



Executive Committee Report 2023 - 2024



(To be read out at Country Meetings prior to the Annual General Meeting or if agreed in the country meeting only hang out at the conference info board is also fine)

The 63rd European IFYE Alumni Conference was held in Cap Wörth, Velden, Austria from August 27th – September 2nd, 2023. The conference was blessed with some rain and sunshine and a unique location with a private beach on Lake Wörthersee. 304 participants from all over the world came along to meet old friends and make new ones on the 12th World and 63rd European Conference. Our thanks and appreciation must go to our Austrian hosts who provided an excellent program and gave us the opportunity to learn a lot about their beautiful country.

• AGM 2023

The agenda for the AGM 2023 was worked through. There was no application. One proposal came up from the Contact members during the conference. More details will be found below.

Financial Matters: the financial main report was presented, checked by two auditors and approved from the AGM. The budget 2023 / 2024 was presented and approved by the AGM. More details will be found below.

Elections was taken 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 as Secretary.

- The following candidates were duly elected.
 - President: Andreas Poelzl (Aut) Elected in 2023 for a two-year term.
 - 1st Vice-President: Sam Hawkes (NI) Elected in 2022 for a two-year term.
 - Election of 1st Vice President is required in 2024.
 - 2nd Vice-President: Katharina Steinrücke (Ger) Elected in 2023 for a one-year term.
 - Nomination from England for 2024/2025 required.
 - Secretary: Mari Kindsbekken (Nor) Elected in 2023 for a two-year term.
 - Treasurer: Marc Andre Zuber (Swi) Elected in 2022 for a two-year term.
 - Election of Treasurer is required in 2024.
 - Newsletter Editor: Nora Feyder (Lux): Elected in 2022 for a two-year term.
 - Election of Newsletter Editor is required in 2024.
 - Auditors: Peggy Rostin (Ger) and Christine Relke (Ger) were elected by the AGM for a one-year term.
 - Election of two Auditors from England required.

The Executive Committee met for the mid-term meeting in Cloppenburg, Germany 8th – 10th March 2024 amongst the many items discussed, the following should be of interest:

- **Financial Matters** – The financial year closes about CHF 3000.- better than the budget.

The budgets of the accounts from the Executive Committee were not even half used:

- about CHF 940.-less for Newcomer IFYE support.
 - CHF 1300.-less for the Mid-term meeting.
 - With other, smaller, less expenses it results in less expenses of totally CHF 3295.15
 - The cost for the website, webhosting, layout where CHF 340.64 less than the budget
 - Regarding bank charges and bank investments, we closed with a small surplus of CHF 217.78 thanks to the small increase in the value of our investment fund.
 - On the other hand, there is a shortfall of CHF 571.22 in membership fees and CHF 271.08 in the Tombola. The latter comes from the fact, that we needed to buy new raffle tickets.
 - This results in a plus of CHF 2947.04 compared to the budget and an effective plus of CHF 347.04.
 - We spent more money on Newcomers in Finland as planed because of the high number of newcomers, which is a very good sign for the future. Tombola was good in Finland. We sold 11 Rings.
 - **Tombola rings** → 50 new rings 100 tickets each were bought last year. We sold on the 2023 conference over 30 Rings and there for we must buy new tombola rings this year again. 50 rings with 200 tickets each are ordered. This will hopefully cover the needs for the next 4-5 years.
 - **Silver Pins:**
We will probably have enough silver pins for the Conference 2024 but there are not enough for the next years. According to the Blue Booklet, chapter Silver Certificates / Pin and Golden Certificates, the Executive Committee must ensure that we are able to issue the necessary certificates and pins / pendants each year. In this case the executive Committee start the ordering of additional silver pins / pendants. The amount will be considered in the budget for 2024/2025.
- **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** – Correspondence with IFYE US is in place regarding the future of the IFYE Exchange program between Europe and US.
 - **Applications to the Development Fund** – there was no application to the Development fund.

- **Matters arising from the Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting.**

One point came up during the Contact Members meeting on the conference 2023: The discussion was about the conference fee for children under the age of 16 or 18. The Committee has discussed this and came back with the following suggestion: The executive committee's suggestion is to add this to the Blue Booklet in page 4, under Membership, with the wording: Membership fee shall not be collected from children under the age of 16 years attending IFYE conference.

Another point starts some years ago and is still under discussion:

- a. An application from England / Wales from 2019 which was started as an open discussion. People who have not done an IFYE exchange but are members of Rural Routh should also be given the opportunity to become members of the IFYE association. This proposal is based on a change in the law in the UK, which could make it almost impossible to find IFYE host families in the UK in the future, which could result in the possible end of the IFYE program in the UK.

There is a wording in the blue booklet which will covering this point:

“3. Membership

Membership of the Association is open to anyone who has participated in and has been selected to represent their country to another country in International Farm Youth or 4H Exchange type of program and/or are members of National European IFYE Alumni Association.

This entitles the member to voting privileges in the Association and receipt of all the Association Publications.”

A letter was sent to the England and Wales Contact Member on April 2nd and asked for an answer latest by May 15th if England & Wales is happy with this wording or not and if not what else do they want to have written down. → but there was no answer.

- **Any other business:**

We installed the e-mail address lifetimmember@ifye.eu to contact all European lifetime members on the members list to ask if they still want to receive the conference report, and if they want it printed or via e-mail as pdf if the lifetime member is not attending the conference.

- Last year's conference – some points which didn't run well where addressed.
 - i. During the AGM it came across as very unprofessional, with the greeting of the representatives from the rest of the world.
 - ii. It wasn't possible to see the screen during the AGM.
 - iii. It came across that the Austrians wanted to organize everything by them self, it felt like a lot of work to let the rest of Europe to participate. The evening with all the different foods and information about all the European countries.
 - iv. During the farewell dinner it was not well organized, the guests from the local authorities should have been able to go first. There was a very long and unorganized line.

➤ Suggestion to avoid points like this in the future:

To avoid points such as those mentioned above in the future, a working group should be set up to create a framework for what should be taken into account to make a conference.

Specifically, there should also be a frame on how to make a World conference in Europe, so it's doesn't feel like it's a European conference with some extra people from the rest of the world. Could we have a group of people who can help with this, to have the conference better organized next time Europe are hosting World conference.

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

Hosting of Future IFYE Conferences – Arrangements are in place to host the European Conference in Wales / England 2025 and Estonia 2026 Switzerland 2027, Sweden (2028) and Scotland 2029.

- One point of criticism at the 2023 conference was that the planning for the organization of the European conferences goes too far into the future and it would make more sense to limit the planning to a maximum of 3 years. This point should also be discussed in the Contact Member Meeting and in the countries.

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

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

Andreas Poelzl

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