

Sept. 26th

DIALOGUE INTERCULTURAL DAY





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26 September 2008 – a day to remember

September 26th 2008 was the Intercultural Dialogue Day: 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”.

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.



On that day, AFS volunteers in 18 countries have made a joint effort to set up simultaneous activities, including school and creativity workshops, youth debates, high-level panel discussions, concerts, movie screenings, street entertainment, etc. This is a booklet on the Dialogue Day 2008 that explores the events that took place in all participating countries. This Big Day is a result of joint efforts of former and current

AFS volunteers from all across Europe that succeeded in attracting participants and involving the wider public.

It is out of all your contributions – over 300 activities across European and Mediterranean countries – that this booklet was created. This is a picture of the festival of cultures you helped shape all over Europe. Some tips for future events are also included. Fresh ideas are expected to fill in the blank pages. Why not start preparing for a Dialogue Day 2009?

Young people who build lasting friendships across cultures within and outside their home country, are a major pillar of society to ensure future dialogue and understanding between peoples and nations. That is what EFIL/AFS aimed to highlight on the “Intercultural Dialogue Day” on 26 September 2008.

European Federation for Intercultural Learning



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 led and 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 young people in over 50 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.



EFIL Members

Austauschprogramme für Interkulturelles Lernen (Austria), AFS Interculturele Programma's vzw (Belgium Flanders), AFS Programmes Interculturels asbl (Belgium French), AFS Mezikulturni Programy (Czech Republic), Interkultur (Denmark), AFS Egypt – Egyptian Society for Intercultural Exchange, AFS Intercultural Programs Finland ry, AFS Vivre Sans Frontière (France), AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V (Germany), AFS Magyarorszag Nemzetközi Csereprogram Alapítvány (Hungary), AFS a Íslandi - Alþjóðleg fræðsla og samskipti (Iceland), Intercultura (Italy), AFS Starptautiskas Apmainas Programmas Latvija (Latvia), AFS Norge Internasjonale Utveksling (Norway), Intercultura AFS Portugal, National Foundation Intercultura (Russia), AFS Intercultural Programs (Slovakia), AFS Intercultura Espana (Spain), AFS Interkulturell Utbildning (Sweden), AFS Interkulturelle Programme (Switzerland), AFS Tunisie (Tunisia), AFS Türk Kültür Vakfı (Turkey).

EFIL

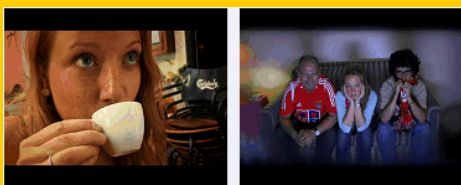
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“When Cultures Interact” – a movie project

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 demonstrate the impact of intercultural experiences, with the intention to generate discussions leading to more extended intercultural awareness.



Azulejos (Mosaics) (6'09)
tells the story of a Norwegian girl called Inga in her host country Portugal. The film is directed by André Oliveira (AFS Portugal) and is available in English and in Norwegian.

The movies are to be used for intercultural education in schools for secondary school students 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 -

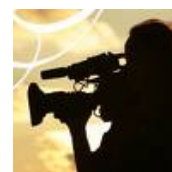
where the three protagonists, foreign students from other countries, share with us their intercultural “adventures”. The focus is on different cultural norms dealing with greetings, dressing styles, social gatherings, pupil-teacher relations, the opposite sex, respect towards elderly people, discussions in groups, personal space, the perception of time, taboos, politeness, etc.

Additionally, there's 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.

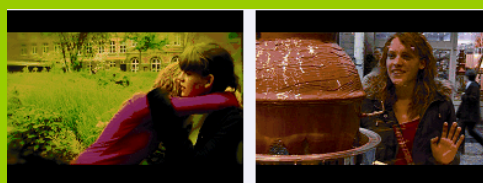
The DVD is accompanied by de-briefing guidelines for workshop facilitators who use the films for



educational purposes during AFS orientation camps and training events. The guidelines are designed in cooperation with Robin Weber, intercultural learning expert from AFS USA.



Graffiti (5'15)
is the story of a Spanish boy, Juan-Carlos, who spends his exchange year in Germany, Berlin. The film is directed by Lothar Herzog and produced by Florian Aue (AFS Germany). The film is available in English and in Spanish.



Box of Chocolate (3'10)
features the adventures of a Hungarian exchange student, Orsolya, in Belgium. The film is directed by Daniel Lamberts, with the help of Hélène Goubille from AFS Belgium French. There is a Hungarian and an English version of this video.





Afghan kite makers and Venezuelan dancers



Feature: Town celebration, intercultural shops and arts
Location: Ivrea, Italy

The Ivrea Intercultural Day was not just a one-day event. In fact, it lasted several days and it involved the whole town of Ivrea and a wide range of individuals and establishments. The numbers account for the success of the initiative: 42 shops, 60 works submitted by schools, 3 participating schools, 22 street artists, 3 musicians, 2 actors and many citizens.

With such an enthusiastic reception it could not have gone better! There were many posters in town advertising the event as well as flags and AFS volunteers dressed in blue. In different locations you could hear Occitan music or watch a Venezuelan dancer, listen to gospel music or watch an Afghan kite maker at work. A local bar and restaurant also joined the celebration providing

one could visit an exhibition with posters, photos and information on the AFS history at both local and national level.

Intercultural Dialogue Day in Italy was a huge success, with activities taking place all over the country.

A selection of the events in Italy:

- **Potenza** – Peace March
- **Brescia** – Intercultural mishaps
- **Udine** – The World in your house
- **Aosta** – When Cultures Interact
- **Napoli** – School systems in the world
- **Pavia** – to know the world is to know oneself

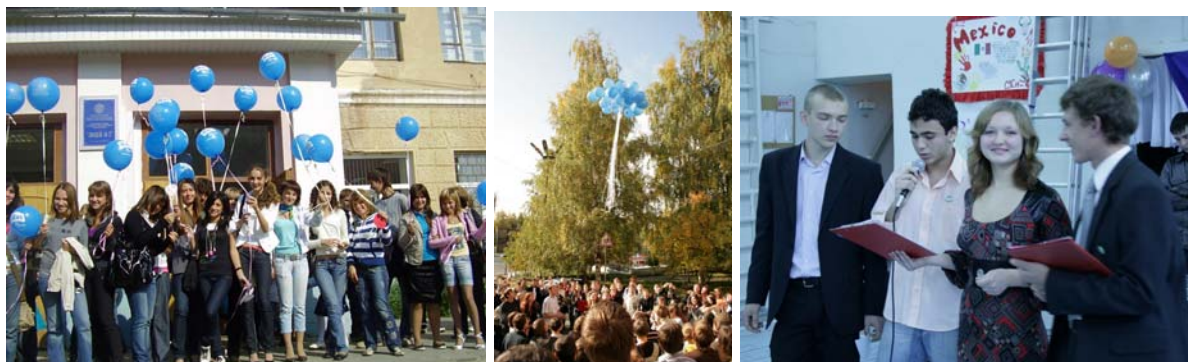
Ancona, Longarone, Bari, Nettuno, Terralba, Artena, Barletta, Benevento, Bergamo, Cagliari, Cosenza, Cremona, Scandicci, Livorno, Macerata, Matera, Metapontino, Novara, Ostia, Rivoli, Rieti, Palermo, Rivoli, Saronno, Taranto, Varese, Verona, ...

meals and drinks. In the small church of Santa Croce, in the historic center,



"Our Intercultural Dialogue Day was especially addressing children. AFS volunteers spent the day with 55 elementary school 9-year-olds and focused on intercultural dialogue by showing them pictures and making drawings with them. The volunteers are keen to repeat these events in other schools as they believe that working with young kids helps building a better future."

AFS Macerate, ITALY



Balloons of friendship ... and a chat with New Zealand



Feature: Balloons of friendship
Location: all chapters, Russia

AFS Intercultural Dialogue Day was a huge success in Russia with great responses from chapters and active volunteers from cities all over the country: Alexandrov, Astrakhan, Volgograd, Izhevsk, Klin, Krasnodar and many other cities. The list of activities that took place throughout Russia was very varied, and included debates,

Volunteers and students at the Klin chapter in the Moscow region, in liaison with the local education administration, helped build a bridge over lands and seas by establishing contact with a former AFS student, Richard Wards, from New Zealand via a videoconference. The initiative triggered a discussion about intercultural cooperation and the sharing of experiences, and pupils became more aware of the diversity of nationalities within national borders. In addition, they reflected upon their own concerns regarding the integration of minorities and immigration in Russia.

round-table discussions, but also original initiatives like an Internet conference with New Zealand, as was done by the Klin city volunteers!

The general leitmotif for the Dialogue Day in Russia were the "balloons of friendship". Balloons with the AFS logo and the word "hello" written in many languages were distributed among all AFS chapters. Participants in all AFS cities wrote wishes for world peace on sheets of paper and attached them to balloons. At 11:00 in the morning Moscow time all the balloons were released by school students, AFS students and volunteers, host families and local representatives, and took off to unknown destinations. For each

participating chapter, this symbolic action marked either the beginning or the end of the discussion or round-table at the local chapter. Representatives of the local administration, local education administration and of the local press also attended this event.

In Volgograd AFS host students and returnees wrote a short theatre play based on a situation where they were confronted with cultural diversity. The plays were performed for a school audience on the Intercultural Dialogue Day. Back to class, pupils discussed the issue of cultural differences and the ways in which they manifest themselves.

A selection of other events in Russia

- **Astrakhan** – Different but together
- **Ekaterinburg** – What to gain from European literature
- **Izhevsk** – Why study foreign languages
- **Krasnodar** – A footprint of different cultures
- **Uglich** – Greetings, first step to dialogue
- **Cheboksary** – Colourful Europe
- **Kazan** – A commonwealth of 160 nations
- **Kirov** – Cultural mosaic
- **St. Petersburg** – Conflict or cooperation



Free hugs at the Eiffel Tower



Feature: AFS Intercultural Lipdub

Location: Paris, France

In Paris, the Intercultural Dialogue Day took a creative turn, when a group of about 30 volunteers and AFS students from 8 countries, decided to shoot a short "lipdub" movie near the Eiffel Tower, Champs de Mars and the Peace Wall. A lipdub is a type of video that combines lip synching and

Motion...) on the 26th of September and a forum was opened on Facebook to generate debates.

The lively project in a busy place attracted many tourists passing by and this intercultural lipdub led to interesting discussions with youngsters, families and tourists from Spain, Germany, the USA, Japan, etc. all around the Eiffel Tower, on the role of AFS in fostering intercultural learning, better understanding among peoples and worldwide peace. Tourists were particularly interested in the animation and through the flags, posters and AFS T-shirts it

was easy to identify the action as an AFS activity.

Apart from this original outdoor event, the AFS Île-de-France chapter also used the opportunity to compile intercultural short novels and poems in a booklet of about 50 pages called "In my suitcase". All stories were written by AFS students and volunteers. Titles such as "I am a bird", "So far away", "She got married to Temuco", "What a strange rain in Busy Mountains" are only a few examples of these intercultural texts.

"The teachers and the school director were very enthusiastic and happy with the animation. So the AFS volunteers were asked to repeat the animation in 2009 with new pupils and – why not – make it an annual event".
AFS P.A.C.A., FRANCE

audio dubbing to make a music video. The video features young people and members of an organisation distributing free hugs to anyone willing to accept them. The video was distributed via the internet (YouTube, Daily

A selection of other events in France

- **Lille** – The Intercultural Tent
- **Marseille** – Initiation to ID "La mosaïque pour la paix »
- **Saint Rambert d'Albon** – Dances of the World
- **Corbarieu** – Intercultural grape harvest
- **Clermont-Ferrand** – Polydôme Forum of Associations
- **Orléans** – Assises du Multilinguisme
- **Périgueux** – Intercultural tree at the Forum of Associations
- **Erin** – Intercultural afternoon with games
- **Rennes** – Intercultural meeting at the City Hall

Link to the movie:

http://www.dailymotion.com/relevance/search/afs%2Bidf/video/x6wlxf_video-afs-idf_webcam



Educando en la diversidad
 Celebrando el Día del Diálogo Intercultural
 26 de septiembre de 2008

19.00 h. Proyección de vídeos
 20.00 h. Coloquio sobre alternativas
 educativas
 para el diálogo intercultural

Experiencias interculturales
Burgos – Sudáfrica




Media Coverage of Intercultural Dialogue Day in Spain

There were 90 articles about the events on the Intercultural Dialogue Day in the Spanish media: 40 in the national media, 20 in the Andalusian media, 17 in the media of Burgos/Castilla-León, 9 in the media of Galicia and 4 in other media.

Apart from written press, there was also radio and TV coverage.

D-Day hits media in Spain



Feature: Intercultural Dialogue Day Camp

Location: Sada, Galicia, Spain

The Sada Chapter in Galicia combined their Local Welcome Camp with the Intercultural Dialogue Day celebrations. The weekend camp was extended, with activities already starting on Friday.

Volunteers had set up an exhibition (pictures, paintings, objects from the home countries of the students, ...) at the "Casa de la Cultura" (House of Culture) of Sada's town council. Each exchange student did a presentation about his/her home country. The activity reached

about 40 people; including AFS exchange students and their host families, and members of the public. The activity took place in a public location where everyone could have access.

A space was set aside for the participants to create a graffiti wall where they could express what they felt about Intercultural Dialogue. At the same time two young volunteers walked around the streets of Sada carrying a video camera and interviewing pedestrians, asking questions on intercultural dialogue issues. The organising volunteers all

agreed that the activity turned out to be very successful.

Almeria/El Ejido

Guess who's coming for dinner

One of the activities was a role play in which students were playing the role of a family member who had to deal with a conflict which involved different cultures. This activity increased the awareness of stereotypes and prejudices within one's family, and it helped build an understanding that different values are at the core of the problem and that solutions can arise from dialogue which focuses not only on intercultural differences but also on common shared values.

A selection of other events in Spain

- **Almeria/El Ejido** – School activities
- **Burgos** – Films and panel debate
- **Cantabria** – School activities and manifesto
- **Granada** – Intercultural Walkabout Granada

Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante, ...





Debate at the Parliament



Feature: Panel debate

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Budapest's beautiful Houses of Parliament (Gobelin Hall) were the perfect setting for a high-level panel conference on intercultural dialogue that gathered more than 40 people.

Naiyana Funghachon, an AFS exchange student from Thailand who currently lives in Hungary, welcomed the public. Shortly afterwards the floor was given to László Mandur, Vice-Chair of the Parliament, who opened the debate. Anett Miklos, Director of AFS Hungary, emphasized the need to talk in order to understand each other. Dr. Roberto Ruffino, Chairman of the EFIL Board and Honorary Doctor in Intercultural Learning, stressed the idea that "being European means that we are students of intercultural communication". Mick Petersmann, Director of AFS Germany, underlined the importance of common European values and

European citizenship. Eva Porras, Academic Director of Central European University Business School, pointed out the role of intercultural communication in a knowledge-based society. Zsuzsanna Bán, researcher in the field of intercultural communication, referred to the importance of mastering intercultural communication in different areas of our lives (school, family, career planning). Also present were two Ambassadors of the EYID. Dániel Varga, Olympic Champion Water Polo, entertained the audience with his intercultural experiences as a professional sportsperson, focusing on understanding different cultures and turning intercultural meetings into a collective and exciting game. Judit Polgár, international Chess Master, talked about the importance of intercultural competences in everyday life.



Location: Houses of Parliament, Gobelin Hall
Date and Time: 26 September 2008, 12:45 p.m.

Naiyana Funghachon, Greeting speech
László Mandur, Vice-Chair of the Parliament.

Opening of the Press Conference

Anett Miklós – Director AFS Hungary

Dr Roberto Ruffino – Chairman of EFIL Board

Mick Petersmann – Director AFS Germany

Ms. Eva Porras – Academic Director of Central European University Business School

Zsuzsanna Bán – AFS volunteer, Master Coach, University Professor, researcher of intercultural communication

Dániel Varga – Water polo player, 2008 Olympic Champion

Judit Polgár – International Chess Master

Other events in Hungary took place in **Szekesfehervar**, **Debrecen**, **Eger**, **Kaposvar**, **Oroshava**, **Bekescsaba**, **Miskolc**, **Szeged**, **Kiskunhalas**



Young people and intercultural dialogue



Feature: Panel debate on Intercultural Dialogue
Location: Prague, Czech Republic

A successful high-level panel discussion was held on the Intercultural Dialogue Day at the New York University in Prague. About 40 participants attended this event. Theme of the debate was: „What can young people do to facilitate intercultural dialogue“

In the first part, Eva Bartoňová, First Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Bettina Schwarzmayer, President of the Bureau of the European Youth Forum, Elisabeth Hardt, co-Chair of the Board of Directors of AFS Germany, Sri Kumar Vishwanathan, Ambassador of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, and Ilona Labuťová, Director

of the Varianty Program, Člověk v tísni/People in Need, participated in the discussion focusing on cultural interaction at both national and international level.

In the second part, there was a fruitful discussion on various daily practices and experiences of young experts (INEX, META, AIESEC and People in Need), AFS alumni and EVS university and high school students.

A press release was issued through local as well as national media, information was published on several websites, including www.afs.cz, www.adam.cz,

www.mezikulturnidialogue.cz, www.eurodesk.cz. Feedback from attendees was very positive.



The panel discussion was followed by well attended international dinner in the same place. Host families, AFS students, volunteers and friends attended the dinner, which was organised by the Prague Chapter. To highlight another aspect of intercultural dialogue there was an international buffet with traditional and typical dishes from Asia and from South and North America, that were prepared by AFS students. Movies made by former AFS students showing situations in different countries, were much enjoyed by the audience.

A selection of other events in Czech Republic

- **Liberec** – World movies
- **Pilzen** – “Foreign City” festival
- **Brno** – “Bed and open Heart”
- **Jicin** - workshop



Intercultural Dialogue Lounge at the Schlossbergplatz



Feature: Mobile World Map

Location: Graz, Austria

On the 26th of September, 20 exchange students from 10 different countries met with around 10 AFS volunteers in the Media Center of the town hall of Graz. Starting at 12:00 everybody participated in a workshop on communication for about an hour. At the meeting information was shared about the programme that was to follow in the afternoon.

After a common intercultural lunch organised by OMEGA – a local NGO working with refugees and migrants, everybody helped to set up the space on “Schlossbergplatz” (a square around 5 minutes away from the town hall): coffee-tables, a

screen, a banner, a beamer and lots of chairs were carried to the venue.

From around 15:00 onwards passers-by were approached to come and have a look at the “Intercultural Dialogue Lounge”, sit down and have a chat, enjoy a snack and mark which part of the world they have already travelled to on a mobile screen. With Caribbean and Brazilian music playing in the background, the conversations went on fine. A refreshing activity in many ways.

Many people stopped and chatted with the volunteers and the exchange students – sharing interested, open-minded, like-minded but also critical opinions. Faces in the trams passing by turned towards this colourful crowd buzzing on the square. The students came

from Italy, China, Slovakia, New Zealand, Dominican Republic, Japan, Brazil, USA, Hong Kong and Denmark.

It's a small world...

“At around 16:15 two men passed by and we found out that they were from Costa Rica. Then we found out that one of them, Carlos, was an AFS returnee from the U.S. ('76) and that his daughter had just started her exchange year in Germany. He just happened to be visiting his friend Julio, who lives and works in Graz.”

Altogether, around 50 people stopped at the Intercultural Dialogue Lounge at Schlossbergplatz between 15:00 and 18:00 that afternoon. As the volunteers afterwards reported enthusiastically: “all of us are looking forward to try out something new again next year on the next Dialogue Day in September 2009!”

A selection of other events in Austria

- **Gmunden** – Intercultural Dinner
- **Salzburg** – Intercultural Party
- **Wolfsfurt** – International Jam session
- **St. Radegund, Annaberg, Salzburg, Bregenz, Purbach** – Returnee Camp
- **Styria** – Intercultural activities
- **Innsbruck** – Intercultural evening





Esplanada das Culturas



Feature: Esplanada das Culturas

Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Lisbon

In Lisbon several immigrant associations gathered and discussed the importance of intercultural dialogue and proposed ways of accomplishing it. Around the venue an Esplanada das Culturas was set up in association with the cultural organisation Chapitô inviting passers-by to stop for a while and listen to the music played by groups with distinct ethnic origins. A number of others sat in the remaining chairs and chatted about many different cultural aspects present in everyday life in a relaxed environment.

Tabua

People from different cultures currently living in Tábua were invited to go to the local school

and bring an object linked to the culture of their home country. Once at the venue an “intercultural dialogue” was held which not only involved them but also AFS volunteers and staff.

At the school’s library an exhibition was held on the main theme of the day and some music was also



played in the hall. Many students participated in an intercultural workshop.

Leiria

Apart from an exhibit on Intercultural Dialogue held in a secondary school, a seminar was organised focusing on “Intercultural Dialogue, meaning and reality in our culture” at the local library.

In the afternoon of the 26th September an Intercultural Rally provided the perfect occasion for the participants to test their intercultural knowledge and skills. Later in the evening a music jam session awaited local people of all ages in the main city square. Different music groups with diverse cultural backgrounds provided an entertaining evening to all.



Helsinki hosts training and seminar



Feature: Panel debate and training
Location: Helsinki, Finland

Name: Training on Intercultural Learning tools
Country: Finland
City: Helsinki
Location: University of Helsinki
Date: 3 - 4 October 2008

In the spirit of the Dialogue Day initiative, an excellent opportunity was offered to AFS returnees to attend a 2-day training session on tools and techniques to run intercultural learning workshops for different audiences. Forty participants came from all over Finland and after the training they reached out to their local communities to share what they learned.

The University of Helsinki hosted a seminar "Multiculturalism and International Contacts throughout the years". The programme included art performances by Kassandra, an intercultural group of artists, and a key-note speech by the Minister of Migration and European Affairs, Astrid Thors. The seminar was attended by more than 250 students, families and AFS alumni.

Name: Seminar on Multiculturalism
Country: Finland
City: Helsinki
Location: University of Helsinki
Date: 04/10/2008



A selection of other events in Finland

- **Kauhajoki** – A country day about Italy
- **Helsinki** – Nuorten juhlat
- **Oulu** – Intercultural Activity Day
- **Turku** – Multicultural street action day





A foreigner in your own country



Feature: Interreligious dialogue

Location: Adana, Turkey

Jozef Naseh and Marie Abak, two distinguished personalities with religious beliefs that differ from the majority of the community they live in, making them foreigners in a different culture and country, shared with high school pupils in **Adana** their experience of integration in the community – how they learned to accept the others' beliefs and how they were at the end accepted by the majority in return. They

also proposed ways of developing tolerance and better understanding within the community, addressing the need to find the secret formula for a global world and a tolerant community. Afterwards, students and guests gathered for lunch and participated in a debate session more focused on common values than on different views of the world.



Celebrations in **Izmir** involved host students, families, returnees and volunteers. They all met in the city centre, making music, singing and releasing colourful balloons.

People living in **Istanbul** coming from different cultural backgrounds came together for an Iftar dinner on a ferry on the river Bosphorus where Asia and Europe connect.

The AFS exchange students, their families, AFS volunteers, consulates, sponsors and media attended the event.



In **Ankara** several short movies from the cultural film festival Fest-i Kult were presented by AFS volunteers. One of the highlights of the day was the speech on the benefits of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity among intercultural organisations, by Deniz Olcek, AFS Ankara volunteer, who had just returned from a study tour in India as part of EFIL's "Worldscope – Strength through Diversity" project. It was followed by a reception during which the participants informally exchanged their viewpoints on cultural and religious diversity.



Taking the intercultural dialogue tram



Feature: Intercultural Dialogue Tram
Location: Zürich, Switzerland

Feature: Intercultural Dialogue Tram
Chapter/Location: Zürich

In association with the city's public transportation VBZ the AFS local chapter in Zürich planned a very special event to celebrate the Intercultural Dialogue Day: a tram was especially decorated for the occasion with information on the AFS Organisation and with a focus on intercultural dialogue.

Feature: Street Action
Chapter/Location: Winterthur

In Winterthur a big street action in the old city centre was at the centre of the attention of the local community. Informal dialogues between current host students and local people, a renowned choir singing international songs and a quiz on EUROMED issues attracted many passers-by who after reading the provided information on intercultural dialogue and the countries of origin of the hosted students, became more aware of the fundamental role played by intercultural dialogue nowadays. Snacks and drinks made people stay longer and share their views on intercultural issues with AFS people.



Sharing the Iftar meal at the end of Ramadan



Feature: Intercultural Peace Caravan movie screening
Location: Alexandria, Egypt

The Intercultural Dialogue Day fell on the last days of the holy month of Ramadan. The intercultural dialogue activities were thus closely related to the holiness of the month. Volunteers from AFS Egypt and hosted AFS students from across the world presented AFS and its

mission of intercultural understanding. Together with their host families, they gathered at the local youth club and shared the Iftar meal to break the fast at sunset. Afterwards, they watched the AFS Egypt 1001 Actions film "Intercultural Peace Caravan". This movie triggered off lively

discussions on daily intercultural and interreligious dialogue.



The AFS volunteers and hosted students in Giza used the opportunity of the Intercultural Dialogue Day to raise funds for the benefit of the local community orphans. An afternoon was spent on raising awareness among orphans of the importance of intercultural dialogue in our world as a priority of Islam.

School activities in Germany



Some 140 participants (volunteers, students, returnees, public) attended the Dialogue Day events in secondary schools in Giessen and Würzburg, where presentations took place by AFS returnees, exchange students and host families. The presentations triggered off vivid discussions and reflections on required intercultural competences in every individual's personal environment.

Country: Germany
Location:
Gymnasium
Giessen and
Siebold
Gymnasium
Würzburg
Date: 26/09/2008



And the winner is...



Feature: Movie competition
Location: Oslo, Norway

Prior to the Intercultural Dialogue Day AFS Norway launched a short movie competition "Multikulti short film contest" addressing the issue of intercultural dialogue. Exchange students and local volunteers participated in the competition and produced over 25 contributions. On the 26th of

September 2008, three of them were officially selected and announced as the final winners in an award ceremony. The winners then presented their short movies and introduced a debate on various aspects of intercultural dialogue and its presence in

daily life. The contributions were actively used during the Intercultural Dialogue Day activities in the chapters.

Other events in Norway took place in
Krsitiansund, Harstad, Trondheim, Tromso



School activities in Sweden



Name: High School Day
Country: Sweden
City: Bjärehov
Location : Skåne
Date: 26/09/2008

At the local high school in Bjärehov 80 pupils with an average age of 14 listened to AFS representatives that spoke about how it is to live with people with other cultural backgrounds abroad. An AFS exchange student in Sweden talked about his experience.

Volunteers and exchange students organised a number of activities at the Grimsta school. The students were divided into different groups to learn to count and say some basic sentences in the native language of the AFS student present in that group. After the language lesson the AFS students presented their organisation and shared their experience as AFS volunteers or exchange students with the audience.

Name: Intercultural and languages day
Country: Sweden
City: Upplands Väsby
Location: Grimsta Gymnasium
Date: 26/09/2008

Other events in Sweden took place in
Mariestad, Göteborg, Stockholm, Eskilstuna



Encouraging intercultural dialogue in Iceland



Name: Encouraging intercultural dialogue
Country: Iceland
City: Reykjavik
Date: 26/09/2008

In the AFS headquarters in Reykjavik AFS staff members, volunteers, host students and host families invited like-minded NGOs and proposed new ways of encouraging intercultural dialogue in Reykjavik.

Former AFS students and current volunteers delivered a 3.5 hour workshop on Intercultural Learning to two groups of fifteen students each. The Snapshots movies were used to trigger off reflections on required intercultural competences in every individual's personal environment.

Name: Workshop on Intercultural Learning
Country: Iceland
City: Kopavogur
Date: 26/09/2008

AFS Tunisia calling...



Feature: Radio Broadcast
Location: Tunis, Tunisia

RTCI, the Tunisian public radio station, broadcasted a special emission on the Intercultural Dialogue Day on the 26th of September 2008, during the English spoken programme by Hayet Toukabri. The broadcast, which lasted 30 minutes, was entirely devoted to the Intercultural Dialogue Day, and provided an excellent opportunity for Bochra Malki, Chairperson of AFS

Tunisia, and Thea Konstanse Isaksen, exchange student from Norway, to present the work of AFS Tunisia and talk about the global AFS network



and its various programmes. The intercultural concept of the AFS programmes was illustrated by Thea's testimony about her experience in Tunisia, and clearly demonstrated how participating in such programmes contributes to a better understanding of different cultures.





Belgian AFS organisations target secondary school kids



Name: School visits
Country: Belgium (Flanders)
City: Leuven, Anderlecht
Date: 26/09/2008
Partners: Secondary schools

Two workshops on Intercultural Learning of 3.5h were delivered to 60 students by former AFS students and current volunteers at secondary schools located in Leuven and Anderlecht. The movies "Snapshots: When Cultures Interact" were used to trigger off reflections on required intercultural competences in every individual's personal environment.

Discussion sessions, games, role playing and other activities were used to increase the secondary school pupils' awareness of intercultural matters as relevant issues. The first step consisted in talking about one's culture – "My culture"; the second step was to represent "The Other's culture" and lastly explore together the theme of "Intercultural Dialogue".

Name: Culture in every possible way
Country: Belgium (French)
City: Brussels, Namur
Date: 26/09/2008
Partners: Secondary schools





The European Federation for Intercultural Learning wants to extend a sincere word of thanks to the numerous people who have helped to make

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE DAY 2008

a success: AFS volunteers, staff, boards, returnees, host families, teachers and schools and all those who helped organise the activities in over 300 locations across Europe, the public taking part in the events, and last but not least the sponsors.





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