
**LAVENDER FIELDS AND VAN GOGH
 DIRECTORS MEET IN FRANCE**



EFIL Partner Directors (photo: EFIL)

In France, 19 Directors of the EFIL Member Organisations met in an extra ordinary setting with a cozy atmosphere, excellent facilities, and great French cuisine for their first of two annual Heads of Office meetings. The event in Sernhac – near Avignon and Nîmes - was a HOO “retreat” rather than a meeting, because of its slightly different focus, and was the first of its kind since the retreat in Sicily in May 2006.

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HOO retreat Sernhac (photos: Marit Gronskei)

The HOO retreat succeeded in its main objective: getting to know each other better. Marit Gronskei, National Director of AFS SWE, had introduced the group to a Social Styles exercise, which contributed a lot to the success of the retreat, setting the right tone in the first session on Monday morning, the first of three days of discussions, group work and quality time together. It was hard for all of us to leave behind the French sun and the relaxed

setting in Sernhac, and return to our desks, the e-mails, the host family search and the daily routine of our offices...☺

A big thank you goes to the members of the Steering Committee, Jatta Erlund (Finland), Marit Gronskei (Sweden), Johanna Nemeth (Austria), Ana Fachada (Portugal) and Philippe Peccatier (France). AFS Vivre Sans Frontière did a great job taking care of the logistics and bribing the weatherman to make sure we had sunshine throughout our stay, while the rest of France (and Europe) was suffering from rain and thunderstorms. The excursion on Tuesday afternoon, including the Van Gogh walk, was enjoyed by all was and an absolute highlight of our stay in France.

The second EFIL HOO meeting of 2010 will take place in Buenos Aires, alongside the AFS World Congress.

FOUR EFIL BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED



*Extra-ordinary General Assembly in Sernhac
(photo: EFIL)*

On Monday 7 June, an EFIL extra-ordinary General Assembly took place, alongside the Heads of Office meeting in Sernhac, France.

Four members for the EFIL Board have been elected. Roberto Ruffino (Italy), Christine Leimgruber (Switzerland) and Michael Rosak (Czech Republic) got re-elected on the EFIL Board for another term of two years. We welcome Jörn

Lehman (Germany) as a new Board member. Other Board members (in the middle of their two year term) are Martha Eiriksdottir (Iceland), Anett Miklos (Hungary) and Mari Pajunen (Finland). At the EFIL Board meeting in Nice (4-6 June), the Board thanked Mete Fanuscu (Turkey), who did not run for re-election after serving for four years on the EFIL Board.



*Extra-ordinary General Assembly in Sernhac
(photo: Marit Gronskei)*

The e.o.G.A. adopted a number of resolutions during its meeting in Sernhac. A change in the Statutes of EFIL (inclusion of a new membership status: "affiliate member") was approved with the required majority, leaving the way open for the new partner organisations in South Eastern Europe (Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) to apply for EFIL membership at the next General Assembly. The proposed changes in the procedures for the EFIL Board elections (regarding the two year versus one year mandates, as well as the majority rule) got the required number of votes to be adopted. Election procedures will be adjusted accordingly. Finally, on the third issue up for voting, the majority of the Member Organisations opted for an EFIL membership fee structure with a floor only (as in the past), rather than introducing a new fee system with both a floor and a ceiling.

EFIL wants to thank all the Member Organisations for their input and cooperation in helping to build up a stronger Federation with the support of all. The next EFIL General Assembly will take place in Vienna, Austria, 2-5 June 2011.

EFIL BOARD MEETS IN NICE

The EFIL Board held its second meeting of the year in Nice, 4 – 6 June 2010. The agenda featured a wide range of topics, including an overview by the Secretary General on recent developments in EFIL and in Europe, and EFIL's mid- to long-term activity calendar. The auditor's report 2009 was presented, together with the balance sheet and the final year end results of 2009.



EFIL Board in Nice (photo: EFIL)

Special attention was given to the idea of packaging trainings organised by EFIL under one new brand, the "EFIL Academy", as a brand name for good quality training opportunities within the European AFS network for AFS volunteers and staff. While discussing the way forward, the Board decided that a similar exercise will be done for other EFIL activity areas, including external communication, programmes, new partner development, etc.

The Board picked up the discussion again that was started at the meeting in February, about exploring the expansion of EFIL's activities in a number of additional countries within the EU (Poland, Greece,

Romania, Bulgaria), by looking for partnerships with major corporation or multinationals with an interest in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

At the backdrop of a Europe where increased mobility is promoted at all levels, the Board feels there's an important role to be played by AFS managers, supported by their national Boards. In its discussion, the Board re-confirmed its focus on the five corner stones of a healthy organisation: inspired leadership; a strong volunteer network; appealing programmes; building school relations; fundraising and scholarships.

The Chair, Roberto Ruffino, thanked outgoing Board member Mete Fanuscu (Turkey) for his much appreciated contributions to the discussions of the Board over the past four years. The next EFIL Board meeting is scheduled for October, in Leuven, Belgium.



Mete Fanuscu (photo: EFIL)

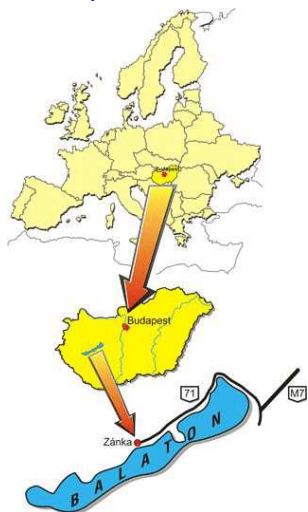
EFIL VOLUNTEER SUMMER SUMMIT 2010 ONLY SIX WEEKS TO GO



Preparations are stepping up a few gears as the VSS is getting closer day by day. As the final application deadline has passed we are happy to announce that we officially have crossed the magical threshold of

more than 200 participants from 34 different countries, all heading for Zánka this summer! This makes the Volunteer Summer Summit 2010 the biggest EFIL event in history.

The workshop and room registrations start next week online at <http://efilsummersummit.org/>.



The Preparatory Team is giving its best to fulfil the needs of all participants while the local Support Team is making plans to organise a tour in the Parliament, a flashmob in the heart of

Budapest and a community activity at Sziget Festival. We are all working together to achieve one ultimate goal: make it an unforgettable Volunteer Summer Summit for everyone participating!



Volunteer Summer Summit in Istanbul, Turkey 2009 (photo: EFIL)

ECTP PREP TEAM MEETS IN BRUSSELS

Last weekend, the 7 members of this year's preparatory team of the European Citizenship Trimester Programme Brussels Camp, met at the EFIL office in Brussels to start the preparations for one of EFIL's biggest annual events: the Camp in Brussels at the end of November.

This year, the Camp will welcome 157 students from 14 countries to a venue on the outskirts of Brussels, a 50% increase in numbers as compared to last year's first edition of the Camp.

Participants will be accompanied by a committed team of 30 volunteers who will ensure all needs are taken care of. The agenda will include workshops on European topics and active participation of young people. Based on the positive feedback and lessons learnt from last year's pilot edition of the programme, the well received visit to the European Parliament will be part of the programme once again. In order to give students more opportunities to interact with each other and spend some quality time in the heart of Europe, a Brussels City Rally will appear up on this year's agenda.

Importantly, inspired by a round of Facebook votes, the preparatory team finally selected the logo for



ECTP 2010. The winner of the competition is Fabio Villa from Intercultura Italy! Congratulations Fabio, for your great design. We believe it represents in a young and creative way the spirit and concept of the ECTP camp. A thank you also goes to Anna Dalbosco, Birgit Fluegge, Lara Svoboda, Neijra Izmirlija and Wim Hofman for their creative logo suggestions, all of them valuable contributions.

We are very happy to see the great interest of many volunteers to be part of this project and we hope to

see many of them getting involved in some way in the Camp.

Stay tuned for two upcoming calls for trainers and support team members! The ECTP Camp counts on your support, enthusiasm and ideas to further develop into a truly European learning experience for everyone involved!



Marieke de Smet (Belgium Flanders), Nataliya Kulik (Russia), Florian Aue (Germany), Karin Bitterli (Switzerland), Elisabetta Cornago (Italy), Alexander Mueller, Ilyana Panteleva and Thomas Juergenschellert (EFIL)
(photo: EFIL)

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE DAY IN GERMANY – A WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

By Christoph Braunschmidt

This year's Intercultural Dialogue Day in Germany will be different: rather than a one day event, AFS Germany will launch its Intercultural WEEK of Dialogue. This allows for more flexibility not only for our volunteers, but also for the participating schools.



For this purpose, a new motto has been created, "world wide weg", accompanied by a logo that will appear on all publications. The motto plays with different languages, addressing the desire for intercultural contact. The colours used in the logo are

connected with the colours of the programmes used on the website www.afs.de. Under this motto and logo AFS Germany is planning four activities for the week of intercultural dialogue.

A song contest will be launched: Sing a song! The song should capture the feeling of taking part in an exchange and generate curiosity about intercultural experience. All contest submissions have to be ready by 10 September and can be voted for during the Intercultural Week on www.afs.de. The winner will receive a professional recording of the song.

School visits are an essential part in promoting the AFS programmes. To add value for teachers to these visits, AFS Germany has created materials for intercultural learning modules to be used by teachers or volunteers when visiting school classes.

To receive media attention and have more participants involved, flashmobs will be organised in various cities, preferably in places where young people meet, performing an intercultural game with the crowd. The organizers will wear specially designed T-Shirts. Maybe other countries are interested in joining this challenge? AFS Germany will present it at EFIL's Volunteer Summer Summit in Zanka, Hungary, in August.

And last but not least, alongside all these activities, a newly produced image film will be launched, capturing the spirit and variety of AFS, its programmes and the diversity of destinations.

All information about these activities, handouts, dates, and coverage afterwards can be found on a specially created homepage www.afs.de/worldwideweg (in German only).



IDD in Bonn 2009 (photo: AFS Germany)

KENYA HOSTS THIRD LEG IN EURAFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE PROJECT



Ten experienced volunteers from AFS organisations in Denmark, Germany, Finland, Italy, Portugal, Ghana, South Africa and Kenya are currently preparing for their much anticipated visit to Kenya in the second half of June, in the framework of the EurAfrican Partnership for Change project, sponsored by the European Commission.

In Kenya, as part of the first week's programme, our local partners of OFIE (Organisation for Intercultural Education) have set up appointments with government institutions, the private sector, NGOs and local organisations for the participating volunteers to collect information as part of a feasibility study. The feasibility studies in the EurAfrican Partnership for Change project aim at proposing a framework to help empower youth organisations in the African partner countries and further support them in their organisational and volunteer development.

Over the weekend, an intensive training for volunteers will take place in three regions in Kenya, this way reaching some 50 local youth workers and multipliers in Nairobi, the coastal region (Mombasa) and the southern Rift Valley (Narok). The trainings will cover a wide range of topics including intercultural learning, volunteer recruitment and motivation, roles and responsibilities of volunteers, hosting aspects and finding host families, recruitment and selection of participants, preparations and orientations, project management modules tailored for volunteer networks, risk management, facilitation and presentation skills, communication and reporting competences, activity planning, etc.



African partners in "EurAfrican Partnership for Change" project, meeting at the AFS World Congress in Malaysia in 2009 (photo: EFIL)

EFIL's project reflects the AFS network's increased focus on Africa as seen in the AFS Vision 2020 and the discussions on network priorities at the AFS World Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October 2009.



FACILITATING INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING – TRAINING FOR TRAINERS PREPARATORY MEETING

In between ongoing EFIL training events and a staff transition in the

office, the preparatory team of the upcoming Training for Trainers “Facilitating intergenerational learning” met in Brussels on 21-24 May 2010.



The Preparatory Team: Anna-Maria Hass, Yves Gheysen, Jitka Cerna, Inga Menke and John Adler (photo: EFIL)

The event is planned to take place in Hungary this summer, in synergy with the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit. The participants in the training are volunteers already active as trainers at national level in AFS organisations, or planning to become active. The intergenerational theme of the event will be present not only in the training content and in the Volunteer Summer Summit following immediately after the training, but it also shows in the age range of the participants and trainers!

The preparatory team worked hard during the three-day meeting in Brussels to design a programme that's challenging for both the trainers and the participants. In addition to the selected participants, the additional beneficiaries of the project will include a large number of the Summer Summit volunteers, who will participate in the “practice sessions” of the training.

Both events in August in Hungary are a great opportunity to put the intergenerational issues high on the AFS agenda in the upcoming years.

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.



From **AFS Iceland** came the good news that Snorri Gissurarson has been hired as the new National Director.

Good news from the media front.



AFS Switzerland reported that Swiss national television broadcasted a 30 minute special around the exchange year of a Swiss student in Changzou, China. If you want to see more, just follow the link:

<http://videoportal.sf.tv/video?id=6c359497-82b2-4fb9-ad5b-367c0fd1c902>.

Those travelling Air Baltic in the month of May, were treated to a four page coverage of “AFS Intercultural Program: Opening up the world”, in the in flight magazine Baltic Outlook, an article provided by **AFS Latvia**.

AFS Russia reported that there was a lot of media attention when in June a group of 24 AFS students hosted in Russia met with the Russian Federation President plenipotentiary Mr. Gregory Rapota. Students shared stories about their experience in Russia, and told about their host families and schools. Alexander Galitskikh, and some of the AFS staff and volunteers were present.



Students hosted in AFS Russia meet Mr. Gregory Rapota (photo: AFS Russia)

ON OFFER
EVS SPOT IN CROATIA

Are you interested in helping to build up a new and motivated AFS partner organisation? Are you excited to get to know more about South Eastern Europe? Are you up for some real pioneer work? Then this announcement is for you! ☺



*Intercultural Dialogue Day in Croatia in 2009
(photo: Globus)*

Our partner organisation in Croatia (Globus - Association for Intercultural Learning) is looking for an experienced and motivated volunteer to join them in Zagreb for 10 months as from September 2010, sponsored by the European Voluntary Service programme (EVS). We are looking for an active volunteer, who is familiar with the structure and procedures of AFS. Main task areas would be the development of a volunteer structure and the implementation of AFS programmes. Furthermore, the EVS volunteer will play a key-role in the organisation of Intercultural Dialogue Day on 30 September 2010 and will get the chance to help organize and participate in events at local level, this way experiencing the grassroots Croatian spirit! Supporting Croatia's participation in EFIL's "European Citizenship Trimester Programme" (ECTP) and improving the cooperation with similarly new

AFS organisations in Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is another part of the EVS experience that Globus can offer.

If you want to learn more about the project and its conditions, please contact Adrian at Adrian.Lehne@afs.org!

2010 A SPECIAL YEAR FOR AFS
HUNGARY

In every issue of EFILife, we put the spotlight on one of EFIL's Member Organisations. Focus will be mainly on the organisational structure. This month we give the floor to AFS Hungary.



2010 is a big year for AFS Hungary, not only because the organisation is hosting the annual EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit in August, but also because AFS Hungary is celebrating its 20th anniversary!

As for the office in Budapest, AFS Hungary recently focused on modernizing its office equipment, while the meeting room has been given a face-lift. Meanwhile, AFS Hungary has been working on a slight strategy change. Over the past ten years, the organisation's priorities were growth - both in a programme and volunteer perspective - and financial health. Now AFS Hungary has started to focus more on quality: stakeholder approach, school relations and new approaches in volunteer development are in the spotlight.

Currently, the organisation is experiencing some temporary shifts between staff, with the National Director, Anett Miklos (also EFIL Board Member), on a sabbatical leave for the rest of 2010, while the Chief Problem Solver, Greg Csaba, has been granted a merit-based scholarship to CEIBS, Shanghai, China, as from September. The programme Director, Diana Rosta

(member of EFIL's Training Advisory Body) will act as interim National Director, while the Hosting Coordinator, Csilla Fodor, will run the Organisational Development department in the office. The new Hosting Coordinator, Viktória Bedo, is a fresh graduate, but she's not new to AFS: returnee from Italy, host sister of several students, enthusiastic AFS volunteer and host family counselor.

As for the rest of the people in the office: Katalin Kiss, Sending Coordinator, takes care of administration and participant support; Noémi Horváth deals with finances; and Timo Peter is a volunteer from Germany (FSJ programme). Margaréta Szepesi is a part time volunteer coordinator who will be on maternity leave as from July.

The changes within the staff of AFS Hungary are not expected to cause any disruptions, as the organisation's foundations are strong and the future of the organisation is clearly outlined.



Greg Csaba, interim National Director AFS HUN
(photo: Marit Gronskei)

AFS SHOWS THE WAY FORWARD IN BELGIUM

Following the federal elections that took place in Belgium in June, the New York Times published the following article with a rather extreme view on Belgian politics...

= Flemish Separatists Win in Belgium = BRUSSELS — The move to break up Belgium gathered pace on Sunday as a separatist won an emphatic election victory in Flanders, the more prosperous Dutch-speaking region of the divided nation. Few symbols of Belgian unity remain, other than the royal family, the cartoon character Tintin and Brussels itself. There is a national soccer team, but it did not qualify for the World Cup.

The picture below is the answer of AFS in Belgium. Or as Anne Sokal, Director of AFS in the French part of Belgium, puts it: "yes we can" have harmonious relationships between all Belgians! :-))



Marcel Kerff (BFL), Paul Claes (EFIL) and Anne Sokal (BFR), at the HOO meeting in France last week, representing AFS in Flanders, Brussels and Wallonie (photo: Marit Gronskei)

EFIL STAFF DAY IN LEUVEN



On 25 May, the EFIL staff and volunteers invaded the house of their Secretary General in Leuven, and spent the day cooking and eating. Pranzo all'italiana. Bruschetta, penne tricolore, parmigiana di melanzane, panna cotta e frutti di bosco and more of those unpronounceable delicacies were prepared and enjoyed by all. The sun didn't let us down, allowing us to spend a good part of the day enjoying the Italian cuisine to the full, while sitting in the garden. ☺



staff & volunteers EFIL Secretariat 2010
(photo: EFIL)

NEWEST ARRIVAL

EFIL proudly presents its newest family member: little Olaf, 3.2 kg, born on 16 June 2010 in Brussels. Congratulations to the mother, Izabela Jurczik (EFIL's Training Coordinator), and the father, Brian Arnold!



EFIL staff and volunteers (photo: EFIL)

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

By Alexander Müller

My marvellous and eventful time in the EFIL office in Brussels is unfortunately coming to an end. I arrived at EFIL about 10 months ago, as a volunteer under the German FSJ programme. I continued some of the tasks of my predecessor and yet also find my own and new responsibilities in the daily work of EFIL. As my knowledge and understanding of EFIL and AFS grew larger day by day, I had the opportunity to be involved in

many areas of EFIL's training and office work, from administrative and technical support to layout and design of PR materials, such as EFILife and the website. In the field of training activities, I learned a lot from EFIL's Training Coordinator, and through the various trainings organised, I had the wonderful opportunity to develop my knowledge and views about non-formal education and intercultural learning.

A personal highlight of my time at EFIL was without any doubt the chance to help create and shape the first European Citizenship Trimester Programme Camp in November 2009. Time allowing, I will most certainly try to be involved again in this years' ECTP team.

A great thank you goes to the staff at EFIL and all the AFS volunteers I worked with, who have made this past year a very memorable experience.

Over the past year, I also had the great opportunity to experience and explore the truly European and cosmopolitan city of Brussels. Living in the intercultural and international community of the ICA Belgium, and living together with numerous young people from all corners of the continent, has turned my FSJ year into a truly *European* experience.

This summer I will start my university and professional career in Hamburg at Airbus, taking part in what is called "Duales Studium" in Germany, or a combination of University studies and vocational training. But I certainly intend to stay in touch with EFIL and AFS Germany, as I am planning to continue my path in AFS and hope to meet more AFSers around the globe!



Alex in Belgium (photo: EFIL)

GOODBYE TO LAURA

By Laura Licari

I remember when I first arrived in Brussels, it was snowing! Meanwhile, four months have passed by so fast. I very much enjoyed my stay in Brussels, a city that came across to me as Europe in a nutshell! I met a lot of people of several nationalities during my four months in Brussels, and with them I explored Belgium (and the neighbouring countries).



Laura in Antwerpen, Belgium (photo: EFIL)

During my stay with EFIL as a volunteer under the European sponsored AMICUS programme (sending organisation: ARCI Strauss, based in Italy), I took over some of the activities of other interns, including the follow up of the daily "Europolitics newsletter" and other regular newsletter about policy developments in Europe. I also helped with the monthly editing of the EFILife newsletter.

Having spent four months with EFIL, back home, I intend to continue my voluntary work with AFS Intercultura, with a bigger awareness and a better intercultural understanding.

I'm leaving EFIL with very good memories of each of my colleagues there, and I hope I will be remembered the same way as I remember all of you. A big ARRIVEDERCI to everybody.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE

This compilation is based on information collected by EFIL from the daily newsletter "Europolitics – the European affairs daily" and from the European Youth Forum's "Youth Policy Watch", a bi-weekly bulletin. You can subscribe to the Youth Policy Watch directly from the Youth Forum website: <http://www.youthforum.org> and press@youthforum.org

EU ENLARGMENT

The European Union has reassured **Western Balkan** countries queuing for membership that neither the eurozone crisis nor 'enlargement fatigue' would halt their eventual integration.

In a national referendum, Slovenians have narrowly approved their government's border arbitration agreement with Croatia. Commission President Barroso described the result of the 6 June vote as an important signal for the region and the relations between **Slovenia** and **Croatia**.

Montenegro has to make progress on implementation of the 'rule of law' reforms to increase its chances for a positive recommendation on its EU membership application, the European Commission has said.

After a two-year delay, **Serbia** has received the green light to move a step forward in its quest for European Union membership. Having received a positive assessment on Belgrade's cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for

the former Yugoslavia, the EU's foreign ministers decided to unfreeze the process of the ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement – a gateway to EU membership - with Serbia.

The Spanish EU Presidency is confident that the accession talks with **Turkey** will move forward. Commissioner Fuele confirmed that "there is a possibility this year to open a couple of more chapters" provided Turkey meets the opening benchmarks.

The EU's foreign ministers rubber stamped, on 10 May, the mandate for the European Commission to launch talks with **Armenia, Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** on association agreements, as part of the Eastern Partnership project, launched by the EU a year ago in Prague with the aim of enhancing relations with the six former Soviet republics.

VISA REGULATIONS

EU travelers to the **US** will no longer have to fill in the I-94W paper form. The form is being scrapped by the end of summer 2010 in favour of the Electronic System of Travel Authorisation (ESTA), an online, pre-travel procedure, mandatory since January 2009. The ESTA applies to citizens from the 23 EU countries on the US Visa Waiver Programme (VWP) that lets travelers stay up to 90 days without a visa. By 4 September 2010 VWP travellers must also pay a fee of \$15-17 when they apply for their ESTA.

The European Commission adopted, on 27 May, a proposal to enable citizens of **Albania** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** with biometric passports to travel up to 90 days in the Schengen area without a visa.

On 14 June, the **Schengen** zone will celebrate its 25th anniversary with its 25 members. Initiated by five EU founding countries – France, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the

Netherlands – this abolition of controls at internal borders is doubtless the most tangible materialization of the European principle of free movement. Two EU states have not joined (the United Kingdom and Ireland), but on the other hand three non-EU states - Switzerland, Norway and Iceland - are part of the Schengen area. Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus are expected to follow soon.

EDUCATION

Ministers meeting at the Education, Youth and Culture Council in Brussels called on the European Commission to turn their proposal into reality, by the end of 2011, in particular the idea of a personal skills passport. The new passport would make it possible to more effectively register and highlight the knowledge, skills and qualification acquired by citizens throughout their lives in a variety of learning settings.

Despite the EU's ambitious goals with respect to higher education, European universities are facing a wave of cutbacks. A new report by the European University Association (EUA) shows an increasingly negative impact of the economic crisis on national higher education systems.

YOUTH



Intergroup on Youth meets again. On the 8th June, the Intergroup on Youth of the European Parliament met for the second

time since its creation in December 2009. Its members discussed the key priorities for youth policies in the EU. On the agenda is the youth dimension to the EU2020 strategy, which is to be adopted by the June

European Council. The “Youth on the Move” initiative will be a key element of the discussions, in view of providing constructive feedback to the Commission's proposal. The Intergroup on Youth was established by a decision of the Conference of the Presidents on the 10th December 2009. It allows the building up of a truly cross-sectoral policy approach to youth issues, and aims to bridge the gap between young people and the European Union.



Strengthening the coordination of youth organisations in Helsinki

The International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) met in Helsinki on 3-6th June. Participants from the five continents discussed preparations for the Mexico World Youth Conference in August, as well as the 2010 International Year on Youth and the UN Summit for the Review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in September.

Reflection group report sees investment in young people as crucial for future of Europe

On the 8th May former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez submitted his expert reflection group's final report “Project Europe 2030 – Challenges and Opportunities” to the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy. Of particular interest for young Europeans would be the references in the report to enhance European education systems. It recommends investment in education systems, primary and secondary schools, and strengthening links between public education systems, business and society. The necessary precondition for upgrading skills in the EU, according to the report, will

be the realisation of a flexible, life-long learning culture. Reforms should also include measures to increase student mobility.

CALENDER

31 July-7 Aug.	Training for trainers, Zanka Hungary
4-9 August	EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit, Zanka, Hungary
23-27 August	Closing Seminar EurAfrican Partnership for Change project, Vienna, Austria
30 September	Intercultural Dialogue Day
8-10 October	EFIL Board meeting, Leuven, Belgium
23 October	EFIL Heads of Office Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina
23 October	EFIL Regional Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina
28 Nov – 2 Dec	European Citizenship Trimester Programme Brussels Camp, Belgium
2-5 June 2011	EFIL General Assembly, Vienna, Austria

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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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