This was implemented for 2020 and 2021.

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

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

Andreas Poelzl