



EFIL Biennial Report

**General Assembly
Vienna, Austria 2011**

Report about EFIL and its initiatives and activities

2009-2010



European Federation for Intercultural Learning
The Federation of AFS Organisations in Europe



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EFIL
Avenue Emile Max 150
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Editor:

Paul Claes

Pictures:

EFIL
Member organisations

Layout:

Charlotte Klinting

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Introduction

Foreword

Four years ago in Lisbon, EFIL members approved the Federation's Strategic Directions. Thanks to a stable secretariat, an active board and committed members, EFIL has been able to meet the challenges of those strategic directions, including major successes such as annual editions of our main projects, now referred to as EFIL's flagship projects: the Europe-wide Day of Intercultural Dialogue, the Volunteer Summer Summits and the European Citizenship Trimester Programme with the closing camp in Brussels. Other achievements since Lisbon include the successful "Worldoscope" and "EurAfrican Partnership for Change" projects, the production of the DVD "When Cultures Interact", the Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility pilot project, the international educational conference "Moving beyond Mobility" in Berlin, not to forget the establishment of new partner organisations in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina and Serbia.

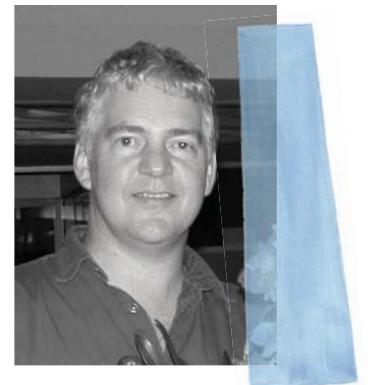
The presence of the European Institutions puts EFIL in a unique position, providing tremendous opportunities to strengthen AFS through fund-raising for training events, seminars, meetings, study sessions, projects and programmes, aimed at volunteers and staff of our Member Organisations, this way strengthening the capacity of existing partners and the position of AFS as a leader in intercultural learning, by increasing public recognition, credibility and visibility for AFS.

It should be mentioned that the fragility of the Federation remains an area of concern, as few member organisations are growing, and quite a number of the members currently face difficulties of some kind. On the other hand, the Federation is expanding and EFIL's membership is growing, with six new partner organisations applying for membership status at the 2011 General Assembly.

In 2011, EFIL is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Forty years ago, at the Lake Mohonk AFS World Congress, the founding assembly of EFIL (then called AFS Europa) took place and 19 partners approved the by-laws of the European Federation of AFS organisations. Over 40 years, EFIL has played a substantial role in the evolution of AFS, and introduced new programmes and new topics for the benefit of the whole network: multinational exchanges, training of volunteers and staff, the ambition of being present in all cultural areas of the world (incl. Eastern Europe, Africa), the focus on educational content, etc. Over the past four decades, EFIL has played a role beyond expectation in fighting a battle to keep the topic of intercultural exchanges afloat and to influence the decisions that were taken by the European institutions over the years, by participating in the political processes under way in Europe in the field of educational exchanges and citizenship building.

Today the intercultural arena is much more complex and articulate than 40 years ago and defining the territory and specificity of EFIL is more difficult. Mobility for mobility's sake will not be enough. The pedagogical aim and content of exchanges will receive more attention. We must learn to dialogue with our educational systems and to be a reliable partner in this change process. Our main concern, as a European organisation, has always been to promote opportunities for cultural confrontations among students, families, schools and youth in general. At the same time we are a part of a larger group of responsible citizens who feel a sense of urgency in our societies in Europe, confronted with the realities of cultural and economical integration, mass migration and minority rights. Indeed Europe needs a new brand of good citizens and our work may be a step in the right direction.

Last but not least, EFIL would like to extend a sincere word of thanks to the numerous people that have supported the Federation over the past years, sparing no time or effort to keep things moving, help us think of directions for the future and help us improve our services: the staff and boards of the national offices and of AFS International, members of the EPOT and TAB, and all the wonderful AFS volunteers across Europe who participated in our activities and helped us with the coordination of events as members of the preparatory teams, support teams or trainer teams.



Roberto Ruffino, Chair of Board of Directors

Paul Claes, Secretary General of EFIL

European Federation for Intercultural Learning

EFIL, the European Federation for Intercultural Learning, is the umbrella organisation of 21 AFS Organisations in Europe. As a global education network, EFIL supports its members in establishing programmes that bridge the gap between the training provided by most educational systems and the intercultural skills and global perspectives needed to foster a harmonious world. EFIL promotes intercultural understanding among countries, organisations and citizens, and actively helps its members to operate within the European environment.

EFIL's activities revolve around four main service areas: networking and lobbying, training and sharing, projects and programmes, new partner development.

All of EFIL's activities are implemented through a combination of volunteer and staff resources and are carried out jointly by EFIL and its Member Organisations.

AFS is a non-profit, volunteer based, educational organisation offering exchanges for close to 13,000 young people in over 80 countries around the world. AFS traces its roots back to volunteer ambulance drivers who provided their services during the World Wars. In 1947, acting from a belief that mutual understanding makes war impossible, they set up AFS Intercultural Programs to start youth exchanges.



Overall objective

Contribute to peace and justice in a diverse world threatened by inequity and intolerance, by promoting intercultural understanding and sensitivity among European and other countries, organisations and citizens, hereby endorsing the ends of AFS International

Specific objectives

1. Be a competent partner in Europe in the educational field, with substantial expertise and experience in intercultural learning.
2. Actively help Members to operate within the European environment and to develop their organisations in order to ultimately support and implement the AFS Mission and Strategic Plan.

Expected result #1.1

Confirm and strengthen EFIL's position as a key player in European and EU exchange programmes and projects, and in non-European countries if supported by the EU institutions.
(visibility - leadership and lobbying - external partnerships and networking)

Expected result #1.2

Promote intercultural learning to develop global responsible citizenship, this way strengthening the profile of EFIL as a leader in intercultural learning and global education.

Expected result #2.1

Increase the capacity of European Member Organisations to grow with quality and empower them to deal with the new European environment.
(training and sharing - development of programmes - information and communication)

Expected result #2.2

Increase European programme activities by developing new Partners or representations in various European Union Member States (incl. EAA countries), and secondly in non-EU countries if supported by the European institutions.

Projects and programmes

Volunteer Summer Summit

Inspired by volunteer gatherings in the '60ies, the initial idea of having a Volunteer Summer Summit was to gather a large number of AFS volunteers from all over Europe to share and improve everyone's practices in volunteer work and training. Along with this great learning experience came a huge motivational impact that catches all participants. Started as a pilot event in 2008 in Vigy (France) the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit visited Istanbul (Turkey, 2009) and Zanka (Hungary, 2010), with ever growing numbers of participating members.

Objectives of the Summer Summit are to provide an intercultural experience, give opportunities for networking and sharing among a growing number of participants and conduct workshops on both advanced and basic levels.

The workshops at the Volunteer Summer Summit are conducted by the European Pool of Trainers, EFIL's own pool of European volunteers, who have been trained to facilitate workshops using non-formal learning methods. The content is broad and links to the internal work of AFS, intercultural learning, volunteer work and personal development through volunteering.

A community charity project is part of every Summit. It allows volunteers to promote the ideas of AFS and provide support for the local community.

The Summit attracts around 250 participants, age 16-70, from more than 30 different countries - all active volunteers of AFS with the desire to build long lasting networks and participate in best practice sharing.

VSS 2009, Turkey

In 2009 the participants experienced four days of learning and sharing in a very inspiring environment. That year's focus was Innovation and Creativity in Intercultural Exchanges. Participants enjoyed a wide range of educational workshops, a project addressing the local community, Turkish Bazaar, fun events and were given opportunities for best-practice sharing. A highly experienced group of volunteers provided the participants with learning and sharing sessions during the Summit. The event was supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.



VSS 2010, Hungary

In 2010, enthusiastic volunteers gathered at Hungary's Lake Balaton in Zanka for EFIL's third Volunteer Summer Summit. This year's theme was "Intergenerational Learning", which attracted participants of all ages, all young at heart.

The level of workshops provided by the EPOT was higher than ever and participants could enjoy a community project with local children, Hungarian folk dancing, Hungarian market, international evenings and the great surroundings of Lake Balaton.



Projects and programmes

Intercultural Dialogue Day

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, and more than 60 years of AFS intercultural experiences, prompted EFIL to declare the 26th of September 2008 its first Intercultural Dialogue Day. In 2009 and 2010, building upon the same tradition and promoting the same values, EFIL and its member organisations across Europe once again celebrated what has now become an annual event on each last Thursday of September: Intercultural Dialogue Day, or the celebration of culture itself that comes to the streets and reaches out to participants and unaware passers-by inviting them to the surrender to the spirit and join in the activities, reflections and festivities.

On 24 September 2009, and nicely fitting in the framework of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, volunteers of no less than 20 partner organisations made a joint effort to set up activities in some 200 locations all over Europe, including creativity workshops, school activities, youth debates, panel discussions, concerts, movie screenings, street entertainment, competitions, markets, flashmobs, etc. The events gave AFS and intercultural exchanges in general a lot of much wanted visibility and publicity, reaching out to youngsters in Europe to convince them of the benefits of intercultural learning through studying and living abroad with a host family. EFIL has compiled a selection of activities of the 2009 Intercultural Dialogue Day in a colourful 24-pages booklet (to be found on our website).

Following the success of the first two editions, 30 September 2010 saw the third edition of Intercultural Dialogue Day. Once again all over Europe, AFS volunteers set up workshops, exhibitions, public presentations and speeches, international web events, seminars and conferences, photo/song/poster/movie competitions and quizzes, petitions, dance and sport events, creative meals and picnics, getting a lot of media coverage celebrating and promoting intercultural dialogue and diversity.



Projects and programmes

EurAfrican Partnership for Change

Details of the project

- Duration: 01.11.2009 - 31.10.2010
- Partners: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Portugal, South Africa and Spain
- Focus areas: Programme development and fundraising, volunteer development and training, intercultural learning in an African context
- What happened: Feasibility studies and volunteer training during three country visits and an international closing seminar



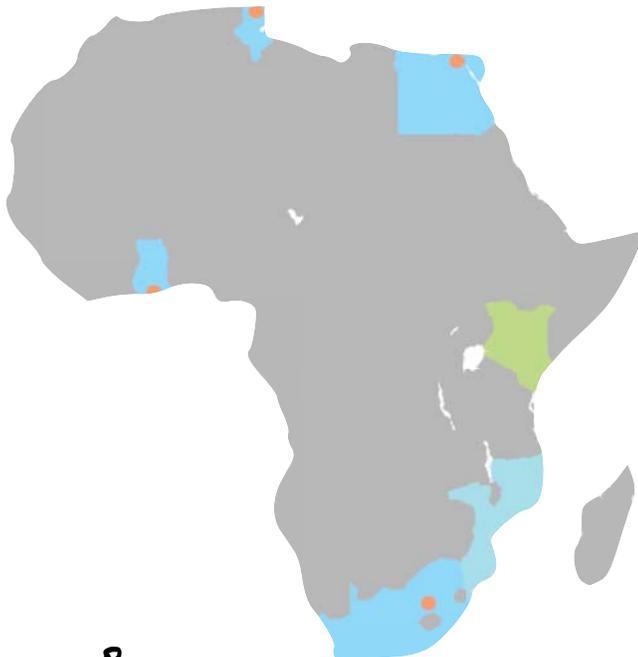
Outcomes



International Seminar, Vienna

The project has put the African partners in the center of the network's attention, and the much wanted and needed visibility for our African partners will lead to a renewed or increased trust and interest of the AFS network partners in exchanges with Africa, to a continued momentum of developing AFS in Africa by AFS INT with the support of partners all around our global network, and to the further motivation as well as professional development of the African partners themselves. Next to the international exposure it provided for the African partners, this project has also built bridges between the African partners, it has established strong intra-African contacts and contributed towards the creation of an AFS African identity.

It is now up to our African partners to keep the momentum going, and to the global AFS network to build on to this project and help develop the African partners to become regional hubs, as a step towards a much more substantial presence of AFS in the continent of Africa. For AFS to be a truly global network, there's a need for all of us to warmly embrace Africa and make things happen.



International Seminar, Vienna

Projects and programmes

ECTP



European Citizenship Trimester Programme

In 2009 EFIL launched the European Citizenship Trimester Programme, a trimester exchange programme within Europe, with an end-of-stay camp in Brussels focusing on the diversity within Europe and the promotion and development of active European citizenship. The Brussels camp is coordinated by EFIL and European volunteers. 110 participants age 15-18, coming from 15 European countries, joined in 2009. By 2010 the number had increased to 157 exchange students from 17 member organisations.

Participants attend workshops and share experiences, concentrating and reflecting on newly acquired intercultural competences, understanding of diversity, and experiences gained during the stay abroad, including personal development and the shaping of identities. The sessions try to foster young people's participation in society, and their active citizenship, encouraging them to understand their place in Europe and to show them in which ways they are able to help shape this diverse community. The young people's experiences during the Brussels camp undoubtedly has an impact on their feeling of European identity, and helps and stimulates them become responsible European citizens.

A day is reserved for guided visits to the European Parliament and the European Commission. Participants are provided a platform to think about and discuss ideas of active citizenship and responsible attitudes towards a European society. Introducing the participants of the camp to the European institutional scene proves to be a great asset. During the visit to the European Parliament, they learn about the decision-making processes in the EU and how its institutions work together. They learn about the developments in intercultural Europe, and get introduced to issues like multilingualism, EU enlargement and Europe's diversity, which adds an additional platform of discussion and new points of view for the camp's sessions and workshops.



ECTP Participants at the European Parliament



"Everyone Can Take Part"

Training Events

2009-2010

Meeting of Organisational Development Co-ordinators

The volunteer development co-ordinators of 14 AFS organisations met for the 5th edition of the event.

The seminar touched upon vital topics in the volunteer network, such as assessment of the level of volunteer participation, exchange of best practices to increase the ownership and involvement of volunteers, chapter health monitoring and personal reflection on the role of the Organisational Development Co-ordinator (ODC). All this led towards action planning for future improvements in the AFS organisations - the participants left motivated and ready to implement the new ideas in their countries.

*Estoril, Portugal
January 2009*

Volunteer Study Session: Intercultural Learning for School Relations

The aim of the study session was to explore approaches on how young people can become active in facilitating intercultural learning activities for the benefit of school communities. Participants - 30 volunteers from 15 countries - were multipliers who contribute to creating opportunities for the school communities to experience differences and learn from it. Existing good practices and methods applied in local and national contexts by participants were collected and shared. The partnership with OBESSU (European umbrella organisation of school student unions) brought an additional perspective to the event content.

*Strasbourg, France
February 2009*

Volunteer Seminar: Re-entry Orientations

The seminar focused on improving the re-entry processes in AFS organisations and took place in the Viking town of Roskilde, involving participants from 12 AFS organisations. The five fully packed working days included a detailed overview of current re-orientation practices, a reflection on the intercultural learning after coming back home, as well as looking into the responsibility of returnees as active citizens. At the end of the week some very concrete and innovative ideas were created, to be implemented at national and local levels.

*Roskilde, Denmark
May 2009*



Training course on Organisational Development

Zagreb, Croatia
April, 2009

Participants from 14 European countries gathered in Zagreb for a training on organisational development. The aim was to support the organisational development of the young organisations in South Eastern Europe - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia - as well as to strengthen the growth of existing AFS organisations which currently struggle with organisational challenges. The agenda struck a balance between content input sessions and actual work on the organisational development plans. A major role at the training was taken up by some well established member organisations - "mentors" - to guide the countries in development.

EPOT Training: Applying Innovative Methods

Sile, Turkey
July, 2009

With participation of 24 experienced volunteer trainers from 13 AFS organisations, a Training for Trainers took place at the seaside location of Sile, Turkey, from 26 July till 2 August, prior to the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit.

The main focus of the event was on developing trainer competences of participants in the widest possible sense - looking into both existing and new creative concepts or approaches to training. The general methodology was largely based on self-directed learning, giving the participants complete ownership of the process and content of the project. During the course they not only explored and learned about the training and learning issues, but also worked on practical training sessions which were delivered in a real-life setting to the participants of the Volunteer Summer Summit at the end of the course.



Support Staff Meeting, Mnichovice, Czech Rep.

Support Staff Meeting

19 staff members dealing with participant support issues, from 15 AFS organisations across Europe and beyond took part in the first EFIL meeting/training of this kind. The preparatory team had put together an interesting programme that included topics such as AFS risk management standards and procedures, intercultural communication skills, virtual and intercultural office-to-office communication, stress management, sharing experience and working on concrete AFS cases.

Together with the participants of the meeting, EFIL is eager to continue the tradition of recurring EFIL Support Staff Meetings.

Mnichovice, Czech
Republic
October 2009

EVS Co-ordinators' Meeting

The EVS Co-ordinators' meeting gathered AFS staff and volunteers to discuss the challenges connected to EVS and to improve the procedures applied when running this programme. During the 3 working days participants got the chance to share their experience and best practices, revealing a large diversity in dimensions, practices and history of the EVS scheme for different AFS organisations. EFIL had invited a representative from the Flemish National Agency (JINT) who presented EVS in detail and participants could address their questions to her and received valuable input for their work in the future. The group was a healthy mix of Partners with diverse experience, which created a comfortable learning and sharing atmosphere.

Leuven, Belgium
December 2009



Study Session, Strasbourg, France

Volunteer Study Session: Responsible Citizens of Intercultural Europe

**Strasbourg,
France
February 2010**

A group of 30 volunteers - all Responsible Citizens of Intercultural Europe - met in Strasbourg for a Study Session trying to explore the link between intercultural competences and citizenship. The programme dealt with topics of Identity, Diversity, Human Rights, Intercultural Competences, Citizenship, Europe, Responsibility and included a visit to the European Court of Human Rights. The visit was a great highlight and made the concept more real and applicable, as the group had the opportunity to discuss with a human rights lawyer. Two guest speakers joined the group to give their perspective on concepts of citizenship and grass-roots activism, which inspired to active participation and discussion among participants. With support of the prep team, participants were given the opportunity to share and create their own projects to be initialised upon their return.

Programme Directors Meeting

**Sarajevo, Bosnia
and Herzegovina
March, 2010**

Programme Directors from across Europe met for the annual EFIL Programme Directors meeting. The meeting in Sarajevo was the scene of a full week of constructive discussions, a varied programme with interactive sessions and various methodologies used. The programme included an overview of the mid- to longterm EFIL activity calendar, challenges of participant growth and a discussion following the evaluation of the first European Citizenship Trimester Programme and the Brussels end-of-stay camp and much more.

Important was the presence of the new partners in South Eastern Europe (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia) who have had remarkable progress in developing AFS in their countries.



Programme Directors Meeting, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Volunteer Training for developing organisations

Attached to the Programme Directors' Meeting, EFIL organised a training weekend for volunteers from South Eastern Europe and Poland in Sarajevo, attended by 16 motivated young people from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovenia as well as from Poland. The event was primarily aiming at providing the starting organisations and their volunteers with the knowledge and skills on basic AFS aspects like programmes, sending and hosting cycle, European and international structures, volunteer life cycle, etc. The training also was an opportunity for participants to exchange hints and best practices on how to overcome challenges that starting organisations face.

*Sarajevo, Bosnia
and Herzegovina
March, 2010*

Seminar: Intercultural Learning & Exchanges - where do we stand?

A group of 25 people from 17 AFS organisations, who deal with the educational impact of our programmes, gathered in Strasbourg to discuss our standing and ambitions in intercultural learning in Europe. The seminar was a chance not only to get a glimpse of what is going on in the AFS external environment (most of all in the European institutional world) but most importantly to look critically at ourselves and to reflect on ways to keep improving as an educational organisation.

A great mix of backgrounds and experiences, with a balance of volunteers and staff members, made the event rich in perspectives and ideas. The group enjoyed also the presence of non-AFS people among facilitators and guests. From this seminar it is clear that there is a number of initiatives and ideas in this field to be shared, and the 5 days of the meeting made all present realise that not enough of it is known across the network yet!

*Strasbourg, France
May, 2010*



Training for Trainers, Zanka, Hungary

Training for Trainers: Facilitating Intercultural Learning

Zanka, Hungary August, 2010

The Training for Trainers took place in the first week of August, when 25 participants from 15 AFS organisations gathered in Zanka, Hungary, for a course aimed at developing trainer competences with a special focus on intergenerational learning. Next to sessions dealing with the topic of learning across generations in an intercultural setting, session time was set aside for personal development as a trainer and concrete training skills. The last part of the training was reserved for the preparation of actual training sessions to be presented in a real-life setting for the participants of EFIL's Volunteer Summer Summit, which took place at the same venue. The participants and the preparatory team managed to overcome age, language and culture barriers to become a wonderful group that created workshops appreciated by the participants of the Summer Summit.

Governance and Leadership Seminar

Uppsala, Sweden August, 2010

23 participants and 4 facilitators gathered in Sweden for a seminar working with questions of volunteer leadership, the responsibilities of an AFS board and what board members can personally bring to their organisation. The group worked with real-life case studies, taken from the network. Participants analysed their own organisations' realities, sought input from the others and came up with concrete steps to take back to their boards.

Partner development

Launching of AFS programmes in Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina
UG Interkulturni susreti u Bosni i Hercegovini - UG ISU BIH / Intercultural meetings in Bosnia and Herzegovina
AFS Branch Office
info.isubih@gmail.com

Croatia
Globus - Association for Intercultural Learning
AFS Branch Office
info@globus-croatia.hr

Serbia
Interkultura Serbia
AFS Branch Office
interkultura.serbia@gmail.com

Slovenia
Izobrazevalno drustvo Interkultura / Educational Association Interkultura
AFS Branch Office
info@interkultura.si

At the General Assembly in Lisbon 2007 the member organisations endorsed EFIL's Strategic Directions 2007-2012, which include implementing initiatives to enlarge the Federation which will result in larger and healthier programmes, and thus help build up overall network health.

With AFS International resources focused on the development of specific network partners (see AFS International Business Plan: focus on Africa + partners with high growth potential), new partner development in Europe is a task currently executed by EFIL. EFIL is in a good position to look for funding opportunities with European institutions, and through study visits and regular discussions with the partners in Europe, exchange programmes involving four new partners have been set up over the past years. AFS International too has played a much appreciated supporting role in the developments in South Eastern Europe.

Today, partner organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia each represent an official Branch

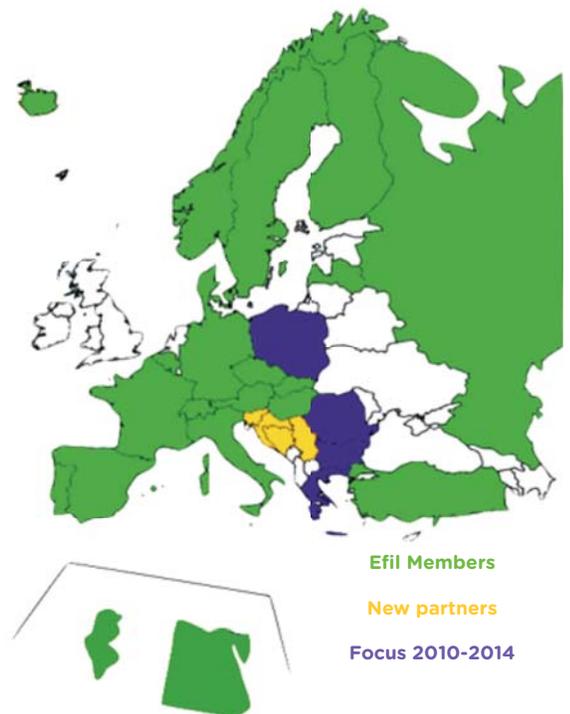
Office of AFS International and have embarked on sending and hosting programmes with AFS partners in Europe and beyond.

An EFIL volunteer training with focus on organisational development was held in Zagreb (Croatia) in 2009. EFIL's annual Programme Directors meetings in 2008 and 2010 took place in Belgrade (Serbia) and Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) respectively. EFIL will further support the new AFS organisations by involving them in training, seminars and meetings, and by encouraging established member organisations to further support the new partners through the sharing of information, first hand advice and help with programme-linked matters (selections, orientations, etc.).

Following the successes in South Eastern Europe, a further goal of the Federation is to establish permanent volunteer organisations for pupil exchanges in Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Poland in the years to come.



Tosja Kobler-Jovanovic (Slovenia), Marija Bevanda (Croatia), Ivana Gazikalovic-Pavlovic (Serbia), Mirela Hrnjic (Bosnia/Herzegovina)

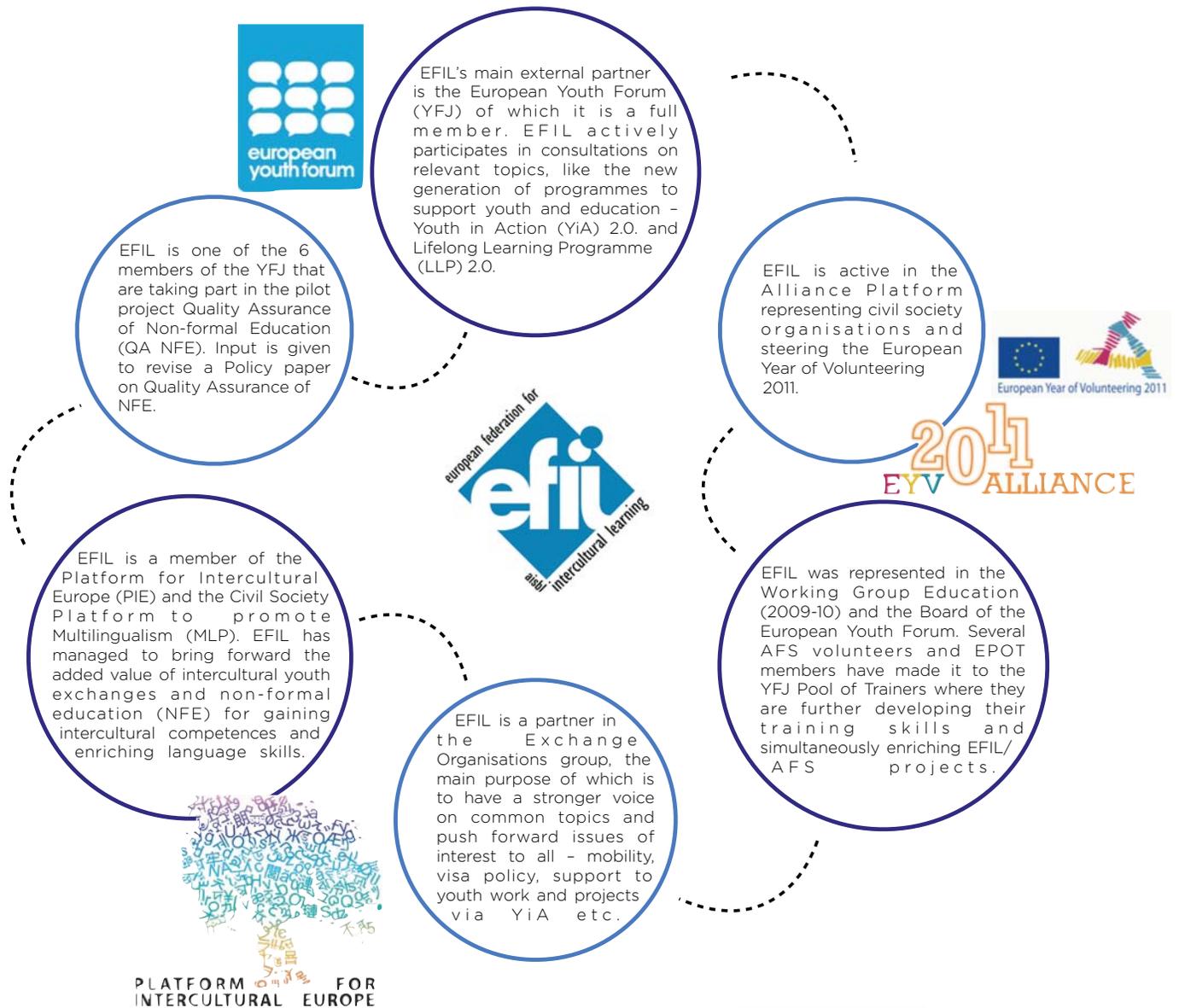


Networking and Lobbying

Through its lobbying and networking efforts, EFIL wants to create a positive relationship between the Federation and the appropriate decision-makers within the European institutions and other international bodies. The goal is to contribute to the flow of information so as to help achieve informed and balanced decisions. Lobbying and networking further

includes the enhancement of EFIL's public relations approaches, and improves visibility and credibility.

EFIL takes part in stakeholder groups and platforms with like-minded organisations to make sure its priorities are addressed at the appropriate level:



For these platforms, groups & processes, EFIL gets input from the national level i.e. running Youth in Action and Lifelong Learning Programme projects, visa issuing procedures, volunteer recognition tools and quality assurance mechanisms for activities related to non-formal education, as well as good practices on structured dialogue with local agencies, government departments and institutions. To facilitate the communication flow, each member Organisation has appointed one person as EFIL's liaison person for advocacy matters.

Late 2010, a new initiative has been launched: AFS EuroNet, whereby AFS returnees based in Brussels (European institutions and other) connect to promote AFS in Europe and create common projects in cooperation with EFIL.

Governance

Board meetings

The EFIL Board of Directors administers the Federation. Directors are elected for a period of two years. The Board focuses on strategic matters and EFIL's long term vision. Other items on the agenda include finances, developments in the AFS network and in Europe, etc.

Brussels, Belgium, 16-18 January 2009
Wildhaus, Switzerland, 19-21 June 2009
Vienna, Austria, 18-20 September 2009
Rome, Italy, 12-14 February 2010
Nice, France, 4-6 June 2010
Leuven, Belgium, 8-10 October 2010



Board meeting, Brussels - with guests from the European Commission

General Assembly

The General Assembly has the supreme authority to work towards the attainment of the aims set out in the EFIL statutes and has the exclusive competence to adopt the budget, approve the balance sheets, elect or dismiss Board members and amend the statutes. It takes place in May/June of the uneven years. The extraordinary General Assembly in the even years mainly (but not exclusively) serves to elect members of the EFIL Board.

Moscow, Russia, 21-24 May 2009
Sernhac, France, 7 June 2010 (E.O. GA)



GA, Moscow

Regional Meeting

A Regional meeting is a plenary meeting of the Chairs of the Boards of EFIL's Member Organisations. It takes place alongside the AFS World Congress. It focuses on strategic matters and long-term vision.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 23 October 2010



Heads of Office meetings

The Heads of Office meetings aim at building a sense of unity and common identity within the network of European partners, based on their commitment to the European dimension of AFS, and create a platform to discuss matters of relevance for the European AFS network. Heads of Office meetings take place twice a year and are attended by the National Directors of the EFIL member organisations. Topics on the agenda include updates and discussions on developments in Europe, EFIL and the AFS global network; the strategy and calendar for training, projects, programmes; new partner development; etc.

Moscow, Russia, 21 May 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 19 October 2009
Sernhac, France, 6-9 June 2010
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 23 October 2010



HOO meeting, France

EFIL Communication

Website



The website www.efil.afs.org contains key information and updates on activities developed by EFIL.

EFILife

EFILife is a monthly newsletter (10 issues a year, plus special editions) aiming at informing the Member Organisations and external subscribers about EFIL's recent activities and about developments of interest to the Members and the AFS network.

Berlin Conference Booklet

In 2009, a publication came out, including several articles following presentations at the International Educational Conference "Moving Beyond Mobility", a conference for researchers, practitioners and experts in the field of international youth exchanges and intercultural learning, about the educational impact, success stories and obstacles of exchange programmes. The conference took place in October 2008 and was a co-organisation of EFIL, AFS Germany and the Intercultural Development Research Institute (IDRI).

"Defining, measuring, and facilitating intercultural learning: a conceptual introduction to the Intercultural Education double supplement

Supplement 1: State of the art research on intercultural learning in study abroad

Supplement 2: Best practice for intercultural learning in international educational exchange"

Reports

EFIL publishes and distributes project, seminar and training reports, available for members, shortly after each event.

ECTP video



At the ECTP end-of-stay camp 2010, EFIL filmed plenary moments, workshops, the Parliament visit, social activities and collected testimonials from preparatory team members, trainers and participants. This was compiled in a video, which was then distributed to offices and volunteers with the purpose of informing volunteers and future participants about the Brussels camp.

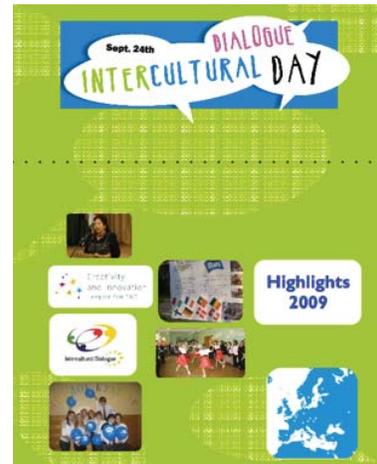
"Snapshots - When cultures interact"

"Snapshots - When Cultures Interact" includes three short films (Azulejos, Box of chocolates, Graffiti) and a documentary on the topic of intercultural learning.

The short films feature typical situations for teenagers - at school, at home, at a party - where the three protagonists, foreign exchange students share with us their "intercultural adventures".

The documentary "When Cultures Interact*" looks into the concept of culture, explores ways in which cultures can differ and provides some advice on how to cope with difficult intercultural situations. It presents interviews with prominent practitioners in the field of intercultural learning: Professor Geert Hofstede, Dr. Milton Benett and Dr. Roberto Ruffino and features several former exchange students who generously share their intercultural experiences.

The project was realised with the support of: The Council of Europe, The Anna Lindh Foundation and the Marco "Filmmaster Group"



Intercultural Dialogue Day booklet

Since 2008, Intercultural Dialogue Day has become a recurring event within the AFS network in Europe. To make the event visible and inspire other partners to new activities, EFIL puts together a booklet with testimonials, descriptions and pictures of the different events.

EFIL Human Resources

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors acts as the Executive Body. It consists of seven volunteer members elected by the General Assembly. The Board meets 3 times per year.



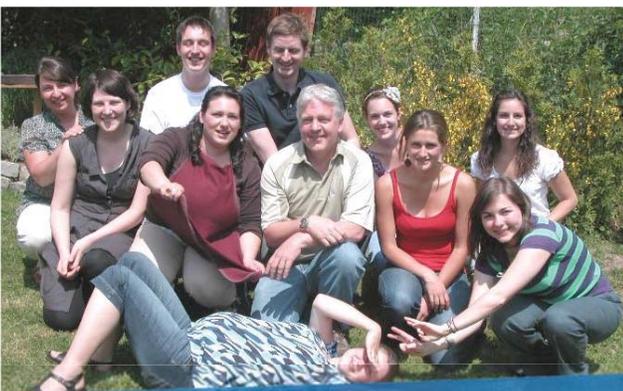
EFIL Board of Directors, 2009/2010

The following Board members served on the EFIL Board in 2009 and 2010:

Roberto Ruffino (AFS Italy) - Chair
Christine Leimgruber (AFS Switzerland) - Vice Chair
Martha Eiriksdottir (AFS Iceland) - Treasurer
Anett Miklos (AFS Hungary) - Secretary until June 2010
Martin Birger Hjørland (AFS Denmark) - left the Board in May 2009
Mick Petersmann (AFS Germany) - left the Board in May 2009
Michael Rosak (AFS Czech Republic) - entered the Board in May 2009; Secretary from June 2010
Mari Pajunen (AFS Finland) - entered the Board in May 2009
Mete Fanuscu (AFS Turkey) - left the Board in June 2010
Jörn Lehmann (AFS Germany) - entered the Board in June 2010

Secretariat

The following staff and interns were active at the EFIL Secretariat in 2009 and 2010:



EFIL Staff 2010

Paul Claes, Secretary General
Frini Ezunkpe, Executive Manager - Administrative and Financial Management
Izabela Jurczik, Director Training, Projects and Programmes
Ilyana Panteleeva, intern from 1 January 2009 until 30 June 2009, Project and Programmes Coordinator from 1 July 2009
Inga Menke, Training and Partner Development Coordinator, from 17 May 2010
Tatiana Damarad - de Béthune, Director for Partnership and Resource Development, until 30 November 2009
Natalie Martins Rulloda, intern, from 19 January 2009 until 30 June 2009
Lara Svoboda, EVS Volunteer, from 4 February 2009 until 27 February 2009
Karin Bitterli, intern, from 23 February 2009 until August 2009
Benjamin Ledwon, FSJ volunteer, until 22 July 2009
Alexander Müller, FSJ volunteer, from 24 August 2009 until 1 July 2010
Sarah Spilker, intern, from 1 December 2009 until 29 January 2010
Eliza Popper, intern, from 2 February 2010 until 25 August 2010
Laura Licari, intern, from 5 March 2010 until 30 June 2010
Thomas Jürgenschellert, FSJ volunteer, from 30 August 2010
Charlotte Klinting, EVS volunteer, from 1 September 2010

EFIL Human Resources

Election committee

An Election Committee is elected at each General Assembly to assist in the recruitment and supervision of the EFIL Board elections. Members of the Election Committee for the 2009 General Assembly and the 2010 Extra-Ordinary General Assembly were:

Johanna Nemeth (AFS Austria)
G rard Sautereau (AFS France)
Filipa Almeida Santos (AFS Portugal)



Participants at Training for Trainers,
Zanka, Hungary

European Pool of Trainers

EFIL can rely on a European Pool of Trainers (EPOT) to help organise and actively participate in its training programme. Recently several of the most experienced EPOT members have also taken leading roles as Course Directors of EFIL training events.

In 2009-2010 79 trainers from 20 AFS organisations were part of the pool.

Auditors

The EFIL auditors meet in the beginning of the year to check the EFIL accounts and provide recommendations to improve the quality of the accounting.

The General Assembly approved the following Auditors:

Charles-Henry de Streel - External Auditor
Jan Honinx - Internal Auditor

Training Advisory Body (TAB)

The Training Advisory Body (TAB) was set up in October 2006 to assist the EFIL Director for Training, Projects and Programmes with the development of a coherent and strategic training approach, in line with the objectives of the EFIL Business Plan.

The members of the TAB 2009-2010 were:
Manuel Schwinn, AFS Germany Director Human Resources and Organisational Development
Diana Rosta, AFS Hungary Organisational Development Coordinator (and a.i. National Director from March 2010)
Michela Bortoli, AFS Italy Volunteer
Stephan Winiker, AFS Switzerland Volunteer
Lisa Cohen, Senior International Consultant with AFS International
Izabela Jurczik, EFIL Director Training, Projects and Programmes

The TAB met three times in 2009-2010:
Estoril, Portugal, 1-2 February 2009
Budapest, Hungary, 13-14 September 2009
Zurich, Switzerland, 11-12 April 2010



Training Advisory Body

EFIL Financial Resources

Financial Policy

The General Assembly of EFIL adopted a Financial Policy intended to maintain the financial health of the organisation. It embodies the rules and guidelines applicable to all aspects of the financial management of the organisation.

EFIL's financial management aims at sound procedures, to:

- 1) guarantee the financial health of the organisation, through a diversified income composed of membership fees, grants, and coordination fees on projects, programmes and trainings;
- 2) guarantee the sound financial management of the organisation, through a set of internal guidelines and procedures;
- 3) guarantee transparent information about the financial status of the organisation, through appropriate accounting tools; through a meaningful financial planning and reporting.

Financial reporting procedures

- The Board of Directors provides a yearly financial report to the Members (income and expense statements as well as the balance sheet).
- From the Secretariat, every quarter each Member receives an overview of the transactions, invoices and credit notes that relate to the Member.
- The Secretariat provides the Board with a regular update of the financial health of the federation.
- The Secretariat provides the Treasurer and the Auditors with draft copies of all documents of a primarily financial nature.

A reserve fund is built and maintained at a level of at least 35% of the budgeted yearly administrative expenditure.

The Federation shall aim to raise at least 20% of its administrative costs from sources other than the membership fees.

Annual financial report

With the aim of promoting transparency and providing a complete overview of its activities, EFIL presents an annual financial report to its Members.



EFIL Members 2009/2010



Austria

AFS Austauschprogramme für interkulturelles Lernen
Maria-Theresien-Straße 9/6
1090 Wien
www.afs.at
e-mail: office@afs.at



Belgium (Flemish)

AFS Interculturele Programma's vzw
Hendrik Consciencestraat 52
2800 Mechelen
www.afsvlaanderen.be
e-mail: afsbfl@afs.org



Belgium (French)

AFS Programmes Interculturels asbl
Place de l'Alma 3/11
1200 Bruxelles
www.afsbelgique.be
e-mail: info-belgium-french@afs.org



Czech Republic

AFS Mezikulturní Programy, o.s.
Jana Masaryka 44
120 00 Praha 2
www.afs.cz
e-mail: info-czechrepublic@afs.org



Denmark

AFS Interkultur
Nordre Fasanvej 111
2000 Frederiksberg
www.afs.dk
e-mail: info-denmark@afs.org



Egypt

AFS Egypt - Intercultural and Educational Programs
11 El Masged El Aqsa Street
Mohandseen - Giza
www.afs-egypt.org
email: info-egypt@afs.org'



Finland

AFS Intercultural Programs Finland
Yrjönkatu 1 C 18 (P.O. Box 231)
00120 Helsinki.
www.afs.fi
e-mail: info-finland@afs.org



France

AFS Vivre Sans Frontières
46 rue du Commandant Jean Duhail
94120 Fontenay Sous Bois
www.afs-fr.org
e-mail: info-france@afs.org



Germany

AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V.
Postfach 500142
22701 Hamburg
www.afs.de
e-mail: info-germany@afs.org



Hungary

AFS Magyarország Nemzetközi Csereprogram
Alapítvány
Alkotás u. 37./1./6.
1123 Budapest
www.afs.hu
e-mail: info-hungary@afs.org



Iceland

AFS a Íslandi - Alþjóðleg fræðsla og samskipti
Ingolfsstraeti 3, 2nd. floor
P.O. Box 753
121 Reykjavik
www.afs.is
e-mail: info-isl@afs.org



Italy

Intercultura
Via Gracco del Secco 100
53034 Colle Val d'Elsa (SI)
www.intercultura.it
e-mail: info-italy@afs.org



Latvia

AFS Latvija Jauniesu Apmaiņas Programmas
Blaumana iela 38/40, 4th floor
LV 1011, Riga
www.afs.lv
e-mail: info@afs.lv



Norway

AFS Norge Internasjonal Utveksling
Postboks 530 Sentrum
N-0105 Oslo
www.afs.no
e-mail: info@afs.no



Portugal

Intercultura AFS Portugal
Rua de Santa Justa, nº38 - 4º
1100 - 485 Lisboa
www.intercultura-afs.pt
e-mail: info-portugal@afs.org"



Russia

Charity Foundation "Intercultura"
A. Solzhenitsina str. 27,
Moscow, 109004
www.afs.ru
e-mail: info-russia@afs.org



Spain

AFS Intercultura Espana
c/ Canillas, 2
28002 Madrid
www.afs-intercultura.org
e-mail: info-spain@afs.org



Sweden

AFS Interkulturell Utbildning
Tullgårdsgatan 10,
116 68 Stockholm
www.afs.se
e-mail: info@afs.se



Switzerland

AFS Interkulturelle Programme
Kernstrasse 57
CH-8004 Zürich
www.afs.ch
e-mail: info@afs.ch



Tunisia

AFS Tunisia Intercultural Programs
7, Rue d'Autriche, app 7
1002 Tunis Belvédère



Turkey

AFS Türk Kültür Vakfı - AFS Kültürlerarası Programları
Valikonagi Cad.
Konak Apt. 67/4
Nisantasi
Istanbul
www.afsweb.afs.org
e-mail: info-turkey@afs.org



European Federation for Intercultural Learning

Avenue Emile Max 150, 1030 Brussels,
Belgium

Tel: (32) 2 514 52 50

Fax: (32) 2 514 29 29

E-mail: info@efil.be
www.efil.afs.org