
**EFIL AND PARTNERS CELEBRATE
INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE DAY**

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The 24th of September was a special day for the EFIL/AFS network in Europe! For the second year running, in more than 200 locations in 20 different countries across the continent, activities took place to celebrate intercultural dialogue.

Inspired by this year's motto “Intercultural Europe in 5 Senses”, AFS volunteers & exchange students joined forces and organised activities to promote the idea of peace, understanding, friendship & diversity.

The number of events is impressive and the variety ranged from cake tasting and blind language learning, through culture quizzes and imaginary inter-rail journeys, to flash mob and balloons for peace. Since pictures can illustrate the spirit so much better than words, this article features some shots that give a glimpse of the mood and colours of 24 September 2009 across Europe!



D-Day in Astrakhan (photo: AFS RUS)



D-Day in Czech Republic (photo: AFS CZE)

In Astrakhan, **Russia**, students of the Lyceum created a huge 30 m² patchwork of pieces of cloth called "Cover of Friendship", each piece containing embroidered messages, collages, pictures of peace, friendship & understanding. Their initiative attracted the attention of the media and local authorities. Well done, AFS Russia!



The mob dance (photo: AFS France)

« Bouge-toi pour ta mobilité! » (Jump for student mobility) AFS **France** engaged in a very powerful campaign towards promoting mobility and more intercultural encounters between young people! An online petition has been created, addressing issues that French students are facing when going on an exchange abroad (see further in this edition of EFILife). A real flash mob took place in Montmartre, Paris on 24 September with AFS volunteers, exchange students and passers-by performing a perfectly synchronized mob dance and inviting everyone to join in accompanied by music. For the video, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwkoqRVTdEk>. Watch out because the flash mob enthusiasts are planning a

dancing tour to inspire people to jump for their mobility! Bonne chance with your campaign, AFS France!

Food is definitely one of the best ambassadors of culture, especially when it involves exotic cuisines such as Brasil, Japan and San Marino! With this in mind, AFS volunteers in **Czech Republic**, exchange students and their host families and friends prepared an Intercultural Cooking Evening which welcomed the public in one of Prague's most prominent youth clubs, Klamovka. People brought a typical dish from their region or country and every one was invited to try food from many different places in the world. Sushi was voted the best international dish at the contest! Prague guests and citizens had the chance to learn about AFS and its engagement in Intercultural Dialogue on several occasions in the city where AFS volunteers arranged info stands with interesting presentations. Thanks, AFS Czech Republic for your work & we hope to try one of the dishes at our next EFIL/AFS event with your volunteers!



Intercultural Dialogue day in Croatia (photo: Globus Croatia)

EFIL BOARD MEETING IN VIENNA



Austria's capital city Vienna was the venue of EFIL's third Board meeting of 2009, which took place alongside the 60th Anniversary Celebrations of AFS Austria. Items on the agenda of the Board meeting included a reflection on EFIL's flagship projects (the Volunteer Summer Summit, Intercultural Dialogue Day, the European Citizenship Trimester Programme – see elsewhere in this edition of EFILife), a brain storming on how to stimulate network growth, an introduction to a strategy for new member development, and statutory matters (including a review of the Board election procedures and the EFIL membership fee structure).

In a brainstorming session, the Board again took up the motto “what about the remaining 99%”, referring to the large group of young Europeans who are currently not involved in any form of mobility. At the backdrop of a Europe where increased mobility is promoted at all levels, EFIL feels there's an important role to be played by AFS offices and Boards, and looks for ways on how EFIL can be of help to reach the goal of expanding the volume of exchanges in Europe.



EFIL Board (photo: EFIL)

A strategy for further partner development initiatives will be developed by the EFIL Board and the Secretariat, based on the following three priority areas. The work done in the Balkan countries over the past years (Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia) needs to be consolidated; twinning arrangements between selected established partners and potential contacts in EU countries where there is no current AFS presence will be stimulated; EFIL will look for financial support to develop new AFS activities in EU countries where there is no current AFS presence.

And finally, it was announced that AFS Austauschprogramme für interkulturelles Lernen (AFS Austria) will host the next EFIL General Assembly, 2-4 June 2011. EFIL wishes to thank AFS Austria for the attractive offer and looks forward to a fruitful cooperation in preparing for the 2011 event in Vienna.

EFIL TRAINING ADVISORY BODY MEETS IN BUDAPEST

The Training Advisory Body (TAB) of the European Federation for Intercultural Learning met on 13-14 September 2009 in Budapest, Hungary.

The TAB had been created as an advisory structure at European level to support EFIL training issues in terms of both strategic and operational matters. Thanks to its composition including two Organisational Development Co-ordinators, two experienced volunteers and an AFS International representative, the TAB helps EFIL in keeping the overview of AFS training needs in Europe.

The meeting focused on developing a coherent approach to evaluation of training activities, on proposals and decisions for future EFIL training events and on the evaluation of past activities. Also on the agenda was

the co-operation between EFIL and AFS International in view of the joint training calendar frame. The TAB further followed up on the comments regarding trainings following the EFIL General Assembly and the EFIL Board meeting. And last but not least, the TAB reflected on the functioning of the European Pool of Trainers.



Stephan Winiker, Manuel Schwinn, Michela Bortoli, Lisa Cohen, Diana Rosta, Izabela Jurczik (photo: EFIL)

The next TAB meeting is planned to take place in April 2010.

A big thank you goes to all the TAB members for their commitment, and to AFS Hungary for the exceptional hosting co-operation.

EUROPEAN POOL OF TRAINERS REINFORCED

The European Pool of Trainers (EPOT), established in 2002, is the common training resource for all EFIL members. This is where preparatory teams for EFIL seminars are recruited and this is where European AFS organisations can find trainers for their national events in the frame of the Travelling Trainers scheme. EPOT membership gives a unique chance to gain new skills, travel, get to know different training contexts (also outside AFS) and have an impact on the European training reality.

Apart from the general bi-annual recruitment, every six months EFIL Member Organisations can nominate additional EPOT members. We are happy to announce that the additional selection round has just been

finalised and 15 new trainers have joined the Pool: Philipp Konrad (Austria), Signe Nielsen and Niels Dyrelund (Denmark), Anni Siltanen (Finland), Florian Aue, Hannah Weck, Philip Peter, Christopher Stolzenberg and Kai Böttner (Germany), Karlina Viksna (Latvia), Camilla Soulere, Pernille Stendal Robinson, Karina Fossmark Pedersen, Flemming Larsen and Sophie Bergaust (Norway).

With the current strong team of 72 trainers from 18 AFS organisations we are looking forward to the next activities of the EPOT, for the benefit of all European AFS organisations. Next opportunity to join the Pool coming up in six months, when some additional trainers can still be accepted!

SUPPORT STAFF MEETING IN CZECH REPUBLIC

19 staff members dealing with participant support issues, from 15 AFS organisations across Europe and beyond (Austria, Belgium Flanders, Czech Republic, Spain, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, Thailand and the USA) took part in the first EFIL meeting/training of its kind in Mnichovice, Czech Republic, 6-10 October 2009.



Participants of the support staff meeting (photo: EFIL)

The preparatory team, with Dario Radi, Jana Holla, David Blythe and Izabela Jurczik, had put together an

interesting programme including 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.

A big round of thank you's goes to everyone present at the meeting, as it was the joint effort of the group which constituted the event outcomes. And of course a special gratitude is deserved by AFS Czech Republic – the whole group enjoyed very much the atmosphere of the place and the helpful involvement of all the Czech staff in this project.

Together with the participants of the meeting EFIL is eager to continue the tradition of recurring EFIL Support Staff Meetings, encouraging also the involvement of non-European staff in the future. The next edition is coming up in 2011, don't miss it!

FIRST ECTP CAMP IN BRUSSELS IN SIX WEEKS TIME

The newly launched EFIL European Citizenship Trimester Programme is in full swing. Hosted pupils are getting to know the environment and are collecting new impressions every day. With the same enthusiasm and eagerness, the ECTP preparatory team is working on the preparation of the End-of-Stay camp for the 111 pupils – the highlight of their trimester exchange within Europe.

The event will take place between 22 and 26 November 2009 and the venue is the Destelheide Vormingscentrum in Dworp/Brussels, a well known location for the Belgian volunteers and also for many others who attended the EFIL meeting of National AFS Pools of Trainers in 2008. This coming weekend, the Support Team will meet on location to discuss practical details for the Camp and make sure students will have a good

learning and sharing time together, as well as great evening and leisure activities.



ECTP prep team (photo: EFIL)

Apart from many interesting workshops where they will be able to reflect on their experience abroad and the intercultural competences they gained, participants will be able to visit the European Parliament and the European Commission, and get practical ideas on what it means to be an active citizen in today's Europe.

Already now, the ECTP preparatory team wants to thank all National Coordinators and offices for their constant support and their regular updates on different matters. A special word of thanks goes to AFS Belgium Flanders, whose help and local knowledge is greatly appreciated by EFIL and the team in this new endeavour!

EURAFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

Good news! The European Commission has approved the funding of EFIL's new project EURAFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE.

Eighteen experienced youth workers from twelve European AFS organisations (Austria, Belgium Flanders, Belgium French, Denmark, Spain, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia and Portugal) will travel to Africa in the first half of 2010, where they will be involved in feasibility studies and trainings aimed at AFS volunteers and staff in the

three participating African countries Ghana, South Africa and Kenya. In a week-long closing seminar in Vienna, Austria, in August 2010, all participants will get together to share their experiences and compile the information gathered.

Project preparations are ongoing. Partners have started the selection of participants. A first steering group meeting will take place in November in Lisbon, Portugal. Steering Group members are Luis Arnaut (POR), Tiziana Savasta (ITA), Kathy Otto (RSA), Paul Claes and Frini Ezunkpe (EFIL). Additionally, Bert Vercamer from AFS INT will contribute to the Steering Group meetings and give his advice.

Project activities include (in chronological order) the recruitment of participants in October, the first Steering Group meeting in Lisbon in November, a guided self-preparation for European participants ('homework') in January. The feasibility studies and trainings on location will take place in February in Ghana (Accra, Cape Coast and Akosombo), in April in South Africa (Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town) where the 2nd Steering Group meeting will take place, and finally in Kenya (Nairobi, Southern Rift Valley and Coastal Region) in June. The international seminar 'Empowering Our EurAfrican Partnership' is planned for August and will take place in Vienna. A last Steering Group meeting (conference call) is scheduled for September.



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging time with the EurAfrican Partnership for Change project.

EFIL VOLUNTEER SUMMER SUMMIT 2010 – FOCUS ON LEARNING ACROSS GENERATIONS

Yes, it is confirmed - the dates and place for the third edition of the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit have been fixed! After the success of the two first editions in 2008 (France) and 2009 (Turkey), the next year's event will take place at the Balaton Lake in Zanka, Hungary, from the 4th till the 9th of August 2010. The theme of the next Summit will focus on a very essential issue for the student exchange context: learning between people of different ages. This issue is related not only to better attention for hosting and sending families in AFS, but also to more age diversification and joint intergenerational efforts among volunteers.

The preparations of the upcoming Summit have already started, more than 10 months before the actual event. Fundraising efforts from the EFIL Secretariat have kicked off and the selection of the Preparatory Team is in progress. Following the good practice of the past year, a volunteer intern has also been recruited who will fully dedicate her time to the project, being based in the EFIL office in Brussels. Congratulations to Eliza Popper from AFS Hungary for being selected! The hosting organisation in Hungary has also started the preparatory process; the event venue has been booked and the volunteers to be involved in the Summit are being identified.

If you are interested in further developments, stay tuned as more information will be shared in the next months. While waiting for an update of the Summer Summit website, every AFS volunteer is invited to join the Facebook group "EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit 2010 HUNGARY". See you next year in Zanka!

DEVELOPING THE BALKAN ORGANISATIONS – AFS HUNGARY AND INTERKULTURA SERBIA

Interkultura Serbia is a new organisation on its way to become a partner in the AFS network. Interkultura volunteers have worked hard and have achieved quite a lot over the past year. In 2009/10 Interkultura Serbia is sending seven students to Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Austria. Two of the students have received full scholarships from Banca Intesa (AFS Italy), two have received partial scholarships from Landesstiftung Baden Württemberg (AFS Germany) and one has received a partial scholarship from AFS Switzerland.

In the meantime there have been two rounds of volunteers' training conducted by AFS Hungary, mentor organisation for Interkultura Serbia. Three Serbian volunteers attended the EFIL training in Zagreb, Croatia, in April this year, and three volunteers attended EFIL's Volunteer Summer Summit in Istanbul in August. Interkultura Serbia now feels a lot more confident and is looking forward to further developing AFS programmes in Serbia with the help of the AFS partners organisations.



*Serbian students and volunteers at the pre-departure orientation 2009
(photo: Interkultura Serbia)*

This is the time to start promoting Serbia as a destination among schools and students across Europe. Hosting foreign students in Serbia is very important for Interkultura Serbia, not

only in terms of promoting their new organisation in the network, but also in terms of promoting it among Serbian high schools.

If you would like to offer spots to Serbian students or if you wish to send students to Serbia, please contact Ivana Gazikalovic Pavlovic, President of INTERKULTURA Serbia, at svetnikola@sezampro.rs or interkultura.serbia@gmail.com.

PARTNER NEWS

In each edition of EFILife, we dedicate some space to partner news, including personnel changes as well as relevant events that have taken place over the past month.

AFS Tunisia held its Advanced Training Workshop for active volunteers at the AFS Tunisia office in Tunis on 4 October. The training helped volunteers to get a better understanding of hosting and sending programmes, quality standards, the use of available tools for information management, etc.

AFS Germany has completely revised its internet presence. A modern graphic language, user blogs, photos, videos and several new functions make the website more attractive and puts the focus on "AFS inspires for life". Take a look at www.afs.de.

There's only little to report on this month in the field of staff changes in the AFS offices across Europe.

AFS Czech Republic announced the arrival of an EVS volunteer in their Prague office. Patricia Melon Anton will stay with AFS CZE until the middle of July 2010. After 3.5 years in hosting support in the regional office of **AFS Germany** in Berlin, Susanne Herzog is leaving to go back to university. Until a new colleagues steps in, Gabi Brandt will be covering the work. **AFS Belgium French** has welcomed Fabienne Demaury, a former staff member who has

returned to become the new Programme Director and Organisational Development Coordinator, and Magali Nerinckx, in charge of hosting admissions and counselling. They are replacing Sybille Giard and Frédérique who recently left the organisation. AFS BFR also announced some internal moves, with Bruno Bernier joining the communication team, and Christophe Luyten moving to the programme team. You can find more on the restructuring of the AFS BFR office elsewhere in this newsletter.

That's it for this month. Do let us know what's happening in your offices!

FOCUS ON AFS BELGIUM FRENCH

In every issue of EFILife, we will put the spotlight on one of EFIL's Member Organisations. With the limited space available, focus will be on the organisational structure. This month we give the floor to AFS Belgium French.



In the beginning of June of this year, AFS Belgium French has initiated an important process review with the help of the consulting team of AFS International. This process analysis as well as recruitment performances revealed that task reassignments between programme team and communication team as well as among staff members were necessary. The organisation recently faced a number of key staff departures. The process review also proved that some internal moves could contribute to more coherence in terms of tasks and responsibilities and then to satisfaction and stability. Next to the Director's Secretariat team (accounting and administration), the two departments within AFS Belgium French are maintained: the communication team and the programme team.

The programme team leader takes up the combined tasks of both Programme Director and Organisational Development Coordinator (ODC). The team further consists of staff responsible for sending admissions (all programmes); for hosting admissions, host families and counselling; for volunteer support and orientations; and finally for IT support, travel, visas, waivers, etc.

Communication tools and issues (recruitment campaigns, internet, branding, etc.) are coordinated by the Communication Team leader. Other staff members in the team take care of the sending campaign, of the hosting campaign, and of school relations (each including external communication).

AFS Belgium French no more has a specific 18+ coordinator staff position. Numbers have decreased drastically over the past years, which no longer justified this staff position. This doesn't mean that the organisations stops running 18+ programmes, but they have now been included in the tasks assigned for the school based programmes. The aim is to increase the number of participants in the 18+ programmes over the coming years and hopefully to go back to a specific 18+ staff position.

Having recently moved to a new young environment, close to a university and colleges, with a staff ready to embrace the new challenges, AFS Belgium French is ready to strive for growth with quality.

FORUM ON ICL AND EXCHANGE IN COLLE

In Colle di Val d'Elsa, from 3 to 6 October, the *Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange* brought together researchers and practitioners from various corners of the world, sharing researches conducted in the field of intercultural competences and of pupil's mobility.



Participants Forum Colle
(photo: Sofia Valenti – AFS Italy)

The main topics of this year's forum were a state of the art in intercultural learning in study abroad, and the re-adjustment to the home situation and narration of a student's experience abroad. Plenary panel sessions and discussion groups tackled topics ranging from the definition and measurement of intercultural competences (what are the desired outcomes of study abroad, research on intervention strategies, ethicality and effectiveness in programme design, host families and the study abroad environment, etc.) to research and best practices in re-entry programming, the home culture influence on narrating the experience abroad, etc.



Panel Forum Colle (photo: Sofia Valenti – AFS Italy)

The Forum was organised by the Intercultura Foundation in Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy, in cooperation with the Intercultural Development Research Institute (IDRI).

BOUGE-TOI POUR TA MOBILITE JUMP FOR MOBILITY

End of September, on the occasion of EFIL's Intercultural Dialogue Day 2009 and the European Day of Languages (24 September 2009), AFS France launched their campaign "Bouge-toi pour ta Mobilité!" ("Jump for Mobility!").



(picture AFS France)

The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness about the obstacles to French high school students' mobility inside Europe, including the lack of validation of the year spent abroad, difficulties to re-enrol in one's school upon return, no scholarships from the government to encourage such mobility, etc

To launch this campaign a "flash mob" was organised in the Montmartre area of Paris, end of September. Volunteers, hosted students, returnees and staff gathered there to perform the "mob dance", dancing for 4 minutes on music from all continents. To carry the message around, AFS France is considering a "mob dance" tour in several French cities. The video of the Paris flash mob is watchable on YouTube. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwkoqRVTdEk>)

The campaign includes an online petition which AFS France will hand over to the Government on 9 May 2010 for the Europe Day. In order to boost the petition AFS France is planning to nominate young volunteers and returnees to become ambassadors of the campaign in schools, distributing posters, flyers and bracelets.

In order to sign the petition, surf to : <http://www.mesopinions.com/Mobilisons-nous-pour-la-mobilite-europeenne-des-eleves---petition-petitions-3ceadfde959020d45445b9d94a5cadf.html> AFS France counts on your support for this campaign as it will show the strength of our international network and everyone is encouraged to write a comment – in your own language – in the “commentaire” section of the form.

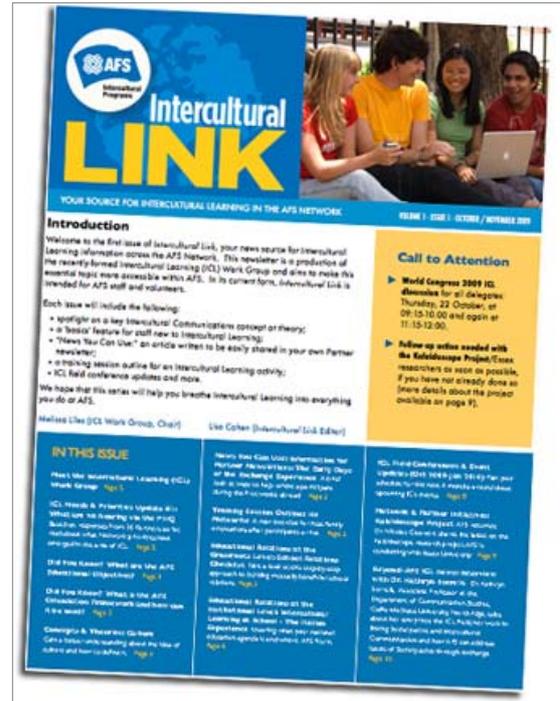
THE EARLY DAYS OF THE EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

By Lisa Cohen, Senior International Consultant, AFS International.

The following article is taken from the first issue of « Intercultural Link », a newsletter about Intercultural Learning information across the AFS network. The newsletter is a production of the recently formed Intercultural Learning Working Group and aims to make this essential topic more accessible within AFS. It helps AFS volunteers and staff to breathe intercultural learning in everything they do within AFS.

As another programme cycle begins, thousands of participants in 51 countries are in the first weeks of their experience abroad during the months of September and October. AFS participants from around the world have left behind everything familiar, including their families, homes, friends, schools, climates and cultures, with the hope of finding a new home in a new land for the next few months.

In the first days of their exchange programmes, participants are likely to feel tired. New sights, sounds, tastes and smells can be overwhelming. Having to constantly be “on” and open to meeting new people can be exhausting. And speaking in a new language in which you continually stretch the limits of your vocabulary and grammatical knowledge can be frustrating.



How can you help someone newly immersed in a foreign culture? It's important to recognize that feeling tired is a normal part of the adjustment process. Whether you are a local AFS contact or a host parent or sibling, you can help just by confirming that it's normal to be tired during the first days and weeks of the exchange experience. You can encourage the AFS participant to get enough rest. S/he may need help balancing the many invitations or events that come during the early weeks or beginning of the school year with a reasonable sleep schedule.

Some AFS participants need help getting integrated into their new family, school or Community Project Organisation and community. You can help by linking the newly-arrived participant with a peer mentor. This could be a student at school who may be interested in international issues or someone in the neighbourhood who can serve as an extra resource (perhaps closer in age) in addition to the AFS-appointed local counsellor or contact person. The more individual connections are made, the sooner a newcomer feels a part of the new community. Only when we start to

share our daily joys and challenges with those around us, rather than contacting those back home via Skype, sms/text or email messages, do we truly start the process of immersion and integration in a new culture.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE IN MOROCCO

My name is Raghda El Shehaby from Egypt. I went to the USA for my exchange year in 2006/2007 and I've been volunteering with AFS in Egypt ever since I came back.



(photo: Raghda El Shehaby)

This year I participated in the "Intercultural Dialogue in Youth Work through Arabic and English Languages", that took place in Rabat, Morocco, last July. The language courses are an initiative from the Council of Europe, and through EFIL I managed to register for this year's course. It was a very intense programme, but also a lot of fun. Every morning we had our languages classes: English classes for the Arabic speaking participants and Arabic classes for the others. In the afternoon we had our sessions and workshops about intercultural dialogue. The group was very diverse, with people coming from Azerbaijan, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Russia, and myself from Egypt. However, it wasn't all just work. We spent a weekend in Assilah, a small and beautiful city on the Atlantic Ocean; we went to Casablanca for a day; we had a very amusing intercultural evening; we

visited a traditional Moroccan hamam (bath) and we experienced the hospitality of Moroccan families.



(photo: Raghda El Shehaby)

For me personally, it was amazing to visit another Arab country and learn about their culture and experience their customs and traditions, which are very different from what I'm used to in my own country. When I first got there, I couldn't understand a word they were saying even though they were speaking Arabic, but it's totally different from my Egyptian Arabic. The food is pretty nice, two thumbs up for the Moroccan cuisine! The traditional houses are unique. The people are very warm and friendly. It made me feel like home.



(photo: Raghda El Shehaby)

Every time I attend an international event I am making new friends and share new stories, but I truly believe that the friends I made during the three weeks I spent in Morocco will be friends for life. The trainers, the teachers and the preparation team did their very best to help us feel comfortable and understand every

aspect of the training. It was an awesome, unforgettable experience.

“BRIDGING THE GAP” IN MOLLINA

From 13 to 20 September 2009, representatives of 5 exchange organisations met in Mollina, Spain for a 6-day seminar with the challenging topic: “Bridging the Gap: the road to recognising long-term youth exchanges”. The seminar took place at the Centro Eurolatinoamericano de Juventud (CEULAJ) in the framework of the University on Youth and Development (UYD) traditionally organised every year by the North-South Centre and the Spanish Government.



*Joint programme of the UYD
(photo: Katrine Korsgaard EEE-YFU)*

The seminar brought together 17 participants from 11 nationalities who represented the following exchange organisations: Intercultural Youth Exchanges (ICYE), European Educational Exchanges – Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU), Erasmus Student Network (ESN), Service Civil International (SCI) and EFIL. EFIL was represented by Cecilie Jakobsen from AFS Norway, Diogo Casal from AFS Portugal, Nicole Giraud from AFS France, Ilyana Panteleeva from the EFIL office, plus Jitka Cerna from AFS Czech Republic in the facilitators team.

With this diverse participants profile, the seminar provided an opportunity to get to know different exchange formats and organisations (volunteer, intercultural, school, university), and

learn about the challenges these organisations are facing with recognition. The exchange of best practices gave an overview of how the organisations work with external partners, policy makers and national bodies. Participants took some really useful ideas back home, and it was encouraging to see that there is already a lot of cooperation and joint efforts between some of these organisations at the national level.



Bridging the Gap participants in front of the CEULAJ venue (photo: Florian Schueler YFU SUI)

In order to have a common understanding of recognition, seminar participants engaged in a creative discussion of what this concept means to them and by whom they expect the exchanges to be recognised and why. Only after this, some synergies crystallized and relevant actors could be mapped down and follow-up plans started taking shape. At present, several projects are being discussed and EFIL will keep you posted how they develop.

The University on Youth and Development celebrated its 10th Anniversary which was a great opportunity to experience the

diversity and richness of Mollina as a place bringing together young people from more than 80 countries worldwide for trained and discussions on a variety of topics connected to youth work, global education, citizenship and international development cooperation. To learn more about this unique event and get a glimpse of the spirit, please visit the impressive interactive website full of interesting information and videos: <http://universityonyouthanddevelopment.org/>

INTERNET LINKS

- www.ye2009.cz
- http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index_en.htm
- www.efilsummersummit.org
- <http://ec.europa.eu>
- www.intercultural-europe.org/
- www.inderscience.com/ejccm
- www.interculturalday.eu

CALENDAR 2009/10

19 October	Heads of Office meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
20-25 October	AFS World Congress, Kuala Lumpur
16-18 Nov.	Steering Group meeting EurAfrican Partnership for Change, Lisbon, Portugal
22-26 Nov	European Citizenship Trimester Programme-End of Stay Camp, Brussels, Belgium
3-6 December	EVS Coordinators Meeting, Leuven, Belgium
12-14 February	EFIL Board meeting, Rome, Italy

28-30 May

EFIL Board meeting, Prague, Czech Republic

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Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue of EFILife. Please do not hesitate to share with us your **comments and suggestions**. We welcome your **contributions!**

If you would like to subscribe to (or unsubscribe from) this Newsletter, please contact the EFIL Secretariat at: efilife@efil.be.

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