

Sept. 24th

DIALOGUE

INTERCULTURAL DAY



Creativity
and Innovation
European Year 2009



Highlights
2009



Intercultural Dialogue



**The European Federation for Intercultural Learning thankfully acknowledges
the financial support of the European Commission.**

**We would also like to thank all AFS member organisations and volunteers
who helped making the Intercultural Dialogue Day 2009 such a success!**



Education and Culture



EFIL
European
Federation for
Intercultural
Learning

Sept. 24th

DIALOGUE
INTERCULTURAL DAY

AFS

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FOREWORD

24th September 2009 — A Day to Remember!

60 years of intercultural experiences had prompted EFIL to declare 26 September the Intercultural Dialogue Day for the first time in 2008. In 2009, building upon the same tradition and promoting the same values, EFIL and its member organisations across Europe have celebrated their second "Intercultural Dialogue Day" on Thursday 24 September under the theme: "Intercultural Europe in 5 Senses".

On that Thursday, 24 September 2009, in Rome a debate "Intercultural Dialogue, the philosophy of inclusion and the respect for diversities" was held in the prestigious setting of Circolo Montecitorio. An impressive surprise flashmob involving some 40 dancers in a catching choreography was organized at Montmartre in Paris under the theme "Bouge-toi pour ta mobilité!". In the Youth Centre of Banja Luka in Bosnia-Herzegovina, people gathered for a variety of activities including movies, discussions, a creative workshop and a photo exhibition. In Finland, the community project of Valpuri

Karen of Kyöpuisto, was selected as one of the winners of a competition launched to boost the Intercultural Dialogue Day.

On that day, AFS volunteers in 20 countries have made a joint effort to set up simultaneous activities, including school and creativity workshops, youth de-



Volunteers Coordinators meeting at the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit in Istanbul, Turkey (August 2009)

These events are just a handful of more than 200 activities that took place all over Europe on 24 September 2009. In the framework of the European

bates, high-level panel discussions, concerts, movie screenings, street entertainment, competitions, markets, etc. This is a booklet on the Dialogue Day 2009 that highlights just some of the events that took place in each of the participating countries, as a result of joint efforts of former and current AFS volunteers from all across Europe. It is out of all your contributions – over 200 activities across Europe – that this booklet was created. This is a picture of the festival of creativity and innovation that you helped shape all over Europe.



Creativity
and Innovation
European Year 2009

Year of Creativity and Innovation, this date had been declared the "Intercultural Dialogue Day" by the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL) and its AFS member organisations.

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 re-

sources 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 Inter-

grams 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 Magyarország Nemzetközi Csereprogram Alapítvány (Hungary), AFS a Íslandi - Alþjóðleg fræðsla og samskipti (Iceland), Intercultura (Italy), AFS Starptautiskās Apmainas Programmas Latvija (Latvia), AFS Norge Internasjonale Uteveksling (Norway), Intercultura AFS Portugal, National Foundation Intercultura (Russia), AFS Intercultura Espana (Spain), AFS Interkulturell Utbildning (Sweden), AFS Interkulturelle Programme (Switzerland), AFS Tunisie (Tunisia), AFS Türk Kültür Vakfı (Turkey).

IDD 2009

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Debate on Intercultural Learning



As can be seen on the map, the Intercultural Dialogue Day (IDD) 2009 took place in no less than 71

Chapters in Italy.

The pink dots indicate the cities in which an IDD event was organized. In Rome a debate called "Intercultural Dialogue, the philosophy of inclusion and the respect for diversities" was held in

the prestigious setting of Circolo Montecitorio, including schools and institutions. Volunteers together with schools and a member of the national office



of Intercultura in Rome, Flaminia Bizzari, welcomed national authorities to the debate.

The president of the Camera Foundation, Fausto Bertinotti, joined the debate and took part in the conference the whole day.



public television, moderated the debate. Former exchange students that now have important roles in different fields took part in the debate as well. Among the authorities there were also members of the national association of school directors

Roberto Ruffino, secretary general of Intercultura and Sandro Tomassini, president of Intercultura, also joined the meeting. A national journalist of RAI, Italian

(ANP) and a member of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Research "The others among us"

In Milan, the research "L'altro tra noi" (= The others among us), that was promoted by the Intercultura Foundation, was launched on September 24th, 2009. About 150 high school students (previously involved in activities and workshops analyz-

ing the perception of diversities in their experience), were briefed about the results of the research by one of the researchers, Chiara Spotti, from the University of Milan. Four schools were involved and local authorities came to give their

opinion on intercultural education. Active participation by the students made the debate very lively.

So many events...

So many events took place in Italy, and they all deserve space and praise in this booklet. Congratulations to all the volunteers and chapters that celebrated Intercultural Dialogue Day, making 24 September 2009 a special day on the year's calendar.



Reggio Emilia - Eria Magnani receives the Galatti Award



IDD event in Trani

ITALY

Bye Mum, I'm going to China!

In **Bergamo** a presentation of the book "Ciao Mamma, vado in China" (= Bye Mum, I'm going to China) served as an introduction to the central theme that was chosen for the IDD in Bergamo: intercultural exchanges with China. Together with the cooperation partners, the educational agency and the language department of the local school agency, the local chapter organized a meeting with local schools and authorities to talk about this topic. The graphic

novel written by the sociologist Marianella Sclavi is about the challenging experience of living for one year in China as an AFS-Intercultura programme participant. Some exchange students from China also took part in the debate after the book presentation. Representatives of the national association of foreign language teachers were also there, accompanied by some students and Chinese language teachers from the region.

In **Cuneo** the theme of the IDD "All the colours of the world" was also introduced through books. In collaboration with the Civic Library of Cuneo, the local chapter organized a meeting with children of a primary school in which about 50% of the students do not have Italian origins. After the reading of a story about a strange population living in obscurity, the children were invited to recognize common objects (coffee cups, pens, toothbrushes, etc.) only by touching them. Thanks to other interactive readings, the children could play together and learn how reality can be seen and interpreted from different points of view.



Reggio Emilia



Milan

SERBIA

Intercultural Afternoon

In Serbia, the Intercultural Dialogue Day was celebrated in a school in Belgrade. The "Intercultural Afternoon" consisted out of a five hours lasting seminar with workshops, video presentations and panel discus-

sions. The forty participants were all students and showed a great interest in the seminar. They actively participated and the evaluation showed that all of them found the topics important and the activities interesting.



More information and a video about the IDD in Serbia can be found here: http://www6.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2009&mm=09&dd=24&nav_id=383138&nav_category=12

Brain Ring & Planet of Friendship



This year Intercultural Dialogue Day events took place in about **25 cities in Russia**. It is difficult to select only a few events to feature in this brochure because all of them deserve their own article.

In **Zaraisk**, a city in the region of Moscow, pupils from three different age groups were introduced to intercultural learning on the IDD day. Pupils from the 5th and 6th grade participated in a game called "Brain Ring". This quiz was both in English and Russian and needed to be answered in the same language. Questions were selected from fields such as countries, cultures and traditions. During the game, interesting ideas and discussions

came up. For some older pupils from the 7th grade a round table was arranged. Topic of the discussion: "We are equal!" First, stereotypes were discussed, including what foreigners think about Russians and what Russians think about foreigners. Then, the conversation shifted to the topic of world religions. Some of the pupils spoke about different churches and various religious customs which they got to know during family trips abroad. At the end of the session all the participants agreed that the event had been very interesting and a useful learning experience.

The youngest pupils participated in a game in which they

imagined to travel to a planet called "Friendship". Each of the children was supposed to come from a different planet about which they told the other children. These individual stories about life on 'their' planet was prepared with their parents beforehand (e.g. like a non-existing fairy-land). After each child presented his or her planet, they all imagined to arrive on the planet "Friendship" from where they built 'bridges' to other planets in order to learn about each other and be friends.



Creation of the Cover of Friendship

In **Astrakhan** students of the Lyceum created a "Cover of Friendship", a patch work cover in which the separate pieces contain wishes of peace, friendship and understanding between peoples. Some invited schools and gymnasiums of the town joined in. The total size of the

Cover is about 30 m². Together with the sewing of the Cover of Friendship a meeting and a mini concert supporting the Intercultural Dialogue Day were held. The meeting was visited by representatives of the town authorities and mass media.



Klin



RUSSIA

Diversity of the World — Variety of Cultures.

In **Volgograd** the event “Diversity of the World — Variety of Cultures” was organized, which included students and teachers from various educational institutions. It was held in Lyceum #8 “Olympia” and foreign students from the Volgograd State Medical Academy were also invited. Everything started with a short concert outside. Foreign and Russian students sang beautiful songs, danced their traditional dances and recited poems about Russia. Afterwards, the students gathered at class meetings where they were discussing the peculi-

arities of cross-cultural communication while sharing some characteristic features of some countries. Consequently, they had a chance to learn more exciting facts about the other countries. Later everybody had a chance to be involved into some informal communication at a small banquet, where students and teachers made new friends and created plans for future collaboration. The pupils of the Lyceum prepared an exhibition of posters with presentations of the following countries: Germany, It-

aly, Guatemala, Malaysia, India and Russia. Hospitable lyceum students invited visitors for a round table for friendly dialogue after which they treated guests with their traditional dishes and tasty things. 60 blue balloons were released into the sky at the end of the party.



Zavyalovo



A Flashmob for Mobility



Montmartre, Square Louise Michel, Paris — On the Intercultural Dialogue Day at 14:17, some 40 people were running to one and the same spot and suddenly started dancing. This 'flashmob' was organized by AFS France under the theme "Bouge-toi pour ta mobilité!" ("Jump for students' mobility!"). A "flashmob" is a sudden, surprise mobilization of people in a public place. Participants displayed some well rehearsed movements, in a choreography called 'the mobdance'. This dance was composed of a variety of international music, symbolizing cultural diversity. To preserve the sudden and surprising effect, all the participants had to meet in a spot which was kept secret until only days before the event. The event also introduced a petition that aims to encourage

the French government to recognize the benefits of studying abroad, asking for more grants and demanding that the time spent abroad would be recog-



nized by French educational institutions. As soon as the flashmob's video was ready, the petition was broadcasted by e-mail along with the images of the happening. The petition appears both in virtual form and "on

paper" to offer as many people as possible the opportunity to sign! Meanwhile, flyers and posters about the action indicating the link to the petition are being sent out to high schools, student parents federations and AFS's institutional partners. The petition will be handed out to the authorities on 9 May 2010, Europe Day. The action was filmed and the video is now posted on YouTube, Facebook and the AFS VSF website.

Link to YouTube:

Link to YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwkoqRVTdEk>



Seven other events in France!

Lots of other events took place in France. For example, in **Noirétable** a European quiz, a EU scavenger hunt and a European cooking workshop took place. In **Châlon sur Saône** 160 pupils between 11 and 13 attended different workshops on the theme of differences and similarities between European

cultures. In **Rennes** the Intercultural Dialogue Day was integrated into the Week of peace and included concerts, speeches, painting exhibitions, poetry workshops, the creation of a big intercultural mural, etc. In **Lille**, the president of AFS held a speech about the importance to discover other cultures to pre-

serve peace. AFS students shared with the audience their experiences. In **Bavay** intercultural events were organized in schools, **AFS Collines du Rhone** organized a golden book workshop, and **AFS Centre** realized a Scavenger hunt to discover European cultures.

Kinball— Sport for Understanding

Intercultural sensitivity, sport and the 5 senses — that was the motto of this year's Intercultural Dialogue Day event in **Madrid**. A very original and unusual sport called 'Kinball' was introduced to the participants. This sport was invented in Canada in 1986 and promotes highly intercultural values such as cooperation and respect for the others. It is a team sport that promotes equality amongst its members. Participants included AFS volunteers as well as a great number of people from the public. The Spanish association of Kinball offered some assistance for the participants during the Kinball workshop while

AFS volunteers offered intercultural workshops to interested members of the public. The event was a huge success and as can be seen in the photo, the activities enjoyed a lot of media attention too!



Cine Forum with a Twist

In **Bilbao**, the organizers offered the public the possibility to watch an intercultural movie. Next to that, AFS exchange students participated in the event by presenting songs and bringing typical dances from their home countries. The event was spiced up by food from different countries which was brought by the participants. Additionally, helium balloons containing a cultural message were released.



AUSTRIA

A Marketplace of Senses

See, hear, taste, smell, touch — that was the Austrian idea to let participants experience culture in a creative and innovative way. The goal was to let the passers-by interact with more than thirty international exchange students. After a quick lunch with volunteers and exchange students, the marketplace opened in the afternoon.



Using the art of Asian calligraphy, participants were invited to produce a form of writing that goes beyond the usual European conception — a different kind of “seeing”. In the ‘discipline’ of hearing, participants were challenged to allocate recordings to different European languages. While using their sense of taste, they also had the chance to taste different fruit juices and guess the ingredients.

Participants got to smell (and guess) different spices – some of them quite common for Austrian/European cookery, some others typically connected with different cooking cultures (like

chilli or saffron). At the last station on the market, blindfolded participants were asked to touch an international delicacy (couscous, pasta, rice, manioc, etc.) to find out what it was. In the evening, a guided city tour with the exchange students closed a well spent day.



A Creative Way to Attract Passers-by

To animate pedestrians and let them have a closer look at what was going on, the organizing team came up with the idea to create a **common world map**. Passers-by were asked to mark on a map which part of the world they had already travelled to. This was a first step to actively include the public and to start lively conversations.



Next to the map five coffee tables with chairs were set up to have conversations in a relaxed atmosphere. Snacks and drinks were available for free in this **Intercultural Dialogue Lounge**, making socializing with foreign exchange students as easy like a Sunday morning. A DVD about the event is available (AFS Austria).

GERMANY

Festival of Encounters

Typical food, craftwork and information material were presented by embassies, international organisations and societies at the “Bonn Internationales Begegnungsfest” (International Festival of Encounters). From noon till 9 pm people were invited to stroll from one booth to another to engage in conversations, to taste something yet inexperienced or to listen to the various groups presenting on stage. The AFS committee in Bonn has participated in this festival for several years and in 2009 seized the opportunity to combine this festival with the

Intercultural Dialogue Day. Several young AFS volunteers interviewed participants and passers-by asking them what intercultural experiences form part of their daily life. The interviews were recorded and put together in a video about the Intercul-

tural Dialogue Day in Germany. The video is available on DVD.



What does it mean if a butcher sells halal food?

Berlin — Kreuzberg is a district of Berlin, which is marked by a significant percentage of immigrants in its population, mainly with a Turkish background. German-Turkish students from this part of Berlin were at the centre of the Intercultural Dialogue Day event in Berlin. These students already have an insight into two different cultures: one the language of which they perfectly speak and from which their families stem, and a second one of which they also master the language and which they live at school. These students, living in two cultures, went on a journey to the USA, for many of them the first opportunity to get to know a third culture. A workshop was designed to support their intercultural learning experience. Prior to this journey,

two exchange students from the USA gave the students from the Robert Koch Schule in Germany some impressions of their home country by presenting pictures, magazines, sweets and games from the United States. Afterwards, it was up to the German-Turkish students to present their home town to the U.S. exchange students. They took them on a guided tour around Kreuzberg, in which they did not only get to know the history of the district but also learned about different

aspects of today's everyday life. What does it mean if a butcher sells halal food? Why do some Muslim women wear a headscarf while others do not? What does it look like in a German-Turkish family's living-room? Do the German-Turkish students feel German, Turkish or something in between? These and other questions were topics of the intercultural workshop “Views on different worlds — the USA and Germans with Turkish backgrounds”.

Living in two cultures —
experiencing a third culture.



HUNGARY

Intercultural Sensitivity



An introduction to intercultural learning — both local people and students from the schools benefitted from this experience in **Budapest**. Games about culture, tolerance, adaption and intercultural sensitivity were offered to the participants from 4 pm on. Students performed dances from their countries and involved locals in the dances by teaching them some of their steps. Later in the evening participants were invited to taste food from different countries. Six other events in the name of the Intercultural Dialogue Day took place in five different cities, including Kiskunha-

las, Debrecen, Kaposvár, Székesfehérvár and Pécs.



Thai, Italian and Venezuelan Culture + Free Hugs

In **Debrecen**, exchange students from Thailand, Italy and Venezuela brought their culture



to local people. Dancing to traditional music and singing songs together combined with an intercultural quiz was only part of the event. Participants were also given the opportunity to taste food from different countries and high school students were introduced to intercultural learning. During the whole event volunteers offered free hugs to by-passers.

“Sharing of joy, fun and laughter among cultures, characterized the event” one of the organizers happily concluded.



Folk dance, fashion, a chess competition and games

In **Kaposvár** volunteers organized a big event in the main square of the city. There were different stands for countries represented by exchange students from Germany, Argentina, USA, Belgium, Turkey, Paraguay, Austria and other countries. One stand was also reserved for AFS. On stage there were folk

dance and fashion shows. The programme included a chess competition, games about culture and tolerance as well as short energizers to attract more people. Participants and locals were able to “cuisine around the world” and taste the food prepared by the exchange students. The event closed with a well appreciated concert.



CROATIA

Petition for Intercultural Learning



On Thursday 24 September, a group of motivated Globus volunteers prepared a presentation in the city center of **Zagreb** right in front of the main train station. The main goal was to raise awareness for a petition to recognize non-formal learning in Croatia. During the presentation Globus volunteers successfully approached spectators and pedestrians and collected nearly 200 signatures. Up to this date this is one of the main challenges preventing Croatian high school students to go abroad.

The (intercultural) learning done in such an exchange year is not recognized by the Croatian school system, and students on an intercultural exchange during the period of their absence, cannot collect valuable points needed to later enter universities. The petition is urging the Government to change this and equalize formal and non-formal education according to the "lifelong learning" scenario of the OECD.



French Chansons and Brazilian Fight Dance (roda)

Following the main theme of the Intercultural Dialogue Day 2009, Globus' presentation touched the five senses to communicate the idea of intercultural learning.

The right atmosphere was created through **international music** played at the location, including French chansons and Brazilian music. International **food** recipes were handed out on flyers with Globus' contact details and information about intercultural dialogue, ranging from traditional South American kitchen to Turkish deserts. A special **international feeling** was provided toward the end of the event by

a Brazilian capoeira group performing their traditional fight **dance** (roda). Colourful posters **illustrated** the idea of intercultural dialogue, as well as the work of AFS and Globus. At the end of the presentation balloons with individual messages from visitors were released into the sky. The messages included a wide range of personal wishes linked to a dream about world peace, mutual understanding and respect. The messages were carried by balloons as colourful as the world around them.

With visitors from a range of different countries, including

Brazil, UK, USA, Germany and Croatia, the organizers can look back at a successful Intercultural Dialogue Day that succeeded



well in spreading the message to a significant number of people.



FINLAND

Competition for the Most Creative Intercultural Project



AFS Finland organized a competition in celebration of the Intercultural Dialogue Day 2009. Volunteers and returnees could take part in the competition by setting up an Intercultural Dialogue Project in their own community. The project could be anything from an event at school to a radio show - you name it! To participate, they needed to prepare a poster of the project and send it to AFS office by 5 November 2009. All posters were presented in November at a volunteer train-

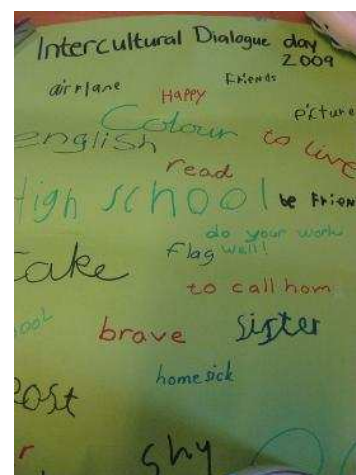
ing and volunteers were given the chance to take part in voting for the winning project. The most creative project team was awarded three vouchers for participation in the 2010 EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit in Hungary!



One of the winners...

... is **Valpuri Karén**. She organized an event at the Kyöpuisto school in Vantaa. The event was divided into two parts. In the first part, 2nd graders presented children rights and sang a song for everybody called 'Löydä silmät samanlaiset' ('find another pair of eyes, blue or brown...'). In the second part, an English lesson of 3rd graders was used to sensitize the students for intercultural issues. In this English

class, ten out of twenty students were immigrants. An AFS volunteer told about her whereabouts as an AFS student in the USA and her experience with hosting foreign students. Afterwards, the students talked about what it is like to live in another country or to have foreign students at their school. The students made posters to illustrate their experience.



Country day!

Siri Hagnäs's was another one of the three winners of the Finnish competition. Her idea was to set up a country day for students, their friends and the local media. The pictures on the right are photos taken on the Thailand country day where students had the chance to learn more about Thailand and could even taste some spicy Thai food!



LATVIA

IDD in My School!

Riga, Kraslava, Daugavpils, Adazi, Līgatne — these are the cities in which AFS hosting high schools organized a day long programme with the title “Explore intercultural Europe in 5 senses”. The hosted students presented their countries to their classmates and traditional food from European countries was cooked. Additionally, songs and dances from other cultures were presented. AFS representatives met with the pupils to talk about the meaning of intercultural dialogue and youth exchanges between different coun-

tries. An intercultural video that was produced by AFS volunteers was also shown during the event. At the end of the day the pupils released AFS balloons into the sky.



‘How open are we, Latvians, to Intercultural Dialogue?’

AFS volunteers, host family members, teachers, AFS Latvia board members, staff and different people known in the society of Latvia were invited to participate in a discussion organized by AFS Latvia. The title of the discussion was “How open are we, Latvians, to intercultural dialogue?” The main goal of the discussion was to talk about the characteristics of a typical Latvian and to pay attention to the Latvian attitude towards other cultures. Therefore, one of the

central questions was: “How open are we in welcoming people from other countries in our society?” At the end of discussion several suggestions were made on how to encourage Latvians to be more open to people coming from other cultures, and participants expressed the wish to spread the ideas that came up during the discussion.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Intercultural Europe

Movies, a discussion, a creative workshop and a photo exhibition — a lot of things were taking place on the Intercultural Dialogue Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina. From noon till 6 pm altogether fifty participants, including volunteers and other interested people gathered in the Youth Centre in Banja Luka and offered a variety of activities on the topic **"Intercultural Dialogue in 5 senses"**. Volunteers presented ISU BiH and the AFS pro-

grammes. Afterwards the EFIL short movies "When cultures interact" were shown. They were followed by a panel discussion about the meaning of intercultural learning for Bosnia and

Herzegovina. A creative workshop with intercultural aspects of Europe as the central theme, was attended by many people. In the end of the event, participants had the possibility to visit a photo exhibition with the title

"Intercultural Europe in 5 senses". The event was well covered by the media, including updates about the Intercultural Dialogue Day in the programme of Radio Slobodna Evropa, Balkan Radio, Radio television of Republic of Srpska (RTRS). After the successful event, the head of Banja Luka chapter of UG ISU BiH was invited to be a guest in the Youth Programme of the Television of Republic of Srpska.



CZECH REPUBLIC

International Dinner

70 guests in youth club 'Klamovka' in Prague — they attended the main Czech contribution to the Intercultural Dialogue Day 2009. Among the visitors were AFS volunteers, their Czech and foreign friends, AFS students, host families and others interested in tasting exotic dishes from all over the world. Guests brought dishes that were typical for their country. At the end of a very lively evening the winner of the

contest for the best dish was announced. And the winner was.... Sushi!



TURKEY

World Maps and Graffiti for Peace

In Turkey events for the intercultural dialogue day took place in three cities. In Istanbul, in the middle of Taksim Square in the city center, AFS volunteers opened a stand with a big world map. People passing by were



asked to put a pin on places on the map they had visited. Different colours were used for different periods of time. Then they were interviewed on the cultural differences they witnessed, and were asked to share some of their stories. All of this has been recorded on a camcorder and will be compiled as a short documentary.

In Adana a graffiti festival with the theme of intercultural peace was organized at Bilimkent Okullari.

In Izmir, AFS volunteers visited a basketball team of handicapped people. Everyone was invited write down countries they would like to visit on AFS luggage tags. These were attached to balloons that were released into the sky.



BELGIUM (FLANDERS)

A Festival in 5 Senses

In Belgium, AFS Flanders (BFL) organized a free festival "AFS in 5 senses" with live performances, workshops and initiations. Next to the different acts, there was an exhibition of the best photos that had been sent in for the photo contest among BFL's students who had been abroad the year before. The festival audience also enjoyed food, drinks and dances from all over the world! A splendid time was guaranteed for all.



TUNISIA

Debate about Intercultural Dialogue and Youth Activism



Tunis — More than fifty AFS volunteers came together for a debate about the concept of dialogue between people from different cultural, social and religious backgrounds to foster a culture of peace and understanding. Participants to the discussions explored how youth activism and participation could promote intercultural dialogue and build an open, tolerant and integrated society.

The event was organized by AFS Tunisia to celebrate the Intercultural Dialogue Day which aims to help generate opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas, and support people in fulfilling their potential and realizing their aspirations. High profile lecturers and interested participants joined in the debate, sharing their views on intercultural dialogue and the means to promote acceptance and cultural tolerance. In an interview with the Radio Tunisie Culture (a Tunisian cultural radio), Mr.

Abdessatar Zaafrani, AFS Tunisia senior volunteer, highlighted the idea of promoting multiculturalism through contacts and dialogue, and the need to raise young volunteers' awareness on this particular theme.



SWEDEN

Cultural Differences



On the agenda were workshops, lectures and discussions about cultures and differences in our international society. Volunteers and international students had prepared inputs about their re-

ality and how they perceived differences in their culture. There was a workshop about Intercultural differences within Sweden, and one based on Sweden and the rest of the world.

The international students presented their view on Swedish culture and facilitated discussions around the typical stereotypes found in Sweden as compared to their home countries.

PORTUGAL

Intercultural Picnic and Crashing Stereotypes



Host families, hosted AFS students and volunteers were involved in intercultural learning activities while sharing traditional recipes from their cultures. The cultural roots of such dishes and the different flavours were used as a starting point for the activities.

Hosted students brought food and recipes from their home countries and shared the cultural origins of the recipes as well

as the ingredients with the others. In this way, participants discussed what was typical for their cultures and tried to find explanations for differences and similarities in their food habits

and more general, in their attitudes and behavioral patterns.

One of the activities was called "Adergas", which is a card game that illustrates potential difficulties in communication and how one can cope with them. Another activity was called "crashing stereotypes". In this activity stereotypes were debated in the group. Hosted students identified positive and negative aspects

on this subject in Portugal and discussed ways to solve problems.

Next to these activities, the participants were involved in role-plays which illustrated situations involving host families and students from other countries. They discussed situations in which problems might occur and what each party could do to help solve these problems. The activities involved host families, volunteers and students in order to promote both awareness on Intercultural Dialogue and a feeling of belonging to a dynamic group engaged in intercultural learning.



DENMARK

Campaigns for Intercultural Learning



Copenhagen — To promote intercultural learning, AFS Denmark launched a school campaign, a radio campaign and a video campaign. For the school campaign, AFS returnees were equipped with information material and went to schools to hold presentations about intercultural learning. Additionally, AFS sent out information material to schools and educational centers. Next to that, two brand-new radio spots were launched that encourage young people to take part in an intercultural exchange. On top of that, AFS produced two intercultural films that explain the idea of going abroad and living in a host family as well as what it is

like to host an exchange student in your family.



Video links:

Hosting: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywTJG_DLstc

Sending: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRFZb_HAoyU

SLOVENIA

Meeting Other Cultures



In Slovenia, students from different local high schools were invited to join presentations of former and present AFS students on different cultures. Small groups were formed to discuss how such experiences can help individuals and society to learn more about each other. They designed interesting posters which were used for a final panel discussion.



The European Federation for Intercultural Learning wants to extend a sincere word of thanks to the numerous people who have helped to make the Intercultural Dialogue Day 2009 a success:

AFS volunteers, staff, boards, returnees, host families, teachers and schools and all those who helped organize the activities all over Europe, the public taking part in the events, and last but not least the sponsors.



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