

EFIL BIENNIAL REPORT

2017/2018

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
KRAKÓW, POLAND
28 MAY – 2 JUNE 2019



european
federation for
intercultural
learning aisbl

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Pictures: EFIL, Member Organisations, Volunteers

EFIL would like to extend a sincere word of thanks to the numerous people that have supported the Federation over the past years, sparing no time or effort to keep things moving, challenge and help us think of directions for the future and improve our services: the staff and boards of the national offices and of AFS International, members of the EPOT, EPOR and TICLAB, and all the wonderful AFS volunteers across Europe who participated in our activities and helped us with the coordination of events as members of the preparatory teams, support teams or trainer teams.

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FOREWORD

The beginning of the year 2019 has again shown us that the purpose and mission of AFS – and EFIL – to build a more just and peaceful world through fostering intercultural understanding is more relevant than ever. EFIL contributes to this at the European level, promoting our values and mission not only through the AFS network and individual experiences but also together with like-minded organisations and European institutions. EFIL wants to be a credible, well-known partner in intercultural learning, now and in the future.

As I am writing this the European Union is in front of a big change; the European Parliament elections are just ahead of us and the new European Commission is about to be shaped. EFIL, representing 30 different AFS organisations around the Continent, also faces a big challenge: we will need to be able to promote and advocate for our diverse members with a strong will and an even stronger expertise in order to maintain our position within a challenging political environment. We see a need to be a constantly developing organisation, yet the European values and the power of education, as well as active citizenship will always be in the core of EFIL.

To achieve all this, we need our members. We need you to promote intercultural understanding within educational institutions in your countries and we need you to tell about our mission to your Ministries of Education. We need you to engage educators European-wide. We need you to help us offer intercultural opportunities to an even wider and more diverse target group. Individually, in all the 30 member countries but towards the same goal. Then only together we will be as strong as our mission.

For decades now, AFS has enabled people to learn about other cultures through encounters with others. People with true intercultural mindset is what also Europe needs now. We need people who are open to welcome people to Europe, who value diversity as much as they value their own traditions. We need people who are courageous enough to influence and advocate for a better world. I firmly believe the volunteers and the staff representing EFIL member organisations are exactly those people.

Let's continue the valuable work together!



Anni Siltanen
Chair, EFIL Board of Directors

EFIL: building strong partnerships in order to reach out to new audiences

Over the last few years, the familiar European environment in which AFS operates has been going through a deep and long-lasting process of change.

Our societies have been regularly shaken by unprecedented social, political and environmental crises which are ultimately reshaping our perception of reality. We see more than ever that the rapid acceleration of the globalisation process can open windows of opportunities for some and can force many others to close their doors. In these times of paradox and uncertainty “fake news” are increasingly flourishing in the media, and hate speech and xenophobia are getting visible again on European ground.

EFIL must therefore promote global understanding and peace even louder and clearer.

In 2017 and 2018 EFIL reached out to European institutions, and networks of schools and educators in order to translate the historical mission of AFS into tangible outcomes and to support its member organisations through relevant services.

Through projects and networking EFIL looked into ways to create new partnerships with external organisations. These have been 2 years of intense advocacy efforts which definitely increased the visibility of AFS and influenced key political decision-making processes at European level. Under the banner of strong overarching themes like “Inclusive intercultural learning: exchange organisations contributing to equal opportunities for young people” in 2017, and “Intercultural Learning in the 21st century: impact and approaches to unite polarised societies” in 2018, EFIL supported the efforts of AFS in Europe with the development of new ideas and resources. Several initiatives focused specifically on cooperation with the school environment: “ICL for Pupils and Teachers”, “Mobiliteach”, “Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange” to name just a few.

EFIL is convinced that its actions must always focus on the end beneficiary, that is the young people themselves. For them, it doesn't matter where education comes from, what matters is that it works... And that is what EFIL stands for.

*Fabrice Gonet
Secretary General ad interim*

EFIL STRATEGIC RESULT AREAS

EFIL ADVOCACY



Engage on the European level; lobby to remove structural obstacles; profile as a key player in providing ICL opportunities; ensuring involvement in strategic alliances.



EFIL VOICE

Engage and inspire internal and external audiences about EFIL's work and mission.



EFIL ACADEMY

Support Member Organisations in gaining knowledge and developing skills and intercultural competences, by offering training opportunities for their volunteers and staff.



EFIL PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

Help Member Organisations to grow with quality through projects and programmes that foster European identity and intercultural understanding.



EFIL EXPAND

Enlarge the Federation by developing new partner representations in European countries.



EFIL at EESC Civil Society Days, Brussels, 2018

ADVOCACY

EFIL contribution to pivotal political developments

Operating at the crossroads of school and non-formal education, EFIL is actively involved in policy developments in both education and youth sectors. This often implies balancing and creating the necessary bridges between the different initiatives of the EU, from policy recommendations – through new legislation – to concrete programmes and funding schemes. In the policy arena, EFIL represents the interest of intercultural exchange non-profit NGOs, while at the same time enhancing the visibility and credibility of AFS as an educational organisation.

More funding for pupil mobility

Following the motion voted by the AFS organisations, in 2017 EFIL launched a campaign 'More pupil mobility!' in partnership with ESHA, OBESSU, EEE-YFU, ATEE and EP Youth Intergroup. The initiative aimed at increasing the focus on school pupil mobility in the future Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 and enabling exchange organisations from the non-formal education sector to partner up with schools to ensure quality and accessibility of the learning mobility experiences.

Within the campaign EFIL co-organised events at the European Parliament, secured support of MEPs and developed policy papers with concrete recommendations for the future programme – all available at pupilmobility.eu campaign website.

EFIL has been involved in several of the EU initiatives launched in November 2017 within the framework of the European Education Area, in particular promoting common European values, strengthening Key Competences for Lifelong Learning, and most notably increasing learning mobility and better recognition of study periods abroad. Furthermore, EFIL has followed and contributed to the development of the new European Solidarity Corps.

In relation to the validation of non-formal and informal learning, EFIL has provided evidence on how to assess ICL developed through non-formal and informal learning, it has contributed to further discussion on Europass, and advocated for the use of Open Badges as a recognition tool.

These actions contributed to the proposal for the new funding programme, which clearly aims at an increased outreach to school pupils: 500.000 to be mobile every year by 2025.

EFIL also contributed to the work of the [Erasmus+ coalition](#) gathering several civil society organisations in the field of youth, education and training - to advocate for 10 times more funding, more accessibility of the new Erasmus+, and a stronger focus on school education and cooperation between formal and non-formal education stakeholders.

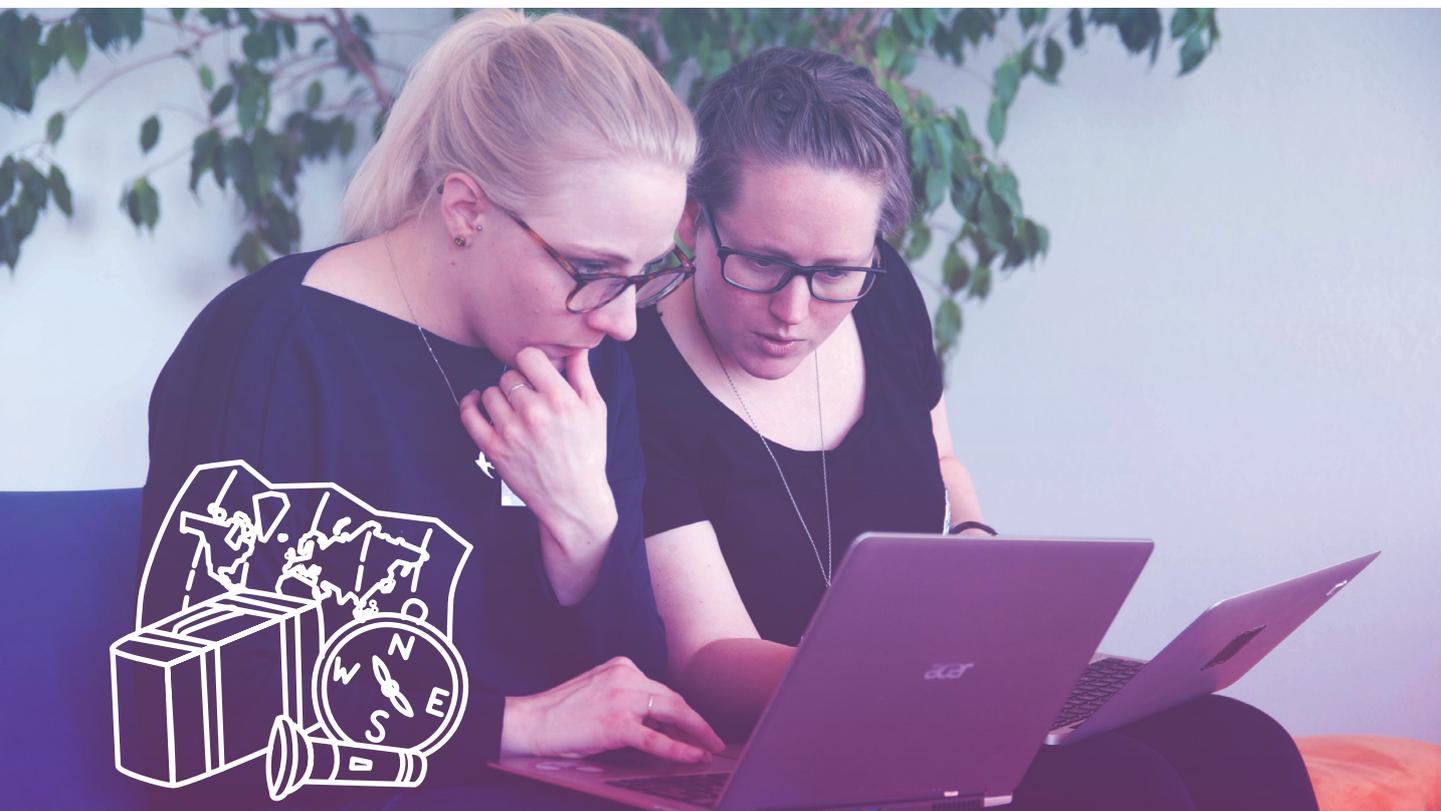
Recognise Study Abroad campaign



Formal recognition of learning mobility abroad is a key challenge for AFS organisations. Since 2016 EFIL has intensely advocated for it with the campaign [#RecogniseStudyAbroad](#) launched in cooperation with EEE-YFU, OBESSU and the European Parliament Youth Intergroup, among others. The campaign website highlights the rationale of the initiative, best practices on recognition, and public endorsements. The campaign actions also included several public events in partnership with Members of the European Parliament, drafting of policy papers and a number of meetings with stakeholders and decision makers. A dedicated study 'Recognition of school study periods abroad in Europe – an overview and policy recommendations' was developed by EFIL and proved instrumental in the process.

All these initiatives contributed to a tangible and momentous outcome: in November 2018 the EU Council adopted the **Council recommendation on the Automatic Mutual Recognition of Diplomas and learning periods abroad** which calls, under certain conditions, for automatic recognition of learning periods abroad within upper secondary education and training.

In order to ensure that the new legislation is translated into practical implementation measures in line with the needs and practices of civil society stakeholders – including AFS – EFIL played a role in securing funding in the EU budget 2019 for a Preparatory Action on Recognition of school study periods abroad to support Member States in following up on the Council recommendation.



EFIL at the Advisory Council meeting, Strasbourg, 2017



"Learning to Live Together" Conference, CoE, Strasbourg, 2017



EFIL's involvement in decision making bodies and platforms

In the past 3 years EFIL has been a member of the **Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe**, where the representatives of governments and youth co-decide on youth policy. We have brought there our expertise on ICL, and called on stronger cooperation between the education and youth sector, especially within the framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, and the initiatives related to education on human rights and democratic citizenship.

EFIL's EPOR members also took part in the **EU structured dialogue with young people** and contributed to the EU Council recommendations on how to ensure youth engagement in the EU, which inspired the **EU Youth strategy 2019-2027**.

Finally, EFIL is a member of the EU and the Council of Europe's consultation bodies with civil society, respectively the **European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group**, and the **INGO conference of the Council of Europe**. Within these bodies EFIL contributes to discussions on education and common European values, and aims at ensuring space for civil society, particularly youth, in political debates.

EFIL is a member of the **European Youth Forum (YFJ)**, the platform of International Youth Organisations and National Youth Councils in Europe. Within this framework EFIL contributes to the youth-centred political processes, takes part in the European Youth Event and cooperates closely with YFJ members that focus on education and mobility. Moreover, thanks to YFJ, EFIL took part in several conferences aimed at cooperation with other regions of the world, in particular Africa. As a member of the **Lifelong Learning Platform**, EFIL co-organises public events within the Lifelong Learning Week and participates in stakeholder meetings focused on Education and Training which provide input to the EU institutions on policy development.

EFIL is also involved in the **European Platform on Learning Mobility** which includes practitioners, researchers and policy makers from the youth field. Within the platform EFIL contributed to the development of the Charter and Handbook on Quality in Learning Mobility.





VOICE

In both 2017 and 2018 EFIL was present on social media and published the newsletter EFILife 4 times a year in order to distribute information about relevant activities and developments internally and externally.

In 2017 EFIL migrated the website to Wordpress in line with the AFS network. A communication strategy was developed, structuring EFIL's social media outreach and communication of events on different platforms.

In 2018 EFIL was impacted by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and several steps were taken to reach and maintain compliance, including consolidating EFIL's online landscape by gathering its different webpages in one place. Stephan Winiker, other volunteers and AFS International have supported the staff in this process.



Most Retweets in 2017:

efil EFIL @EFILafS Követés

10 reasons why we demand an increase by 10 times of the @EUErasmusPlus budget.

Here's n°9

#Erasmusx10 erasmusx10.eu

9 To put forward education as a driver for the Sustainable Development Goals

6:59 - 2017. okt. 18.

Most Popular Instagram post of 2018:



efil efilafs • Követem

efilafs The volunteers of the ECTP are waiting for the participants of the 10th ECTP! We are so excited! #ectp2018 #EFILafs #AFSeffect

177 kedvelés

2018. DECEMBER 2.

Ha szeretnéd kedvelni vagy hozzászólni, lépj be.

EFIL PUBLICATIONS

A Brief Overview on Intercultural Learning in Initial Teacher Education and Continuing Professional Development for Teachers of Upper Secondary Schools

Country focus: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands

Authors: Wiebke Hoffmann (InterCultur GmbH), Elisa Briga (EFIL), 2018

A Brief Overview on Intercultural Learning in Curricula of Upper Secondary Schools and the Recognition of Long-Term Individual Pupil Mobility

Country focus: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands

Author: Elisa Briga (EFIL), 2018

Recognition of School Study Periods Abroad in Europe.
An Overview and Policy Recommendations.

Author: Elisa Briga (EFIL), 2018



EFIL General Assembly, Czech Republic, 2017



TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

EFIL educational activities help the volunteers and staff of AFS organisations develop professional and personal competences needed for their work and growth. All trainings are embedded in the spirit of intercultural learning and include a strong peer learning dimension. Although they are guided by the values and qualities of non-formal education, they include a variety of methods and contents, including those relevant for the formal education environments. While all the activities are developed in cooperation with EFIL Member Organisations and their trainers, some involve also external partners and experts.

'Inclusive intercultural learning: exchange organisations contributing to equal opportunities for young people' was the common theme for several activities in 2017. To the app. 120 participants involved it gave an important stimulation to expand access to AFS activities for wider audiences. These activities were supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.

2017

Meeting of Programme Directors
(6-10 March, Stockholm, Sweden)

EFIL Advocacy online course
(March - May)



Seminar "Chapter Development: quality youth work on local level"
(12-18 June, Kiljava, Finland), supported by the Erasmus+ programme

Study Session "Youth work for intercultural dialogue: online & in-person encounters"
(14-17 October, Budapest, Hungary), supported by the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe, in co-operation with CISV, EEE-YFU and Experiment



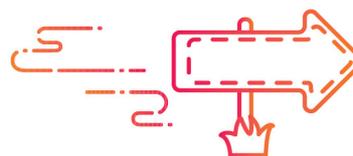
Meeting of Organisational Development Co-ordinators
(6-11 February, Bled, Slovenia)



Seminar "Intercultural learning for all"
(20-26 March, Budapest, Hungary)

External relations and AFS profiling seminar
(10-15 May, Brussels, Belgium), supported by the Erasmus+ programme

Volunteer Summer Summit on "Equal Opportunity"
(13-18 July, Hellishólar, Iceland)



Training for Trainers "Reach out to enrich"
(4-12 November, Dublin, Ireland)

Online course on Active European Citizenship for ECTP volunteers
(November)

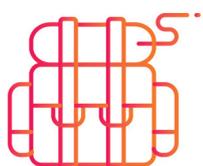
Meeting of Support Staff
(5-9 February, Brugge, Belgium)

Meeting of Programme Directors
(5-9 March, Sofia, Bulgaria)

Expert Meeting "New angles
in intercultural education"
(8-13 January, Brussels, Belgium)



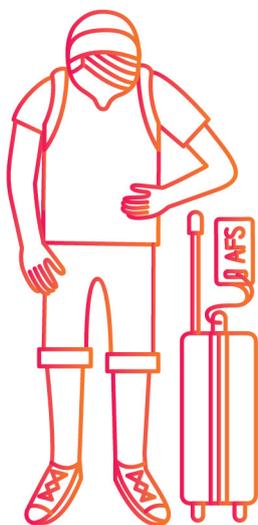
Training for PEACE
Programme multipliers
(13-20 April, Dworp, Belgium)



European Youth Event
(31 May - 3 June, Strasbourg, France)

2018

Volunteer Summer Summit on
"Civic Education against Extremism"
(10-15 July, Utøya, Norway)



Training for Trainers
"Blended learning for
intercultural competence"
(14-22 October, Prague,
Czech Republic)

Governance and Leadership Seminar
(29 August - 2 September, Cairo, Egypt)

Active European Citizenship webinar
series for ECTP volunteers (November)



Training for PEACE
Programme multipliers
(20-27 November, Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia)

The 2018 annual theme "Intercultural Learning in the 21st century: impact and approaches to unite polarised societies" involved almost 170 participants in different activities, exploring new tools and intercultural contents to better address current challenges in the world. These activities were supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.





Pupil Mobility & Recognise Study Abroad event at the European Parliament, Brussels, 2018

Society outreach

Prompted by the current developments in the world and in line with the global AFS strategy, many educational activities contributed to stronger external orientation for AFS, as well as ensuring true **social impact** of the organisation.

The seminar “Intercultural learning for all” (Hungary, March 2017) discussed how to **expand access to intercultural experiences** to more diverse audiences and have more inclusive processes and programmes. Widening our outreach was also the guiding theme of the Training for Trainers (Ireland, November 2017) and one of the reasons for the growing investment in online learning.

The Expert Meeting “New angles in intercultural Education” (Belgium, January 2018) with its resulting on-line course “Developing Intercultural Competence through E-learning” provided tools to help **apply intercultural competence in everyday life**. Alongside, the content of EFIL’s trimester programmes continuously fosters the sense of responsibility as active citizens among exchange participants.

Finally, the European activities that focused on the **involvement in political processes** (advocacy online and in-person course, European Youth Event in Strasbourg) place AFS and its volunteers as central actors in the civil society.

Online learning

EFIL’s offer of **online courses and webinars** has gradually grown. The online introduction to European Citizenship for volunteers involved in the ECTP, as well as the e-learning course on national and European advocacy, have now a permanent place in the EFIL calendar. One-off webinars are organised for different staff and volunteer audiences, responding to specific internal requests or to developments in the external environment.

The discussion about the **use of distance learning for intercultural education** has also been tackled through specific projects. A study session in cooperation with three other exchange organisations (Hungary, October 2017) explored how online and in-person encounters can complement each other to support intercultural learning and mobility programmes. The potential for delivering non-formal education online is at the core of EFIL’s new DICE course. Beyond our own programmes, EFIL is also involved in the Advisory Board of the EU initiative, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges. These activities contribute to the discussion on the benefits and limitations of online learning for specific purposes.

As more and more volunteers are playing roles in delivering online activities, both nationally and at European level, the capacity of AFS and EFIL to use e-learning has also become a training need. Hence the Training for Trainers in the Czech Republic (October 2018) included a focus on trainers’ **online facilitation skills**.



Volunteer development & capacity building

EFIL educational activities give particular attention to volunteers, helping retain their engagement and building competence for specific roles and tasks. The opportunity to share, learn and network with volunteers outside their country is a unique privilege, largely possible thanks to funds available at European level.

The **Chapter Development seminar** (Finland, June 2017) focused on strengthening local volunteer structures and empowering chapter leaders to engage others and to create local impact. For national leaders, the biennial **Governance and Leadership** seminar (Egypt, August 2018) focused on the competence of AFS board members to take strategic decisions.

The **External relations and profiling** seminar (Belgium, May 2017) empowered volunteers for campaigning, public relations and spreading the AFS message in a strategic way. The event was preceded by an online course on the basics of advocacy.

With programmes in mind, EFIL prepared volunteers to deliver **educational content to trimester programme participants** through online courses on active citizenship for ECTP volunteers and the multiplier trainings for PEACE offered in 2018.

EFIL has also an important role in building **volunteers' capacity as trainers**. By joining preparatory teams of international events volunteers practice designing and executing advanced learning processes. Moreover, each year EFIL holds a thematic Training for Trainers; in the past two editions the emphasis was on training external audiences (Ireland, November 2017) and on using blended learning for new intercultural contents (Czech Republic, October 2018).



Training for staff of Member Organisations

Recurring on the EFIL training calendar are the meetings for AFS staff: an annual event for Programme Directors and biennial meetings for respectively Organisational Development Coordinators and for staff dealing with Risk Management and Support. These events combined peer discussions, exchange of practice and chosen training components, based on the needs expressed. Topics tackled by the different staff groups in 2017-2018 included: change management, new exchange programme formats, the use of IT tools for staff and programmes, mental health of exchange participants or preventing sexual misconduct. For most of the staff meetings EFIL cooperates closely with the AFS International office, ensuring coherence of global processes in the organisation.



Meeting of Organisational Development Coordinators, Slovenia, 2017

EFIL AT A GLANCE

2017

26 Full Members,
1 Affiliate Member,
2 Associate Members



11579

NUMBER OF AFS
PARTICIPANTS SENT
WORLDWIDE

307

PARTICIPANTS IN THE ECTP

6680

PARTICIPANTS FROM EFIL
MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

8

IN-PERSON
TRAINING EVENTS

178

VOLUNTEERS
TRAINED

2

ONLINE
COURSES

49

STAFF
TRAINED



FUNDRAISING 449276 €

2017//2018

30/year

EXTERNAL EVENTS WHERE
EFIL MADE CONTRIBUTION

7

PLATFORM AND DECISION
MAKING BODIES WE BELONG TO

4 EFILife

EDITIONS/ YEAR



MORE THAN 3000 PEOPLE
CHECKING OUR PAGE



63% GROWTH OF
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

26 Full Members,
1 Affiliate Member,
2 Associate members

2018

20

PARTICIPANTS IN
THE PEACE PROGRAMME

295

PARTICIPANTS IN THE ECTP

6566

PARTICIPANTS FROM EFIL
MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



11633

NUMBER OF AFS
PARTICIPANTS SENT
WORLDWIDE



225

VOLUNTEERS
TRAINED

9

IN-PERSON
TRAINING EVENTS

63

STAFF
TRAINED

3

ONLINE
COURSES

FUNDRAISING 375598 €

EFIL ORGANISED
ITS ACTIVITIES
IN 15 COUNTRIES





PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS



TRIMESTER PROGRAMMES

In 2017 and 2018, EFIL coordinated two trimester programmes: the **European Citizenship Trimester Programme (ECTP)** and the **PEACE Programme**. The content of the programmes is specifically designed to develop active global citizens, in line with the AFS Network Strategy.

The ECTP is a secondary school exchange programme with a focus on **Active European Citizenship**. At the end of the 3 months, participants meet their peers from all over Europe at the Europe Camp in Belgium coordinated by EFIL together with a team of AFS volunteers. Here the participants get to share and reflect on their exchange experience and participate in workshops on European identity, active citizenship and change making where they create their own projects. In 2018 the ECTP programme grew to 281 participants.

PEACE is a **trimester secondary school exchange programme between Europe and Asia**. It is the result of the cooperation between EFIL and AAI (AFS Asia and the Pacific Initiative) in a 2-year project involving 15 AFS organisations worldwide and funded by Erasmus+.

The **PEACE** programme focuses on **Global Citizenship Education**. During the programme each participant takes on an individual “Global Citizenship in You” research projects, exploring a “global issue” both in their home country and in their host countries. Participants also take on active projects, which involve a minimum of 10 hours of community service of their choice. These key components aim at creating awareness and a feeling of responsibility for common issues, encourage civic action and facilitate engagement in the local host community. Participants end their programme at a final closing camp where they receive trainings on Global Citizenship Education and Change Making, and get the chance to prepare for reentry by sharing their projects and experiences.

Open Badges - a way to recognise competences acquired in learning mobility!

In both programmes participants can claim Open digital badges as a proof of their new skills and competences. The Open Badges were developed through the Erasmus+ project European Badge Alliance (ebawebsite.net) which was carried out in 2016 and 2017.



EFIL VOLUNTEER SUMMER SUMMIT

The Volunteer Summer Summit (VSS) is EFIL's largest training event that every year gathers almost 200 volunteers of all ages from all over Europe and beyond. Started in 2008 to foster solidarity among volunteers, the programme of the Summer Summit is designed to offer many different settings and activities to explore the theme, tackle relevant AFS topics, learn from one another, learn about the host country, give back to the local community.

VSS 2017 Iceland

The VSS 2017 took place in Hellisólar, Iceland.

Theme: Equal Opportunities

Number of participants (including team): 109

Number of countries represented: 29

Highlights:

- 10 Years Anniversary of VSS
- A speech by the Icelandic Minister of Social Affairs and Equality on both successful and less successful measures implemented in Iceland to increase the country's inclusivity.
- Collecting the participants' input on the Draft of what would become the AFS Network Strategy, allowing volunteers to have a direct say on how to move AFS forward. At the VSS we encourage volunteers to be change makers within our own organisation

VSS 2018 Norway

The VSS 2018 took place on Utøya, Norway.

Theme: Civic Education against Activism

Number of participants (including team): 163

Number of countries represented: 29

Highlights:

- *Being on Utøya. Given the history of the location, we were careful to design a programme that would pay respect to it but would also honour the desire of the island's administration to overcome their past and become a workshop for democracy and civic education.*

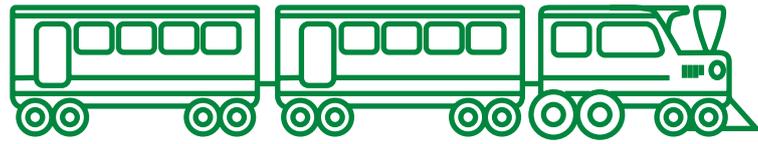
- *The island administration let us know that they are happy that for so many people Utøya is now connected to positive memories.*

- *Participants were determined to explore the theme and take advantage of the content offered at the event, to recognise the role of AFS in making society less polarized, less extreme, less violent, and more inclusive.*

The VSS 2017 was realised thanks to the sponsorship of EYF, AFS Iceland, and the team members that personally donated funds to offer 7 full scholarships to participants. The VSS is supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.



VSS Community Project, Iceland, 2017



ICL FOR EDUCATORS

Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange

The Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange is an annual conference bringing together experts to discuss issues relevant for educational exchange. It is sponsored by the Intercultura Foundation (Italy) and organised jointly with EFIL and AFS Intercultural Programs.

In November 2017, the 8th Forum was hosted in Colle Val d'Elsa, Italy, with the title "The Intercultural training of teachers: from theory to practice". The programme built on the 2016 analysis of the state of the art, and looked at different examples of ICL training for teachers.

The 9th edition took place for the first time in Brussels, Belgium, in October 2018, in combination with the final conference of the "ICL for pupils and teachers" project, looking at promoting ICL through a 'whole school approach'. It was hosted by the EESC and received the label of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. This edition concluded a 3 year cycle of Fora dedicated to ICL training for teachers and schools.



ICL for Pupils and Teachers

This 2-year Erasmus+ funded project coordinated by EFIL involved AFS, schools and other partners from several countries, to offer trainings and tools for secondary school leaders and teachers, helping them include intercultural learning in every subject and aspect of school life.

Based on the teacher training model developed in the project, specialised teacher courses took place all over Europe, focusing on: intercultural competence development of teachers, mobility opportunities and intercultural learning activities for pupils, assessment of pupils' intercultural competence and whole school approach to intercultural learning. A key outcome of the partnership is a Toolbox with 40 intercultural activities in several languages, to implement within school environments. Finally, the project resulted with two studies - each including policy recommendations - focused on intercultural learning in teacher education and in school curricula in 5 countries (Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands).





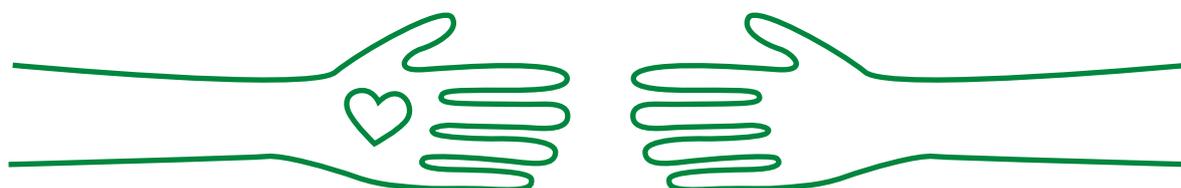
MobiliTeach Summer School, Italy, 2018



MobiliTeach Summer School

In 2017 EFIL became a partner of “MobiliTeach” - a 2-year project focused on helping teachers to plan and manage student mobility programmes in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. The project, funded by Erasmus+, is coordinated by UNISER Italy and involves mainly VET sector partners from several countries. EFIL’s key contribution to the consortium naturally relates to the know-how on intercultural preparation and support in the mobility programmes.

The main objective is the creation of a format, methodology and brand for an international Summer School addressing teachers of VET schools and staff of Mobility Coordinating Organisations from all over Europe. The first pilot edition of the MobiliTeach Summer School took place in June 2018 in Italy, with AFS and EFIL represented by both participants and trainers. The second pilot edition is planned for 2019.





Team members at VSS, Iceland, 2017

PROJECTS FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

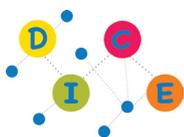


Intercultural Dialogue Day

Every last Thursday of September AFS volunteers all over Europe celebrate the Intercultural Dialogue Day by organising events in their local communities to promote intercultural dialogue and exchanges.

In 2017 EFIL ran an IDD photo and video contest, while as of 2018 EFIL has reduced its role to promoting the Day through social media.

2017 IDD contest winners: Intercultura Roma Chapter, AFS Serbia Subotica Chapter, AFS France Picardie Chapter, AFS Serbia Bečej Chapter, and AFS France Centre Chapter

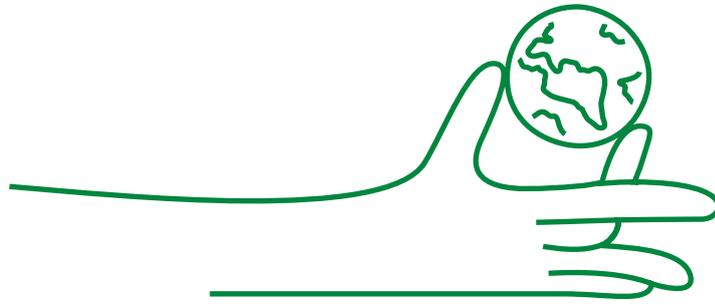


Developing Intercultural Competences through E-learning

The new EFIL online learning course “Developing Intercultural Competences through E-learning (DICE)” aims at supporting the application of intercultural competences in everyday life. It provides contents and activities helpful in facing current society challenges, which might not be yet addressed by existing AFS tools and curricula.

The pedagogical approach is based on non-formal education principles of experiential and peer learning, supported by existing free resources online. The contents are built around thematic “stations”, of which five have been developed so far: Power in Intercultural Encounters, Identities, Intercultural Media Literacy, Inclusion and Discrimination, Othering. No prior knowledge or mobility experience is required to take the course.

The course prototype was developed and piloted in 2018 by a team of volunteers from all over Europe, thanks to the support of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. A new volunteer team will continue the development and upscaling process of DICE in 2019.



Time to be
WELCOME

Time to be welcome

“Time to be welcome” was a 2-year project, which encouraged young volunteers and youth organisations in Europe to support the welcoming of migrants and refugees, and their integration process in the new community through the use of non-formal education. The project was a partnership of 11 youth organisations – including EFIL – coordinated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and co-funded by Erasmus+. EFIL contributed by sharing intercultural learning expertise and by sending six experienced AFS volunteers to support refugees on the ground in Greece and France for periods between 2 and 12 months.



MIRAI - Europe-Japan Exchange

MIRAI - Mutual-understanding, Intellectual Relations and Academic exchange Initiative - aims at promoting an understanding of Japan’s society, history, diverse culture, politics, economics and diplomacy, and fostering friendship and cooperation among the people of Japan and Europe. Appointed by the Japanese government as the European secretariat, EFIL contributed to the visibility of the project via Social Media, and in 2017 ran webinars on Intercultural Learning for the participants.



Time to be Welcome, Greece, 2018



“JOINING EFIL HAS OPENED MANY DOORS FOR US”

Kevin Hickey, CEO of EIL Ireland

AFS Ireland: Becoming a family member.

After joining the EFIL Network as full members in 2017, volunteer engagement in our activities has increased dramatically over the last 2 years as a result of sending our Irish volunteers to EFIL activities such as the VSS and other trainings. We have discovered and involved a growing group of AFS Alumni from around Europe now living and working in Ireland; one of the longest serving AFSers living in Ireland was elected to our Board in November 2018.

We really value the solidarity with other EFIL members and the support we receive from the EFIL team. Attendance at events such as Programme Directors and Heads of Office meetings as well as the new Board Chair Forum have provided very practical learning and networking opportunities. EFIL membership allows us to keep up to date with the latest developments at EU level in relation to emerging policy in our field. Now we have opportunity to give our opinion and to contribute to policy development in Europe.

In the past two years the highlight has undoubtedly been the trust EFIL partners have shown in EIL as a new family member. The biggest challenge though has been to negotiate our way through the AFS/EFIL culture, vocabulary and systems (not to mention the volume of emails). The underlying approaches were basically always similar, but the language and terminology used was often entirely new to us and it was a bit like learning a new language.

Kevin Hickey, CEO of AFS Ireland

AFS Bulgaria's growth through volunteer engagement.

Since the beginning of our operations in Bulgaria EFIL has helped and supported us through all the steps and stages of establishing our organisation, registering it, creating governance structures and sustainable leadership. In 2017 Intercultural Exchanges Bulgaria (AFS Bulgaria) became an EFIL affiliate member, which helped us to grow further and stronger. EFIL assisted us with the expansion of our volunteers' network by recruiting and training volunteers devoted to the AFS mission and values, which is the base for our future successful development.

To be part of EFIL and AFS International gives us the opportunity to offer high quality exchange programmes. The professionalism of our fellow AFS organisations helps us to provide unforgettable, life-changing experiences for all our students. Our volunteers had the opportunity to become part of international projects and training events, which greatly contributed to the improvement of their skills and knowledge. We are also grateful for the continued investment of EFIL resources in supporting the creation of a long-term development strategy for the years to come.

The next big step for us will be to successfully start a hosting summer programme and host ECTP and PEACE students as well as establishing an office with dedicated employees.

Svetla Kaisheva, Chair of AFS Bulgaria

EXPAND

The network grows

In 2017, EFIL grew by 8 when the GA granted Intercultural Exchanges Bulgaria (AFS BUL) affiliate membership and 7 other organisations became the newest full members of the Federation:

Interkulturni susreti u Bosni I Hercegovini (AFS Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Association for Intercultural Learning (Globus, AFS Croatia)

EIL Intercultural Learning (now AFS Ireland)

Polska Programy Miedzynarodowe (AFS in Poland)

Interkultura (AFS Serbia)

Intercultura Slovakia (AFS in Slovakia)

Educational Association Interkultura (AFS in Slovenia)



From expansion to consolidation

In early 2018, a new strategy for the Expand area has shifted EFIL's effort from opening new organisations to consolidating the current Network. A decision was made to focus resources on supporting the newest members as well as members struggling financially.

Activities

In 2017/2018 regular calls and communication have ensured engagement with Partners, as have office visits to Croatia and Bulgaria to identify the specific needs of these partner. The seminar "Chapter Development: quality youth work on local level" (Finland, June 2017) was designed paying attention to issues relevant for smaller and growing organisations; the PD Meetings in Sweden and Bulgaria were also opportunities for these partners to promote their programmes. Finally in 2018 a closer collaboration started with AFS International on partner engagement laying the ground for a better and more integrated support structure.



Programme Directors Meeting, Bulgaria, 2018



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The EFIL Board of Directors administers the Federation. The 7-person Board focuses on strategic matters and EFIL's long-term vision. Other items on the agenda include finances and fundraising, developments in Europe, the state of the global AFS network and of the Federation, EFIL's activities in the various result areas, etc.

The following Board members served on the EFIL Board in 2017 and 2018:

Ekaterina Bagdasarova (Russia) – Secretary, June 2013–June 2016; Chair, October 2016–May 2018; left in July 2018

Sinemis Candemir (Turkey) – Secretary, October 2016–May 2018

Bart van Doveren (Belgium Flanders) – Treasurer since June 2011

Jatta Erlund (Finland) – Member, June 2014–May 2017

Andrea Franzoi (Italy) – joined in June 2014; Deputy Chair, May 2017–May 2018

Niklas Mengel (Germany) – Member since May 2018

Alda Protti (Italy) – Member since May 2018

Bjarke Rix Rasmussen (Denmark) – joined in May 2017; Deputy Chair since June 2018

Sabine Siegrist (Switzerland) – Member since June 2016

Anni Siltanen (Finland) – Secretary, May–June 2018, Chair since June 2018

Philipp Wagner (Austria) – joined in June 2011; Deputy Chair, June 2013–May 2017; left in May 2017

EFIL Board Meetings:

Helsinki, Finland, 17–19 February 2017

Prague, Czech Republic, 28 May 2017

Brussels, Belgium, 27–29 October 2017

Leuven, Belgium, 23–25 February 2018

Brussels, Belgium, 22–24 June 2018

Brussels, Belgium, 16–18 November 2018

HEADS OF OFFICE

The Heads of Office (HOO) meetings aim at building a sense of unity and common identity within the network of European partners, and create a platform to discuss matters of relevance for the European AFS network such as: updates and discussions on developments in Europe, EFIL and the AFS global network; the EFIL activity calendar including training events, projects, programmes; new partner development; EU regulations; etc. Every 2 or 3 years a HOO retreat takes place with a wider scope than the regular meetings, including training on leadership and management skills.

HOO meetings:

Reykjavik, Iceland, 29 November–3 December 2017

Copenhagen, Denmark, 28 May–1 June 2018

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly has the supreme authority to work towards the attainment of the aims set out in the EFIL statutes and has the exclusive competence to adopt the budget, approve the balance sheets, elect or dismiss Board members and amend the statutes. It takes place in May/June of the uneven years. The extraordinary General Assembly in the even years mainly (but not exclusively) serves to elect members of the EFIL Board.

General Assemblies:

Prague, Czech Republic, 25–28 May 2017

Copenhagen, Denmark, 31 May 2018 (extraordinary GA)



Heads of Office Meeting, Denmark, 2018

SECRETARIAT

The following staff and volunteers were active at the EFIL Secretariat in 2017 and 2018:

STAFF

Paul Claes, Secretary General

Frini Ezunkpe, Executive Manager

Izabela Jurczik-Arnold, Senior Training and Projects Coordinator

Inga Menke, Partner Development, Training and Projects Coordinator, left in January 2018

Elisa Briga, Advocacy, Projects and Programmes Coordinator

Tinna Sveinsdóttir, Communication Coordinator, left in December 2017

Valentina Milanese, Head of Member Support, since January 2018

Jenný Lárentsínusdóttir, Head of Communication, since February 2018

Jeroen Vandenbempt, replacement maternity leave, 3-26 April 2017

Ingvild Grini, replacement maternity leave, 12 June-11 August 2017

VOLUNTEERS

Anica Rimac, EVS volunteer, July 2016-June 2017

Lynn Bemus, volunteer, September 2016-September 2017

Valentina Milanese, EVS volunteer, January 2017-December 2017

Katrina Kalnina, EVS volunteer, July 2017-June 2018

Alma Dóra Ríkarðsdóttir, EVS volunteer, September 2017-July 2018

Hanan Anwar, EVS volunteer, October 2017-July 2018

Irem Elvin Unsal, EVS volunteer, since July 2018

Nicolas Martig, EVS volunteer, since September 2018

Valeria Di Muzio, EVS volunteer, since October 2018

WORKING BODIES

European Pool of Trainers

EFIL relies on its European Pool of Trainers (EPOT) to help plan and implement the educational activities. The EPOT members bring in the trainer experiences from their national organisations and then develop further through involvement in European trainings. In 2017-2018 a total of 140 trainers from 24 Member Organisations were a part of the pool.

European Pool of Representatives

EFIL relies on its European Pool of Representative (EPOR) to represent EFIL/AFS externally on a number of decision making bodies, platforms, and at European and International events. In 2017-2018 the pool had 18 representatives from 12 Member Organisations. Three volunteers form the Core Group and hold permanent positions in different bodies (between 1.5 and 3 years).

Training and Intercultural Learning Advisory Body

The TICLAB - is an advisory structure providing input on and training and intercultural learning matters to the EFIL Secretariat. By representing volunteers and staff of Member Organisations, and including representatives of the AFS International office, the body helps in keeping the educational activities close to the network needs and global developments. The mandate of the TICLAB includes also the drafting and monitoring of two key EFIL documents: the Training Strategy and the Intercultural Learning Strategy.

The TICLAB meetings:

Bled, Slovenia, 11-13 February 2017

Brussels, Belgium, 2-4 March 2018

The TICLAB members in the 2017-2018

Preparatory teams, trainers and support teams:

Barbora Fenclova (AFS Czech Republic)

Viktoria Bedö (AFS Hungary)

Jonas Ørnes Andersen (AFS Norway)

Ines Eggert / Kai Böttner (alternating; AFS Germany)

Lucas Welter, Elis Motta and Marcela Lapertosa (alternating; AFS International office)

Izabela Jurczik-Arnold and Inga Menke (EFIL Secretariat)

EFIL Volunteers 2017-2018

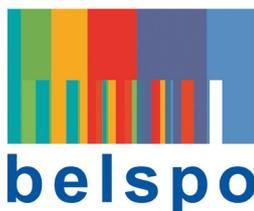
Preparatory teams, trainers and support teams:

Adelie Denizot, Aldren Hila, Aleksandar Todorovic, Aleksandra Piskorska, Aleksandra Orgradnik, Alessandro Sola, Alexander Kerkhoff, Alexander William Blomqvist Eliassen, Alexandra Ruivo Cordeiro, Alexandra Duenner, Alexandra Siskova, Alice Dalpiaz, Alina Araslanova, Alma Dóra Ríkarðsdóttir, Amalie Ferdinand, Ana Misevic, Anastasia Zheltaya, Andras Zalan Nagy, Andreas Heyerick, Angelika Madycka, Anica Rimac, Anna Breivik Høigård, Anna Romboli, Anna Rita Marini, Anni Siltanen, Antonio Garcia Gonzalez, Arina Nikolaeva, Aron Freyr Jóhannsson, Aron Horia Ciocan, Ásdís Björk Gunnarsdóttir, Asgeir Barkarson, Balazs Beregszaszi, Bernd Andersson, Bojana Ilic, Bryndís Rún Hafliðadóttir, Caroline Mulle, Carolyne Wernegg, Cátia Santos, Charlotte Klinting, Cristiana Gonçalves, Dalia Sherif, Demet Selin Gündoğdu, Domenico Riolo, Dúlio Santos, Ebba Lord, Egill Thorarinsson, Eldrid Gaukstad, Elena Olcese, Elfi Thrane Bemelmans, Elina Peiseniece, Elisa Leo, Ema Šare, Emilija Gagrčin, Eva Hütter, Fareeda Atwan, Ferruccio Fiordispini, Francesca Finocchiaro, Franziska Lorenz, Frederik Jochen Jensen, Frederik Jochen Ebbinghaus, Gabriel Pitre-Traversy, Gert Lucas, Giusy Buonamassa, Gylfi Már Hjálmarsson, Hamdican Gülgen, Hanan Anwar, Hannah Vleugels, Hildur Ýr Aðalsteinsdóttir, Ida Vasstrand, Inga Medbø, Ingvild Grini, Írem Elvin Únsal, Irene Manganini, Jana Holla, Jenný Lárentsínusdóttir, Jeroen Vandenbempt, Johann Goerrissen, Josef Burker, Karmen Obrdalj, Katharina Schulze Herking, Katka Heroutová, Katrin Kirchberger, Katrīna Kalniņa, Kevin Li, Krisna Putra Putu, Kristina Tikvic, Lejna Čelebičić, Lena O'Hara, Lilla Virág Erdélyi, Lisa Wagner, Lukas Findeisen, Lynn Bemus, Maa-ike Iványiová, Magnea Haraldsdóttir, Maja Dzafic, Maria Acatrinei, Maria Kostyalova, Maria Paz Gonzalez, Marie Nuzzo, Marija Simic, Marija Veljic, Marina Saglietti, Marta Smierzchalska, Marte Beldé, Martin Teplanszki, Mary-Paz González, Massimiliano Verri, Matteo Stefanoni, Mert Cicigün, Michaela Svobodová, Mira Wold, Miranda Fiedler, Monika Maurerova, Münevver Dobur, Natasja Hölscher, Nicolas Martig, Nicolas Coudret, Nikolina Sladojevic, Nina Grmuša, Noomi Sophie Peter, Oliver Szöllösi, Pablo Armas, Ragnhild Drøsshaug, Rakel Kristoffersen, Roberta Costa, Robin Segers, Saadet Tas, Sandra Orre, Sercan Selvi, Silvia Gabadinho, Simon Appelt, Simone Mühlbach, Sofia Agafonova, Sofie van der Eijk, Sophia Kistenmacher, Staša Stojkov, Steinunn Ása Sigurðardóttir, Stephan Winiker, Thea Michelle Torp Rivas, Tijana Marjanovic, Tina Helmke Hallberg, Tobias Tønnessen, Torsten Berger, Úlfur Atli Stefánúson, Utpal Pathak, Valentina Milanese, Valeria Di Muzio, Varvara Zemtseva Veronica Vismara, Vignir Árnason, Vimal Vivekandah, Vinicius Ramos, Walter Genchi, Watcharakorn Khajudparn, Wim Debruyne, Zahra Rimish Rizvi, Zehra-Astrid Merdzanic, Zeno Zucca, Zoé Kergomard, Zoya Tisaj, Þóra Kristín Hjaltested, Þorbjörg Anna Gísladóttir, Þórkatla Sveinsdóttir

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EFIL contributes to peace and justice in a diverse world threatened by inequity and intolerance, by promoting intercultural understanding and sensitivity among European and other countries, organisations and citizens, hereby endorsing the ends of AFS Intercultural Programs. We are a competent partner in Europe in the educational field, with substantial expertise and experience in Intercultural Learning, providing appropriate links with the wider field of Global Education. EFIL actively helps its Members to operate within the European environment and to develop their organisations in order to ultimately support and implement the AFS Mission and Strategic Plan.

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Twitter: EFILafs

Instagram: EFILafs