EFIL Biennial Report 2007 - 2008

Report about EFIL’s activities, projects and other initiatives

General Assembly
2009
Moscow
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Introduction

Foreword

Two years ago in Lisbon, EFIL members have approved the Federation’s Strategic Directions. Thanks to a stable secretariat, a strong and determined board and committed members, EFIL has been able to meet the challenges of those strategic directions, including major successes such as the Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility pilot project, the International Educational Conference “Moving beyond Mobility” in Berlin, the European-wide Day of Intercultural Dialogue, the Volunteer Summer Summit in France, the successful Worldoscope project, the production of the DVD “When Cultures Interact”, the launching of the new European Citizenship Trimester Programme, the openings in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Serbia and Poland, a wide range of highly appreciated trainings and seminars, not to forget the substantial amount of money raised through successful funding applications for trainings and projects. EFIL gained visibility and credibility within the European institutions, ultimate evidence of which was the presence of Commissioner Jan Figel’ at the opening of our conference in Berlin last October.

Over the past decades, EFIL has played a role beyond expectations 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. Today, internal and external circumstances advise us all to take a fresh new look at our Federation. New challenges lie ahead of us. Europe has changed. Over the years AFS too has changed. EFIL cannot remain the same.

Looking at the political situation in Europe, with the treaty of Maastricht, the Bologna process and the Lisbon Agenda, education now appears in the budget of the Union with large investments for educational exchanges, as a result of which more and more individuals, students, teachers, schools and universities meet and work together through different cultures and nations. Mobility for mobility’s sake will not be enough. The pedagogical aims and content of exchanges will receive more attention.

Our national organisations have to concentrate more on focusing outwardly and thinking in European and international terms. They need to adapt their strategies and agendas to the constraints and possibilities offered by our European environment, and participate in the political process under way in Europe in each of our countries in the field of educational exchanges and citizenship building.

There is a need to address the growing interest for educational exchanges in Europe with cohesive and harmonious strategies, and to invest more in effective cooperation among EFIL members in volunteer development, in staff stability in our national offices, in the enlargement of EFIL, in intra-European programmes with elements of citizenship education, in high quality performance, and in visibility as an established and reliable player on the European educational scene.

Diversity is the blessing of Europe, but it can also be a curse, if it leads us away from breathing the air of our time, from grasping the opportunities that are at hand, and from building a stronger Federation.

Finally, EFIL wants to extend a sincere word of thanks to the numerous people that have supported the Federation over the past two years, sparing no time or effort to keep things moving and help us think of directions for the future: volunteers, staff, boards, trainers, representatives and others.

Roberto Ruffino
Chair of the EFIL Board

Paul Claes
EFIL Secretary General
EFIL, the European Federation for Intercultural Learning, is the umbrella organisation of 22 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 65 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-IP.

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 RESULTS
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.
Over the past two years Comenius has become a household name in the EFIL network across Europe. After winning the European tender for the preparation of the European Commission’s new Comenius programme, EFIL successfully coordinated the various project phases, meanwhile building up good relations and an excellent network with partners in the field, with National Agencies and schools and with the European Commission.

The result of our work has been compiled in four major reports for the Commission, one for each phase of the project, plus a final report (including the report of the external evaluator). As a result of this project, the Commission now has an overall view of the legislative situation regarding secondary school education and the exchange of minors in 31 different countries in Europe (phase 1). It also has at its disposal recommendations on the practical implementation of the action, based on the evaluation of the pilot mobility phase (phase 2 & 3: design of framework + pilot exchanges). These results will be taken into account by the Commission when designing the framework of the new action that will be launched in 2010.

EFIL Steering Group - Comenius

Thank you

EFIL wants to thank everyone who helped in making this project a success: the coordinators for the study and for the pilot phase; the national offices, their boards and volunteers; the Steering Committee members whose expert advice and support was vital to secure the quality of the products delivered; our contacts at the European Commission; the schools, pupils and host families involved in the pilot phase; the consultants and the evaluator who added a highly professional touch to the project outcomes; EEE-YFU who was our partner throughout the project.

Final report

For the final report by EFIL, see http://ec.europa.eu/education/more-information/doc/pupilmobility_en.pdf. For more information about the Comenius programme, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/education/comenius/doc990_en.htm
Aiming to reach all Partners within the EFIL network, and in an effort to help the programmes grow with quality, preparations for the new European Citizenship Trimester Programme have started in 2008, when the EFIL Board, Partner Directors and Programme Directors discussed the various aspects at several meetings, and agreed on creating this new programme with a European connotation and a specific added value through its focus on European citizenship and identity.

Fostering and increasing opportunities for a growing number of young people across Europe to go on an exchange and enjoy an intra-European intercultural learning experience with AFS quality standards, there is no doubt this programme will contribute to increasing the visibility and strengthening the role of AFS in Europe.

Highlight of the new programme will be the EFIL End of Stay Conference in Brussels. Before returning to their home countries, +/-150 youngsters from all over Europe will have the opportunity to share their experience with students from various other European countries. This idea of bringing all participants together in the capital of Europe, will be a substantial added value to the trimester stay for all students involved, and will highlight the European dimension of their exchange term. In workshops and sessions they will reflect on their own experience as well as on issues like European citizenship and integration. A guided visit to the European Parliament and/or the European Commission makes up part of the programme of the Conference.
International Educational Conference

13-14 October 2008
Berlin
Germany

“Moving Beyond Mobility: Intercultural Learning through Youth Exchange”

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.

Berlin was the venue of the International Educational Conference, which took place alongside the AFS World Congress. The conference attracted over 270 participants and speakers, and provided an international platform for the various players in the field of international youth exchange to share research results and best practises.

We need to achieve mobility as the rule, as the normality.”

“Until today, research results from the field of Intercultural exchange have never been accumulated nor been looked at in an international context before. The conference “Moving Beyond Mobility” is closing the gap”

Ján Figel’
Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, and patron of the Conference in his opening speech

The conference benefited from the patronage of Ján Figel’, Member of the European Commission responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth. Ján Figel’ opened the conference with a well appreciated key note speech.

Steering Group Berlin Conference

A publication presenting a selection of the papers presented at the Conference has been put together by the organisers. The conclusions of the Conference plenary discussions and workshops have led to the finalisation of the “Call for Action” on youth mobility, a set of recommendations addressing national governments, civil society and international organisations concerned with globally furthering individual pupil mobility.
It was exactly 40 years since AFS volunteers had their last major gathering. In August 2008, we picked up the old tradition again for the first “new age” EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit. Close to 200 volunteers met in the charming little French village of Vigy, France, for four days of sharing experiences and thoughts in workshops, formal and informal discussions, and a lively panel debate. No less than 26 countries were represented in Vigy.

Workshop sessions during the Summer Summit were dealing with all aspects of intercultural learning, global citizenship and intercultural dialogue. Two community projects brought together AFS participants and villagers from Vigy. About 170 children’s story books in different languages from across Europe were donated to the elementary school in Vigy. Next to this, summit participants created a ‘movable mural’ on the theme of Intercultural Dialogue, handed over to Vigy’s mayor and people on the village square during an official ceremony and reception.

For the more playful among us, there was an introduction to Brazilian capoeira, yoga, Thai dance, Irish dancing, folk dancing, many sports activities,... There was French for beginners, Forum Theatre performances and workshops, a visit to the Robert Schuman House, and much more.

The EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit took shape thanks to the contributions of a committed preparatory team and the omnipresent support team from the hosts AFS VSF and the team of Trainers. EFIL wants to thank AFS Vivre sans Frontière for hosting this first Volunteer Summer Summit in Europe and putting exceptional efforts in the success of the event.

At the end of the closing session in Vigy, a symbolic flower was handed over to the Turkish delegation, who will take on the challenge to organise the event in 2009.
September 26th 2008 was more than just another day on the calendar of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, it was the celebration of culture itself that came to the streets and reached out to participants and unaware passers-by inviting them to surrender to the spirit and join in the reflections, activities, festivities.

On that Friday, 26 September 2008, in Lisbon, Portugal, an “Esplanada das Culturas” brought together several immigrant associations to discuss the importance of Intercultural Dialogue and to propose means to accomplish it. At the same time, Moscow school pupils and teachers released hundreds of balloons with messages in many languages. Meanwhile, Budapest’s prestigious Houses of Parliament were the setting for a high-level panel debate on Intercultural Dialogue, in Norway the winners of the Multikulti short movie competition on dialogue between cultures were announced, and in Marseille, France, primary school pupils and their teachers painted and presented to the public their “mosaïque pour la Paix”. No less than 90 articles covered the events taking place in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante, Granada and several other locations in the Spanish media.

These events are just a handful of more than 300 activities that took place all over Europe and in the Mediterranean Region on 26 September 2008. In the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, this date had been declared the “Intercultural Dialogue Day” by the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL) and its AFS member organisations, in cooperation with the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.
As an intercultural learning network of organisations present in over 50 countries in the world and uniting people with different religious beliefs and ethnic origins, AFS sees diversity as a wealthy heritage, a resource and an enrichment. Using the joint experience of AFS partner organisations in Europe, Asia and Africa, the “WORLDOSCOPE - Strength through Diversity” project, largely funded by the European Commission, explored the issue of diversity in youth work and youth organisations.

Furthermore, Worldoscope was set up to develop strategies on building strong volunteer structures with young people with a variety of origins.

**Duration of project:** 1st January to 31st December 2008

**Website:** [www.worldoscope.eu](http://www.worldoscope.eu)

**Phase I: Preparations**
Participants identified the main challenges in their organisations at home, and prepared presentations with information, testimonies, pictures, cultural objects, etc. to be shared during a three week study tour from Europe to Asia/Africa and vice-versa, in July and August.

**Phase II: Study Tours**
During a three week journey participants explored the benefits and the value of diversity for youth organisations and learned from each others’ strategies, methods and tools for building volunteer organisations with young people from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds.

**Phase III: Seminar “Strength through Diversity”, Vienna, Austria**
At the end of August, the participants got together for a one-week seminar, which provided space for sharing experiences and highly informative discussions, while best practices in AFS organisations of each country were collected and shared, and concrete action plans were made.

**Phase IV: Multiplying Events**
Using their newly gained knowledge, the participants put their ideas into practice within their own AFS organisation.
In preparation for the Dialogue Day project and as a contribution to the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, EFIL produced a series of ‘snapshot movies’ that show examples of intercultural experiences, with the intention to generate discussions leading to more extended intercultural awareness.

The movies are to be used for intercultural education in secondary schools and during workshops for pupils leaving for an intercultural exchange.

Three short five-minute videos, filmed in Belgium, Germany and Portugal, feature typical situations for teenagers - at school, at home, at a party - where the three protagonists, foreign students from other countries, share with us their intercultural “adventures”. The focus is on different cultural norms dealing with greetings, dressing styles, social gatherings, pupil-teacher relations, the opposite sex, respect towards elderly people, discussions in groups, personal space, the perception of time, taboos, politeness, etc.

Additionally, there is a 25-minute documentary which 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 Bennett and Dr. Roberto Ruffino.

It also features several former exchange students who generously share their intercultural experiences.

The DVD is accompanied by debriefing guidelines for workshop facilitators who use the films for educational purposes during AFS orientation camps and training events.
Overview of Trainings 2007-2008

Meeting of Programme Directors
Cairo, Egypt
7-11 March 2007

Over twenty Programme Directors from Europe and beyond attended this recurring staff event. During the meeting various topics of importance to programme staff were discussed: an informal sharing of each others’ realities, focusing on school presentations as a recruitment tool, an open space session on support issues, a training session on communication skills, presentations and discussions on the EFIL and International training strategies and on the Pupil Mobility Project. The opportunity to meet colleagues from Partner countries and discuss issues of common concern met – as usual – great appreciation.

Governance and Leadership Seminar – basic track
Vienna, Austria
20-24 Jun 2007

One of the traditional events on the EFIL training agenda is a seminar targetting AFS Board Members. In 2007 the attention was given to those who joined the AFS Boards recently. Introduction to concepts of governance, management, leadership and moral ownership was followed by extensive discussions focused on the Policy Governance Model in AFS. The full seminar agenda left also space for a Vienna waltzer evening led by Austrian volunteers!

“Coming to Justice” – a Human Rights and Peace-building training
Amsterdam, Netherlands
28 Oct – 1 Nov 2007

In this seminar, organised by EFIL in co-operation with the Anne Frank House, volunteers from different AFS organisations had a chance to meet and discuss justice and injustice, prejudices and stereotypes in relation to development of conflicts and to reason on peace building through the process of justice. As an event planned and developed by an external organisation, this seminar offered a chance to work on themes of interest to AFS through new methods and from different perspectives.
EFIL Activities

Meeting of Organisational Development Co-ordinators
Guadarrama, Spain
12-16 Nov 2007

In Guadarrama, just out of Madrid, AFS Organisational Development Coordinators met for the biennial ODC meeting, which offered them a great opportunity to share experiences and receive training. Nearly every European ODC, as well as several non-European ones, were present. The programme included a range of very intense sessions with a strong emphasis on Volunteer Development and supporting Volunteer Life Cycle.

Training on Fundraising
25-29 Nov 2007
Ittre, Belgium

In Ittre, near Brussels, EFIL and AFS INT brought together an international crowd of people from various AFS organisations across the world, to look into questions of fundraising and getting into the mindset of not “asking for money”, but “offering help”. To every participant’s benefit, this event brought together the entire wealth of experiences and expertise on fundraising within the AFS world.

Study Session “Educational Exchanges involving people with Muslim cultural background”
2-9 December 2007
Budapest, Hungary

The event was a chance to exchange best practices of handling the exchanges in the Muslim context. Participants came up with new ideas and strategies, ranging from putting the exchange with countries mainly of Muslim population on the national agendas, strengthening existing and bringing new partnerships, and including Muslim minorities in our organisations. Participants included also volunteers from Youth for Understanding, as the project was a joint initiative of the AFS and YFU European umbrella organisations. With participants from 15 European and Mediterranean countries, diversity was not only a topic on the agenda!
Study Session: “LOVE - Learning Organisations for Volunteer Empowerment”
20-27 April 2008
Budapest, Hungary

Strong and sustainable networks of volunteers are vital for youth organisations – as much for AFS, as for Youth for Exchange and Understanding who was EFIL’s partner in the implementation of this event. The study session focused on preparing multipliers who can encourage more people to volunteer and to plan and support volunteers’ learning process inside their organisation. The project was the first training event in the recent EFIL history which was entirely managed by volunteers, including the Course Director. It is worth mentioning as a proof of the project relevance and success, that more than 70 individual volunteers applied for the 30 available places!

“Stop underEASTimation – increasing diversity in European intercultural exchanges”
13-18 May 2008
Nectiny, Czech Republic

The seminar programme focused on analysing reasons of lower popularity of certain countries (Central and Eastern Europe) and ways to address this challenge in the AFS work. The presence of both volunteers and staff from a range of AFS realities, characterised by a huge diversity of approaches and experience, contributed to the wealth of contents discussed during the event. The seminar resulted with many very concrete ideas and planned actions, which will hopefully increase the exchange volume with the Central and Eastern European countries, broadening the diversity of AFS programmes.

“Intercultural Competences – the key to Intercultural Dialogue” - Training for Trainers
26 Jul – 2 Aug 2008
Vigy, France

The main focus of the event was related to the application of intercultural learning theories into the work of AFS trainers, with a special focus on Milton Bennett’s Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity. The participants not only explored and learned about the models and their application, but most of all 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.
EFIL Activities

Governance and Leadership Seminar
29 September - 4 October 2008
Jurmala, Latvia

Following several years of tradition, in 2008 EFIL organised another training for AFS Board Members. This year’s seminar included not only an outlook on governance models in our organisations, but also aspects of board competences, volunteer participation, organisational culture, leadership and strategic planning. Through its refreshed formula and thanks to several parallel sessions, the seminar addressed the expectations of both newly elected and experienced Board Members.

Meeting of National Pools of Trainers
14-20 October 2008
Dworp, Belgium Flanders

This seminar focused on exchanging experience of national pools of trainers and opening new avenues for European cooperation between them. The participants not only learned a lot about different structures, approaches, ideas and networking possibilities between trainer pools but also acquired the feeling of not being alone in the hard process of establishing successful PoTs. The strong connection established at the event resulted in such initiatives as joint PoT meetings between several countries, coaching visits between trainers or even a follow-up informal meeting half a year later, which included most participants!

Meeting of Programme Directors
23-27 Nov 2008
Belgrade, Serbia

A group of enthusiastic participants enjoyed three intense days of constructive discussions, training and sharing experiences related to the work of Programme Staff. The presence of representatives of the new organisations and potential future EFIL members in the Balkans – Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina and Serbia - added a special touch to the meeting and interactions with them were among the highlights of the meeting.
## Overview of Trainings 2007-2008

<table>
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<th>Trainings and projects</th>
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<th>Nr of other AFS Orgs</th>
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<td>19 Meeting of Programme Directors 2008</td>
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EFIL Activities

New Partner Development

At the General Assembly in Lisbon 2007 the Member Organisations endorsed EFIL’s Strategic Directions, which include implementing initiatives to enlarge the Federation which will result in larger and healthier programmes, and thus build up overall network health. Clear choices had to be made regarding the question which new countries to focus on. Feasibility studies were conducted by EFIL in 2007, leading to the decision by the Board to work on the potential opening of programmes in Poland and the Western Balkan countries Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, with Greece as an additional target country.

Poland
In Poland, EFIL focused on the cooperation with the Father Siemaszko Foundation in Krakow. Being a reliable partner of AFS Germany for a number of years, it made sense to further develop this cooperation and involve other EFIL Member Organisations in the operations. A study visit including several network partners took place in 2007. Progress has been made, resulting in the establishment of exchanges with several partners.

Western Balkan
During the first half of 2007, partner development in the Western Balkan focused on Slovenia and Croatia.

Croatia
Partner: Globus - Association for Intercultural Learning
Registration Date: 19 January 2000
Status: non-profit organisation
Structure: volunteers

Poland
Partner: Fundacja im. Ks. Siemaszki
Activities: boarding school, youth hostel, scholarship programme for young people with few opportunities
Location: Krakow region
Status: Foundation
Structure: 3 staff and volunteers

Relevant progress was made, resulting in the establishment of interesting contacts with groups of local volunteers, increased interest in exchanges with the potential partners by
EFIL Activities

Member Organisations, concrete commitments by established network partners for a limited number of exchanges for the NH07 and NH08 cycle, and the identification of potential sources for scholarships and institutional support.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina exchanges have been taking place for a number of years with AFS Germany, whereas in Serbia EFIL obtained the contact details of an interested AFS returnee.

Serbia

Partner: Association of Citizens “Interkultura”
Registration Date: 4 Nov. 2008
Status: non-profit organisation
Structure: volunteers

By the end of 2008, officially registered non-profit organisations in all four the Western Balkan countries, run by committed volunteers, have been established as network contacts. For 2009-2010 the focus will be on further organisational development through a mentorship programme involving established network partners, on the increased involvement of the new organisations in EFIL activities in Europe, and on the increase of the number of exchanges on short and long-term programmes.

Slovenia

Partner: Educational Association Interkultura
Registration Date: 6 Nov. 2007
Status: non-profit organisation
Structure: volunteers

In the second half of 2007 initial steps have been made towards the development of potential partner organisations in two other countries in the Western Balkan: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia.

Bosnia / Herzegovina

Partner: UG Intercultural meetings in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ISU)
Registration Date: 6 October 2004
Status: non-profit organisation
Structure: volunteers

Representatives from Balkan partners
Networking and Lobbying

Lobbying is one of the key roles for EFIL. Through our lobbying efforts we want to create a positive relationship between EFIL 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 further includes the enhancement of EFIL’s public relations approaches, and improves visibility and credibility.

To implement its lobbying strategy and to make sure its priorities are addressed at the appropriate level, EFIL takes part in stakeholder groups and platforms with like-minded organisations.

**Activities 2007-2008**

- 8 meetings as member of the Civil Society Platform for Intercultural Dialogue, leading to the “Rainbow Paper: Intercultural Dialogue – from practice to policy and back”.

The Rainbow Paper proposes a 5-step path from intercultural challenges to interculturalism.

- 12 meetings with the European Commission on a variety of topics:
  - our projects in the framework of the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue;
  - the Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility project;
  - Meeting with Ján Figel’, Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, regarding the Educational Conference in Berlin, leading to his patronage for the Conference.

**Visit to the European Commission**

- Meetings with European Youth Forum (4), EEE-YFU (4), OBESSU (2).
- Gathering information, networking, lobbying, through attending over 30 seminars and conferences, as those organised by:
  - European Youth Forum (e.g. “Information Day on Funding” – Brussels, “Symposium on Volunteering” – Brussels, “General Assembly” – Rotterdam),
  - AVSO (“Shaping policy for voluntary service through research” – Brussels),
  - SIETAR (“Global Congress” – Granada),

**UNESCO Visit**
General Assembly and Extra-Ordinary General Assembly
17-20 May 2007, Lisbon, Portugal
25 May 2008, Helsinki, Finland (extra-ordinary)

Along with the tasks normally performed by the EFIL Board, some specific topics required a considerable amount of Board time over the past two years. EFIL’s financial sustainability was a recurring topic at the Board meetings.
So was the cooperation with AFS International, as well as the Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility project, the Berlin Educational Conference, the new European Citizenship Trimester Programme and the development of new partners in the Balkans and Poland (more details on these topics can be found elsewhere in this report).
Of equal importance was the preparation for the further development of a mid- to long term strategy for EFIL, ultimately leading to EFIL’s Business Plan 2009-2010.
A delegation of the EFIL Board met with AFS INT representatives in Copenhagen, Denmark, 14 September 2007 to further discuss the cooperation.

EFIL’s General Assembly in Lisbon in 2007 focused on EFIL’s expanded role in Europe. It marked the changed approach with the EFIL Board and Management, and introduced the Member Organisations to the Strategic Directions 2007-2012.

Regional Meeting
18 October 2008, Berlin, Germany

At the Regional Meeting in Berlin the Members reconfirmed their support to help build higher profile for EFIL and becoming one relevant compact actor on the European scene, by investing in effective cooperation and cohesion among the members.

Board meetings
16-18 March 2007, Munich, Germany
20 May 2007, Lisbon, Portugal
8-9 June 2007, Istanbul, Turkey
21-22 Sep. 2007, Copenhagen, Denmark
11-13 Jan.2008, Zurich, Switzerland
23-24 May 2008, Helsinki, Finland
26-28 September 2008, Budapest, Hungary

To serve the purpose of EFIL as a Federation, the HOO-meetings aim at building a sense of unity and common identity within the network of European Partners, based on their dedication/commitment to the European dimension of AFS. Topics on the agenda included the strategy and calendar for trainings, EFIL’s projects and activities in the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, updates and the development of a common strategy on the follow-up of the Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility project, and the development of new partner organisations in the Balkans and Poland.
As a member-based organisation working in the field of intercultural learning, EFIL envisions communication with the Member Organisations as a vital means of strengthening the network. EFIL uses various tools to facilitate communication with its Members and the public at large.

**Website**

The website http://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.

**Reports**

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

**Purple and Blue Book**

In 2007 EFIL distributed its “Purple Book”, a guide through European funding opportunities within the new generation of European Union Programmes for Education and Culture 2007-2013. The document provides information about the “Youth in Action Programme”, the “Lifelong Learning Programme”, and the “Europe for Citizens Programme”. The “Purple Book” further provides information about projects and activities funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest.

In 2008 the “Blue Book” came out, with an overview of foundations in Europe that could potentially support AFS activities.
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.
Human Resources

Secretariat

The following staff and volunteers were active at the EFIL Secretariat in 2007 and 2008:

- **Paul Claes**, Secretary-General
- **Frini Ezunkpe**, Executive Manager - Administrative and Financial Management
- **Tatiana Damad- de Béthune**, Director for Partnership and Resource Development - Fundraising and Project Development
- **Izabela Jurczik**, Training Coordinator, from 12 February 2007
- **Bram Goris**, Training Coordinator, until 16 February 2007
- **Lennart D’Hulst**, EFIL Director for Partner Development, from 2 January 2007, until 18 November 2008
- **Michela Bortoli**, staff Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility project, until 23 April 2007
- **Solveig Sveinbjornsdottr**, temporary replacement for Frini Ezunkpe (maternity leave), from 19 February 2007 until 30 June 2007
- **Sophie Grenier**, intern, from 5 March 2007 until 15 May 2007
- **Dieynaba Ba**, intern, from 13 June 2007 until 14 September 2007
- **Verena Schiefer**, intern, from 17 September 2007 until 31 March 2008, and staff Project Manager, from 1 April 2008 until 31 December 2008
- **Francesca Bragagnolo**, EVS volunteer, until 12 November 2007
- **Lara Svoboda**, EVS Volunteer, from 12 November 2007 until 5 October 2008
- **Kamila Karlikowska**, intern, from 7 May 2008 until 1 October 2008
- **Benjamin Ledwun**, FSJ volunteer, from 26 August 2008

Board

The Board of Directors acts as the Executive Body. It consists of seven volunteer members elected by the General Assembly. The Board meets 3 to 4 times each year.

The following Board members served on the EFIL Board in 2007 and 2008:

- **Martin Birger Hjoerland** (AFS Denmark)
- **Roberto Ruffino** (AFS Italy)
- **Christine Leimgruber** (AFS Switzerland)
- **Martha Eiriksdottir** (AFS Iceland)
- **Mick Petersmann** (AFS Germany)
- **Mete Fanuscu** (AFS Turkey)
- **Jan Honinx** (AFS Belgium Flanders) – left the Board in May 2007
- **Anett Miklos** (AFS Hungary) – entered the Board in May 2007

Chair: **Martin Birger Hjoerland**, until 5 February 2008, when **Roberto Ruffino** took over the position.

Vice-Chair: **Christine Leimgruber**

Treasurer: **Jan Honinx**, until 19 May 2007, when **Martha Eiriksdottir** took over.

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 2007 General Assembly were:

- **Jatta Erlund**, AFS Intercultural Programs Finland ry
- **Franz Heimel**, Auditor European Federation for Intercultural Learning
- **Thomas Heymans**, AFS Programmes Interculturels asbl, Belgium

Members of the Election Committee for the 2008 Extra-Ordinary General Assembly were:
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 following auditors terminated their mandate in May 2007: Franz Heimel, Austria, and Jesper Klinting, Denmark.

As new external auditor, the General Assembly in Lisbon, May 2007, accepted the nomination of Charles-Henry de Streefl. The GA further approved the appointment of Jan Honinx as the new internal auditor.

Consultants

Monica Gilis, Accountant, Social Security and Fiscal Adviser
Elisabeth Hardt, Consultant for the Study Report (February 2007) and the Executive Summary of the Final Report (June 2008) of the Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility project

Advisory Groups

TAB

The Training Advisory Body (TAB) was set up in October 2006 to assist the EFIL Training Coordinator with the development of a coherent and strategic training approach, in line with the objectives and result areas of the EFIL Strategic and Operational Plans. The group further supports EFIL’s Training Coordinator with the planning and organisation of centrally run European and international training courses, seminars and projects.

The members of the Training Advisory Body 2007-2008 were:
- Satu Kuivalainen, AFS Finland Organisational Development Coordinator
- Francesco Fratagnoli, AFS Italy Organisational Development Coordinator
- Philipp Wagner, AFS Austria Board Member/Chair
- Helle Jarlmos, Senior International Consultant with AFS INT (until 14 June 2007)
- Lisa Cohen, Senior International Consultant with AFS INT (from 14 June 2007)

EFIL can rely on a European Pool of Trainers (EPOT) to help organise and actively take part in its trainings. In 2007-2008 53 trainers from 17 AFS organisations were part of the pool. The EPOT core group met on 14-15 July 2007 in Brussels, Belgium.

The Expertise Pool on Fundraising (EPOF) embodies a forum of fundraisers and a consulting body on fundraising for Member Organisation. EPOF pulls together existing competence on fundraising with the aim to consult each other on potential fundraising initiatives, share experiences, collaborate on applications, and market these initiatives to implementing partners.

The members of the Expertise Pool on Fundraising are:
- Barbara Bretschneider, staff member AFS Germany
- Susie Eibenstein, staff member AFS Italy
- Tatiana Damarad, EFIL staff member

The group met for the first time on 11-12 September 2007. The EPOF was joined by Christine Leimgruber from the EFIL board.
## Member Organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>AFS Austauschprogramme für Interkulturelles Lernen e-mail: <a href="mailto:office@afs.at">office@afs.at</a> <a href="http://www.afs.at/">http://www.afs.at/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium (Flemish)</td>
<td>AFS Interculturele Programma's vzw e-mail: <a href="mailto:afsbfl@afs.org">afsbfl@afs.org</a> <a href="http://www.afsvlaanderen.be/">http://www.afsvlaanderen.be/</a></td>
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<td>Belgium (French)</td>
<td>AFS Programmes Interculturels asbl e-mail: <a href="mailto:info-belgium-french@afs.org">info-belgium-french@afs.org</a> <a href="http://www.afsbelgique.be/">http://www.afsbelgique.be/</a></td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>AFS Mezikulturni programy e-mail: <a href="mailto:info-czechrepublic@afs.org">info-czechrepublic@afs.org</a> <a href="http://www.afs.org/afs_or/home">http://www.afs.org/afs_or/home</a></td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Interkultur e-mail: <a href="mailto:info-denmark@afs.org">info-denmark@afs.org</a> <a href="http://www.afs.dk/">http://www.afs.dk/</a></td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>AFS Egypt – Egyptian Society for Intercultural Exchange email: <a href="mailto:info-egypt@afs.org">info-egypt@afs.org</a>' <a href="http://www.afs-egypt.org/egy_en/home">http://www.afs-egypt.org/egy_en/home</a></td>
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<td>Intercultura AFS Portugal e-mail: <a href="mailto:info-portugal@afs.org">info-portugal@afs.org</a>” <a href="http://www.intercultura-afs.pt/por_po/home">http://www.intercultura-afs.pt/por_po/home</a></td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>AFS Interkulturell Utbildning, tel: 46-8-406.00.00 e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@afs.se">info@afs.se</a> <a href="http://www.afs.se/swe_sw/home">http://www.afs.se/swe_sw/home</a></td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>AFS Tunisie Intercultural Programs tel: 2167-183.10.06 <a href="http://www.afs-tunisia.org.tn/">http://www.afs-tunisia.org.tn/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>AFS Türk Kültür Vakfi e-mail: <a href="mailto:info-turkey@afs.org">info-turkey@afs.org</a> <a href="http://afsweb.afs.org/countryp.nsf/pages/turkey">http://afsweb.afs.org/countryp.nsf/pages/turkey</a></td>
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