



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni Association

Spring 2003

IFYE USA 2003

Efforts multiplied by 50



Nationally coordinated program on hold.

In the States, the IFYE program is not any longer coordinated at one point. That means, that each European country has to deal directly with 4H offices of each state in the US if they want to establish an exchange.

What are the reasons? What are the plans for the future? Is the situation going to improve?

Read the **official statement** on page 4

*The president
page 2*

*IFYEs in Europe
page 8*

*Torbjörn's
page 10*

Editor's note

It was quite a shock when we realized that the IFYE exchange program to the USA will undergo some serious changes. The war, which had been started on September 11, does not even spare our peaceful organization (page 4).

Life has become a little bit more complicated, but the efforts to keep the programs running were increased on both sides of the Atlantic.

As history proves, a crisis is often the start for something better, and it might be interesting to see how the current situation evolves.

Furthermore many IFYE organizations were mostly focussed on the exchange with the US. Under the current circumstances it might be well worth-while to think about alternatives to the US program. Within or outside Europe.

Examples are given!

Yours



Ludwig

Welcome of the president

Hello dear IFYEs

I am sitting here thinking how lucky I am, living in a country in peace. Where I can do whatever I want whenever I want. Right now many people in this world live in fear. Fear of not getting another meal – of not having a place to sleep – fear of having to leave their houses – of not having their brother or husband return from war, or fear of what is going to happen if they speak their mind.

It is scary to know that this is daily life for some people in this world.

My biggest wish is peace through understanding. Understanding what it does to people to live in constant fear, and why it is important to change that. Understanding that we have different believes – hopes and dreams. Understanding that no matter where we come from – which colour we have – whether we are rich or poor – we all have dreams for our future. Understanding that you can make a difference.

My life philosophy is to make a difference. To make a difference does not have to be something big, but meeting people with a smile and as they are – encouraging them and believing in them is a start. To look for the best in everybody and everything, makes it much easier to find the best.

The IFYE program tries to teach us to have a broader mind and to give people of all sorts a chance. I like the idea behind this, because it makes you a better person if you let the

people around you have an influence on how you live your life.

I do not have a lot of money, and yet I feel rich. My wealth consists in knowing people from all over the world. Each and everyone of them have given me a better understanding of the different aspects of life.

Summer is here and all around the world IFYEs are ready to travel. For some it will be for the first time as IFYEs and they have a lot of new experiences waiting for them. I wish all of them a safe trip and a time filled with many challenging days.

For the rest of us, it is time to meet up at the World Conference in Sigtuna, Sweden in July. I look forward to seeing many of you there, and hope we will have an exciting week in each other's company.

This year the planning of the World conference has been the top priority and many people are involved in the effort to make it a special event that we will all remember for a long time. I look forward to experiencing all the different evenings that are ready for us. A lot of creativity and hard work will surely put into them.

I have attended two meetings in Sweden this past year, and must say that the whole program seems well organised with a variety of activities and study tours to look forward to.

As far as I remember, this year has been the quietest year concerning the Board. This is due to the fact relates to the fact that, at last year's

conference, we decided to limit the agendas at this year's General Assembly. Since it is not only an European conference but also a World conference.

This implies that the board has not had its customary mid-year board meeting.

There however is some work we need to attend to. We will have to elect new members for the board – accept an invitation from a country willing to host the IFYE conference in 2007 and have a report from Switzerland and Latvia on their projects sponsored by the development fund.

As this is a World conference we will take the opportunity to discuss the future of the IFYE program with the other regions. This has become a necessary topic, as there are some discussions going on in the USA on

how to run the IFYE program in the future. It has not been possible for me to get more specific information at this point. I hope I will have more information to give you by the time we meet in Sweden.

I have decided to resign from the board this year, and wish to thank everyone who has contributed and helped me in my work over the past 10 years. I have learned so many interesting things and my understanding of the many various ways of running business has been expanded considerably.

Thank you very much to all of you.

Take care and IFYE greetings from

Helle Bonderup

World IFYE Conference in Sigtuna 2003



SEE YOU SOON!

The Swedish organizing committee (from left to right): Mares, Inga-Lill, Fia, Mona, Sigvard, Peter, Eva

Nationally Coordinated IFYE Program on Hold

The United States IFYE Program, as a nationally coordinated exchange, is on hold for 2003. Extension and 4-H leadership at the United States Department of Agriculture made this decision in January of 2003. At the same time, they requested that the National 4-H Leadership Trust appoint a Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the future of 4-H International programs in the United States.

The National 4-H Leadership Trust, inaugurated in 2000, is made up of key partners in the Extension 4-H system: USDA, State 4-H Leaders, National 4-H Council, Land-Grant Universities, State 4-H Foundations, Extension 4-H Agents Association, Strategic Directions Team, 4-H Youth Directions Council, and Volunteer 4-H Leaders. It is a deliberative body that provides a unified national voice for the stewardship of 4-H Youth Development. It meets regularly to sanction and consider direction for nationally coordinated 4-H programs.

The decision regarding the 2003 IFYE program does not impact state administered programs. Several states are conducting IFYE exchanges in 2003 on a direct state/country arrangement. The IFYE Association is providing assistance in establishing these state/country connections; otherwise, it will not be involved in program administration or operations. The direct state to country arrangement

does pose some challenges, especially related to visas, length of exchanges, and other program coordination. The lack of a national coordinating body for the United States means duplication of effort, etc...

IFYE Association of the USA

It is important to clarify the program role of the IFYE Association. The IFYE Association does not play a role in administering current programs. All programs are administered by participating states in connection with cooperating countries. The only role USDA agreed to was our assistance in the establishment of state/country connections. We have arranged a group insurance policy as outlined above for those states who wish to use it. It is hoped that IFYE and all 4-H International alumni will assist states with their programs.....and that they will encourage state participation in all 4-H International education and exchange programs. Due to some questions that have been raised, it is important to point out that 4-H International education and exchange programs are programs of the Cooperative Extension/4-H System; they are not IFYE Association or IFYE Foundation programs.

The following message was sent to Extension Directors and State 4-H Leaders in January 2003 by Dr. Cathann A. Kress, Director, Youth Development, National 4-H Headquarters, USDA/CSREES:

«Providing safe and quality experiences for youth is one of the most important priorities for National 4-H Headquarters, and it is with that priority in mind that we have mutually made the decision with the IFYE As-

sociation to implement a one-year hold on USDA involvement with the International Four-H Youth Exchange Program.

This decision was not made lightly and we regret that for some youth, this decision will limit their ability to participate in an extremely valuable opportunity. However, after consulting with some of you in state leadership roles, we also believe that this decision is best for the safety of youth, and to ensure that in the future Extension and 4-H International Programs can continue to offer quality international experiences for youth.

This year, we face some unique challenges that have led to this decision. Clearly, current national events have raised issues within the federal government related to homeland security and additional steps needed to ensure safety of American youth abroad. Additionally, we have concerns about our ability to safely return youth should an emergency arise. Recent participants have also raised concerns related to the screening and placement procedures and how we monitor those procedures which have not yet been fully addressed. We also face fiscal realities nationwide that impact the administration of the IFYE Program.

As a result, our recommendation is to request that the National 4-H Leadership Trust appoint a Task Force to review the entire 4-H International Program area - the current needs of programs in operation such as the IFYE Program, as well as future directions and how our system can best provide the leadership and guidance needed to sustain these programs. This Task Force would then make recommendations back to the Leadership Trust and National 4-H Headquarters by early October.

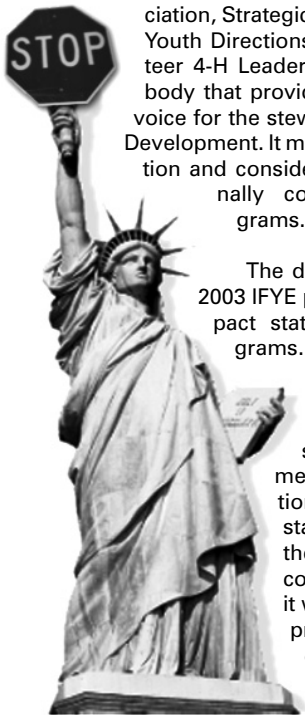
States which have ongoing programs

and are planning their own exchange efforts are not impacted by this decision (Michigan/Poland, Wisconsin and Midwestern states/Australia, etc.). Mel Thompson, President, IFYE Association, has indicated that he would be happy to consult with states regarding possible connections based on the expressions of interests from countries and his past involvement with programs. This is also going to impact countries which have already selected participants or are in the process. Mel has also indicated his willingness to help resolve this situation as best as we possibly can at this time.

We regret that this decision could not have come earlier to be more convenient for all of you, however, there are a number of issues related to this decision and we wanted to fully consider all the implications before making this type of decision. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we try to ensure the best possible experiences for youth.»

A major consideration in the decision resulted when the U.S. Department of Agriculture advised that they could no longer issue the required documents for visas for inbound participants. This results, in part, from the recent participant and state concerns referenced in Dr. Kress's message to states. All of this relates to Exchange Program Guidelines provided by the Council on Standards for International Exchange Travel (CSIET) which the 4-H program endorses for its international exchange programs. INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) and homeland security concerns and oversight also impact these decisions.

Though the decision referenced the



2003 IFYE program, the timing of the decision and the National 4-H Leadership Trust process will impact the 2004 IFYE program as well. Task Force recommendations are due this fall. Decisions on the recommendations and an approved plan for the future will still have to be finalized and set in motion. Such a process takes a considerable amount of time.

Since the United States IFYE program is an Extension/4-H program, it must be closely aligned with Extension/4-H goals and objectives and the program must be conducted under their guidance and leadership.

Cecile Babich Morrow
cdintl@cox.net

Business at the General Assembly this summer

Proposal to appoint Honorary Members

At last year's General Assembly and Contact Members' meeting the following proposals were made.

First proposal

To become an honorary member of the European IFYE Alumni Association you should:

Have undergone an extraordinary effort to maintain or develop the IFYE program on either National or International level.

Be a person who is not a member of the IFYE organisation who is doing or has done, a great deal to maintain or develop the IFYE program on either National or International level.

Have been on an IFYE exchange for 50 years or longer.

The person, who is to be made an honorary member, should be proposed by the country, which they represent as an IFYE, or by the country in which they help to develop or maintain the IFYE program. Such proposals should be made to the General Assembly, on the same terms as any other proposal (three months in advance).

An appointed honorary member should, if present, be recognised at the General Assembly.

Second Proposal

It was proposed that instead of appointing honorary members:

A gold pin should be presented when an IFYE member has reached their 40th Anniversary of their exchange program

Or

A gold pin should be presented when an IFYE member has reached their 50th Anniversary of their exchange program

Elections

This year the following positions are up for election and reelection:

- President** – presently Helle Bonderup (DK)
- 2nd vice President** from Scotland (for one year)
- Secretary** – presently Avril Herdman (FIN)
- Convenor** – presently Martyn Quayle (IoM)
- Two auditors** from Scotland (for one year)

IMPORTANT

Membership Fee

Membership of the European IFYE Alumni Association is open to all who have participated in a long term IFYE exchange program and / or are members of their national IFYE association.

Membership Fee	Annual	CHF	20.-
	Lifetime	CHF	240.-

The fee can be transferred to our bank or you can pay it at the conference. Please pay the membership fee (by bank) before June 1st!

Bank: UBS AG
CH-8098 Zürich / Switzerland

Account Nr.: European IFYE Alumni Association
IBAN CH05 0023 0230 2807 99M3 H
or 230-280799.M3H
Swift Code: UBSWCHZ H80A



Please inform the treasurer immediately by mail or e-mail about your address when you pay your membership fee!

Treasurer: Salla Rahnasto
Savelantie 3A3
FIN – 00720 Helsinki / Finland
salla.rahasto@pp.inet.fi



Application: European IFYE Alumni Association

Ms Mrs Mr

Name **First name**

Street

Box

Country **ZIP** **Town**

Tel: **e-mail:**

IFYE to **year**

Membership annual lifetime

The European IFYE Activities

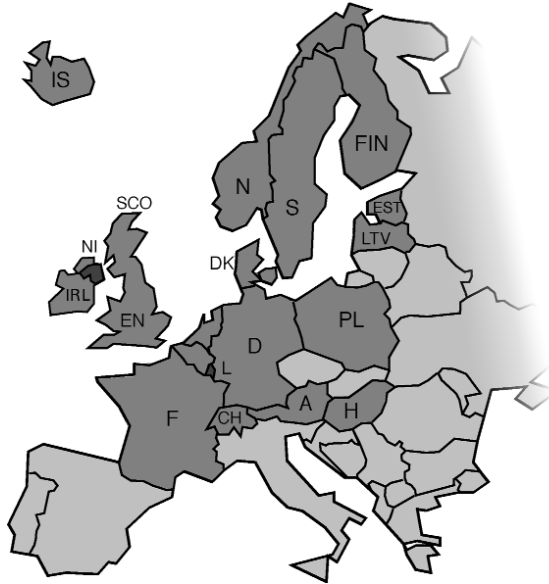
Many of you might have been wondering, how active the IFYE program is in all the different European countries.

In this edition you'll find an overview of European countries and how many IFYEs they are sending (OUT) and receiving (IN). Unfortunately not all countries have responded to my request for data and there will be again another attempt to collect more precise data next year.

Nonetheless this first collection provides some worthwhile grounds of discussion for Sigtuna's seminar concerning the future of the IFYE program.

Sidenote:
The Netherlands and Belgium have no active exchange running anymore. France is about to reorganize its exchange program and «will be back» next year. Scotland has an exchange with Ireland running (no further details).

European IFYE Territory



Exchanges outside Europe



Short Conclusion 2003

The European countries sent out about 100 IFYEs and received about 75.

Within Europe stayed ca 50 IFYEs.

About 50 European IFYEs went «overseas» and about 30 IFYEs came to Europe.

(data might be not correct)

The European IFYE Activities 2003

	Total	6	3	1	1	14	8	2	3	13	10	5	4	6	0	13	13	11	4	11	3	3	22	15	
United States (USA)		3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	4	6	0	1	1	7	4	-	-	1	2	2	
Taiwan (TW)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	
Switzerland (CH)		-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Sweden (S)		-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Scotland (SCO)		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Poland (P)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Norway (N)		-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	
Northern Ireland (NI)		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
New Zealand (NZL)		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Luxembourg (L)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Latvia (LTV)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Jamaica (J)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Iceland (IS)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hungary (H)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Germany (D)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
France (F)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Finland (FIN)		2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	
Estonia (EST)		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
England (EN)		1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	
Denmark (DK)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Canada (CA)		-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Costa Rica (CR)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	2	2	
Australia (AUS)		-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	
Austria (A)		-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	
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	CH	OUT	IN					OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN

Beating up each other

Dear IFYE-friends

My subject for this newsletter is violence among the young. I have reached an age, at which I start to express my distress over young people and their behaviour, claiming that I used to behave differently.

I was not a very brave boy and I did not fight at all, if I could avoid it. Nonetheless I still remember the rules. I never saw them written down nor heard them told from any adult person. These rules were probably children's rules, told by the stronger or older ones to the weaker or younger children. I cannot help wonder what made the stronger children tell the weaker ones that they were not allowed to use their power against them. Listen to these examples:

You are a coward if you;

- Hit someone who is weaker
- Hit a girl (even if some girls are stronger than yourself)
- Hit someone who is younger
- Hit someone who is smaller
- Hit someone who is lying down
- Hit someone who is wearing glasses
- Hit someone with sticks, stones or other weapons
- Hit someone in the back
- Throw things like sticks or stones
- Attack someone from behind
- Start a fight
- Fight two against one

You are a girl if you:

- Kick someone
- Pull someone's hair
- Scratch someone

Looking at this list of the rules, you can put all rules together in one: «It is not allowed to fight against someone that you can beat.»

It is obvious to me nowadays that these rules were made up in order to avoid any fighting and to protect the younger or weaker children from the stronger ones. As you can see, girls could use some tricks, despised by boys, without losing status, possibly because they already had a lower status, being girls.

It is amazing that these rules were respected at all. There were no punishments involved. I think there was a kind of invisible status ranking in every group of children. You could be highly or lowly ranked by for whatever strange reason respected by the other children in the group. You could say that we had a status list with points, not really counted by anyone. If you behaved badly or broke these rules you lost status points. You could not gain status by fighting, unless your opponent was stronger or breaking these rules himself.

I have had the privilege to work with children and young people in both Sweden and Switzerland, and I have talked to them about these ancient rules. They found it both amusing and interesting, but totally unrealistic. Today young people can easily gain respect by beating someone else up. It does not matter which method they use. Status, respect, fear and violence seem to be closely connected in young people's minds. If you beat someone up, he will be afraid of you and show you the respect you demand of him. You gain status that way.

The old system does not exist any longer among young people. It must have disappeared over the past 20-30 years. I

think that is a pity. Especially as I aim to adapt the system to the adult world. All armies and weapons could be less expensive and less dangerous if it were known to everyone that you lose status if you hit someone who is weaker. 20-30 years ago, the most popular heroes were those, who tried to avoid violence. They only made use of violence, in fair and controlled ways, against obvious evil enemies. Nowadays, young people have many kinds of heroes with different ways of dealing with violence. My guess is that there is a connection between new, less noble heroes and a new way of dealing with violence.

My wife, who is Swiss, explained to me that she experienced the same rule system here in Switzerland, as I did in Sweden. It would be very interesting to learn from you, if you lived by the same system of rules in your countries and cultures.

Yours

Torbjörn
t.lyren@bluewin.ch

WANTED

Finnish IFYE-mugs

Were you at the IFYE-energy Conference in Finland in 2000? Do you still have one of the turquoise-blue mugs that were made especially for the conference?

I've got three of them, but I would love to have some more. So if you can spare yours, please bring it to the World Conference in Sweden or (even better) send it to me.

We could have our own little IFYE-exchange: How about a mug for some Swiss chocolate, a mug for a choice of balloon animals... (no indecent offers accepted)?

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!
Katrin Lyrén

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Calvin and Hobbes



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Official **deadline**
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Newsletter
1st September 2003



Of course, articles which arrive at any
date will be published as well!

WEB-ADDRESSES:

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<http://ifyeurope.tripod.com>

IFYE world conference
in Sigtuna / Sweden 2003
www.ifye.org