



NEWSLETTER

October 2024

European IFYE Alumni



Content of the Newsletter

- o Greetings from the President
- o IFYE conference report 2024 – Germany
- o In memory of Sandra Lont
- o Ramsays on Tour: Driving to IFYE Conferences
- o New European IFYE Map from IFYE Swiss
- o Invitation to 65th IFYE European Conference 2025 - England

Greetings from the President

Dear IFYEs,

I would like to start with an Austrian “Servus”.

In July, we had the European Conference in Cloppenburg. This conference was a unique event. What our German IFYE friends organized here was unique. Starting with the accommodation, the food, the warmth of the people and the activities were simply top class.



I was overwhelmed by what was on offer. Yes, at the closing ceremony it has always been usual in the past for the President to speak the last word and declare the conference closed, but the closing ceremony was so beautiful and overwhelming for me that I decided at short notice not to destroy this beautiful moment with my talk. I personally thanked the German president, Jens and Bettina for the organizing team for the great conference. It may have been irritating for some that the President did not have the last word, but it was a conscious decision taken at very short notice so as not to destroy the beauty of the moment. Once again, I would like to thank the German IFYE organization for this great conference.

At the AGM, important positions on the Board of Directors had to be filled. Sam was re-elected as First Vice President and Marc-Andre as Treasurer. Following Nora's leave, we are delighted to welcome Kelly to the Board as Newsletter Editor. After 2020, Christine is back on the Board as Second Vice President.



Summer, and with it the so-called vacation season, is over and autumn is approaching. My personal highlight this summer was a trip with my family through California, Nevada and Arizona. It was a unique experience for us. Our trip took us from Los Angeles via Monterey, Yosemite National Park, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Hollywood, San Diego and Carlsbad back to Los Angeles.



We were able to watch racing cars in Laguna Seca. The aquarium in Monterey was totally overwhelming, where you can observe our sea creatures in an almost natural environment. In Yosemite, we hiked to the Yosemite waterfalls and did the Half Dome Hike. It was exhausting, but unique. Las Vegas enchanted us with its glitter and the Hoover Dam is a monumental structure built in the 1930s. The workers and engineers did a tremendous job on this structure.



The imposing landscape of the Grand Canyon impressed us, as did the coastal landscape of California. In Hollywood, the Walk of Fame was one of our destinations and we spent a great day at San Diego Sea World. We tried our hand at surfing on the beach in Carlsbad. It was a great trip and the sparkle in the children's eyes showed me that they had a great time too.

In about two months, we'll be celebrating Christmas again and the year will be coming to an end. 2024 was exhausting and beautiful for me. At the beginning of the year, I was still struggling and recovering from open heart surgery, but I was getting better every week, for which I am very grateful. This event showed me how quickly my time on this wonderful planet could come to an end, but I won't be getting rid of this planet that quickly. There is still too much to explore and experience. I also want to visit my IFYE friends around the world and attend the next World Conference in New Zealand. I have already started to save up the necessary funds and am already looking forward to it.

I wish you a beautiful autumn and I am already looking forward to the next newsletter where I will contribute a few lines again.

Until then, all the best and stay healthy.

Greetings

Andi

IFYE Conference Report 2024 - Germany

Written by Uta Henningsen

The IFYE European Conference kicked off in style at the Catholic Academy in Stapelfeld at the beginning of August, with 160 participants from 12 different countries in attendance! All IFYEs were greeted with a refreshing bottle of water, a handy bag, a trusty safety vest, and a stylish short cup to wear around their neck. This was followed by an amazing reunion with new and old friends, and the incredible "IFYE spirit" was everywhere you looked! On Sunday, the fun began with photos and the official welcome, followed by a church service. In the afternoon, all participants set off in different groups on a typical local "Kohltour," with a handcart full of drinks and games, all groups walking a circular route. The fun didn't stop there! Different games were played again and again, and the short cup was also used from time to time. After this activity, the last dams were broken, and the evening was capped off with a blast at a fun hit party in the specially erected tent!



On the following day, all participants had the incredible opportunity to take the bus to East Frisia and the Knock pumping station. There, they visited beautiful gardens and learned about the local farming community. On Tuesday, most of the participants stayed on the academy grounds, where they enjoyed a variety of exciting activities! And there's so much more! Folk dancing, outdoor games, archery, a talk by Lieselotte about your exchange, theater, and so much more! In the evening, all the IFYEs got together for an amazing sing-along with a fantastic singer! The next day, everyone took buses to some amazing places! Some went to the Mayer shipyard and Berentzen in Emsland, while others went to Bremen or Bremerhaven. In Bremen, they visited the Klimahaus, and in Bremerhaven, they went to the Emigration Museum. Guess what? At least one group had a delicious fish sandwich for lunch! In the evening, we had an amazing 80s/90s party with tons of people dressing up! On Thursday morning, the general assembly took place, including a raffle. At lunchtime, everyone went to the Cloppenburg museum village, where they also had lunch. Most people spent the rest of the day enjoying the beautiful weather before having a barbecue in the evening and later a campfire.



On Friday, the IFYEs had a blast visiting each other's homes. They also had a great time at the insect farm, outdoor pool, cycling, and exploring the city center. In the early evening, all IFYEs gathered in their finest attire for a champagne reception, a farewell ceremony, and a delicious farewell dinner. Everyone danced, chatted, and had a blast until the wee hours of the morning!



It's always tough to say goodbye, but the excitement of seeing each other again makes it all worth it. One thing is for sure: it's not "goodbye" but "see you soon!"

In memory of Sandra Lont

March 23, 1966 – August 24, 2024

Once an IFYE, always an IFYE, as the saying goes. If that applies to anyone, it's certainly Sandra.

IFYE to Switzerland in 1984

Sandra embarked on her journey to Switzerland full of enthusiasm, without knowing that this trip would mark the beginning of a profoundly significant chapter in her life.



Her first European IFYE conference was in France in 1990. Many would follow where you always would see Sandra with a smile on her face, full of interest in others and the various parts of the program. After a few years, she also took on the role of Dutch contact person for the European IFYE alumni organization.

Board Member of the Association of Former IFYE Participants in the Netherlands

One thing led to another, and through the enjoyable gatherings of the Dutch former participants, she eventually became a board member, a position she would hold until 1997.

IFYE to Costa Rica July 19 to December 15, 1991

This second IFYE period also became an unforgettable experience for Sandra. Thanks to social media, Sandra has remained in contact with her host families and friends she made there.

The contacts with the Stichting Uitwisseling in Bergen, responsible for the IFYE-program in the Netherlands, eventually led to a job, where Sandra was responsible for placing foreign agricultural students, including the IFYE program.

Sandra's (international) connections then led to a job at Rural Youth Europe (formerly known as ECYF4HC). Sandra became the general secretary and was based in Bonn. She was the sole employee and thus responsible for everything: organizing the spring seminar, the Rally, a fall seminar, publishing a magazine, representing the organization at other European youth organizations, and securing European funding.

After traveling around the world, Sandra always enjoyed returning to the former island Wieringen, where she was born. Together with her partner Gert-Jan Numeijer, she started their family in 1997 with the birth of their daughter Inga, followed by the birth of their daughter Meike in 2001. From the very first day, Sandra was a particularly dedicated and loving mother.

The Dutch IFYE program stopped in 2001. Sandra has since then, thanks to her sense of responsibility, stepped up as the manager of the IFYE archive and address database and as the contact person for the annual National IFYE Day. This role suited her perfectly as a connector, administrative ace, and careful guardian of the IFYE ideals.

A final IFYE-like experience for Sandra was in August 2021 in Peru, when she spent a few weeks volunteering with the Mama Alice project <https://www.mamaalice.org/> run by former Dutch IFYE Frederique Kallen. The educational/work project aims to assist children with school, family support, neighbourhood help, healthcare, and financial aid. Sandra thoroughly enjoyed her time in Peru and has since occasionally done translation work for the organization.

Sandra will be sadly missed by all her IFYE-friends around the world.

Ramsays on Tour: Driving to IFYE Conference

Written by Helen Ramsey

Over the last couple of years, Colin and I have made our Conferences a bit more of a journey, by driving.

The 2023 World Conference was our first big adventure, we had driven in France before but not undertaken such a trip.

We took Le Shuttle to Calais. From where we drove to the Champagne region and spent a night in an attic Airbnb. After that we drove down to stay with Jacques Oliver near Geneva. He showed us his vineyard and told us about his

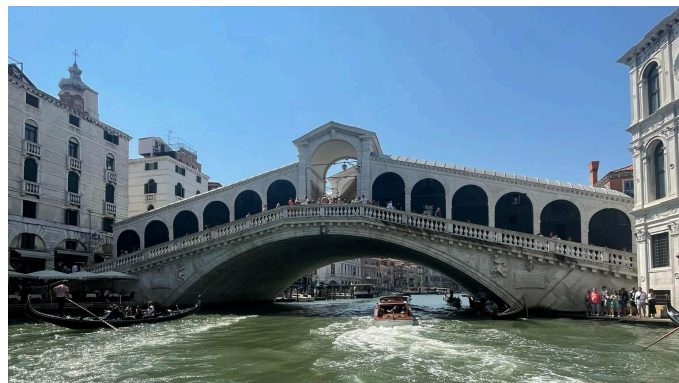
family's long history of wine making. We had tea in the mountains, watching the sun set over Lake Geneva, before listening to the cow bells in the dark.



The next day we drove through the Alps to the historic city Bergamo in Italy. We took the funicular railway up to the old city for dinner. It was only a couple of hours to Venice and its water taxis/buses and of course gondolas.



We visited St Marks Square and Cathedral and wandered down the narrow streets. After a couple of days, we headed up to Velden and the Austrian Conference.



The return leg was quite eventful, when we got caught up in a Hells Angel Chapter on the autobahn... but that's another story. That day we had breakfast in Austria, lunch in Germany and dinner in France.

This year, our travels took us through Belgium and Netherlands our way to Cloppenburg in Northern Germany. We had a night in Bruges, where Colin sampled a large beer, and we had dinner by the side of a canal. Then we drove through the Netherlands, bypassing Amsterdam to drive along the causeway connecting Holland to Friesland, almost 20 miles. We stayed in Groningen and wandered through the markets and squares, before heading on to the conference.



Our return leg was more direct, after calling into Arnham, to see the bridge, we took up Lucie and Ad Verstijnen's kind offer to stay with them in Haaren. We enjoyed their hospitality and seeing where they live. All to soon it was timer to head for Le Shuttle....

We'll be driving again next year, but it won't be quite so far...!



New European IFYE map from IFYE Swiss

If you are interested to participate in an IFYE-like couch surfing, you are welcome to fill in this form to be shown on a map with all the possible places for other IFYEs to see.

Enter Only the zip code, city and your first name will be displayed on the map, not your personal data (see remarks "not public").

This information will be given to the traveller who asks for the information directly from the administrators (currently the IFYE-Swiss board).

If you would like to change the current information about you, check the link in the confirmation e-mail that you have got after filling in the form (check the spam). If you have any further questions or remarks about this project, write an e-mail to maps@ifye.ch



IFYE Local Guide / Couch surfer Map



Register as Guide / Host

Invitation to England

65th IFYE European Conference 2025

Where: Castle Head Field Studies Centre, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria,
England

(English Lake District)

When: Sat 2nd August 2025 at 16:00 hours to
Friday 8th August 2025 at 10:00 hours

Bookings open:

1st February 2025 (European IFYE members)

1st March 2025 (Rest of the world)

Bookings close:

1st April 2025 (or earlier if fully booked)

Email: IFYE2025@yahoo.com

Looking forward to welcoming all of you!



Deadline next issue: 15th December 2024

European IFYE Alumni Association

web address: www.ifye.eu

e-mail: newsletter@ifye.eu

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