

2019/2020 EFIL

BIENNIAL REPORT



european
federation for
intercultural
learning aisbl

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EFIL sincerely thanks 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 and TICLAB, and advocacy fellowship 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.

INTRODUCTION

Reading this report, it becomes apparent how the two years 2019 and 2020 differ from each other: from the Volunteer Summer Summit to the PEACE programme, from Heads of Office (HOO) meetings to composition of the EFIL team, the transformation that the organisation went through in the course of these 24 months is astounding, as much as unexpected. AFS organisations in Europe, i.e. our members, went from thriving in the among some of the best yearly results ever in 2019 to the management of the emergency repatriations at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, to a state of crisis that lasted way longer than anyone could imagine, through a continuous adaptation process that meant restructuring, prioritising and streamlining throughout 2020. I believe that nobody came out of this crisis unaffected, in a way or in another.

At EFIL, as at AFS, we are optimistic by nature. We look forward to the period that will follow this global crisis as one of opportunities for more and better pupils' mobility, as well as volunteering and civic engagement, in the framework of European citizenship education. The global pandemic represented also a moment of intense reflection, on how to make our work, at EFIL, more visible for our external stakeholders and relevant for our members. We prepared ourselves at the best of our ability to the new Erasmus+ programme, that will foresee funding for pupils' exchanges and organisations supporting these projects.

While 2019 saw an impressive amount of in-person activities organised for members and volunteers, 2020 accompanied EFIL and its members with more flexible formats of hybrid and online activities, some of which were an absolute novelty, that demonstrated an ability to adapt to new and flexible ways of working.

Looking ahead, I am positive that we will all treasure our learnings from these years, and appreciate all the more the role of a platform, such as EFIL, that allows professionals and volunteers to be part of a supportive network enabling them to exchange ideas, good practice and meet colleagues and peers; of creating more opportunities for common projects and advocacy, while moving ahead towards the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of EFIL, getting ready to reboot it for a brighter future. My best wish to us all is that we will be able to honour the expectations of this unique period. At EFIL, we work daily to do just that.

Enjoy your reading.

Davide Capecchi

Secretary General



FOREWORD

The past two years have manifested a major challenge for the entire AFS network. The pandemic has shaped our reality in Europe and beyond in ways we do not fully understand yet, in ways we never could have imagined when we gathered at the latest EFIL General Assembly in Krakow in 2019. As we continue living in these uncertain times, there is one thing I am absolutely certain about: EFIL is definitely going to play a very important role as a part of the greater AFS network also in the future. Intra-European exchange is likely to increase, we'll need to find different ways to respond to the sustainability requirements of the society around us and support digital ways of meeting people more than before, but the EFIL values are going to stay. We need Europeans with intercultural understanding, we need mobility further on and we need European values in the center of all our operations. EFIL wants to be a credible, well-known partner in intercultural learning, now and in the future.

As I am writing this EFIL is in the middle of a strategy process for the next six years. We understand six years is a long time right now and are ready to adapt the strategy according to the most likely quickly changing reality in the network. For this, we want to maintain an active dialogue with all of you. Representing 29 different AFS organizations around the Continent is an important task: 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 need to be a constantly developing organization staying relevant in times of change. 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 speak about our mission to your Ministries of Education. We need you to engage educators. We need you to help us offer intercultural opportunities to an even more diverse target group. Individually in all the 29 member countries but towards the same goal. Then only together we will be as strong as our mission. And now we need you to help EFIL achieve that goal more than ever.

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 as borders have been closed and contacts limited to a minimum. We need people who are open to welcome people, people 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 organizations are exactly those people.

Let's continue the valuable work together!



Anni Siltanen

Chairperson, EFIL Board of Directors



ADVOCACY

EFIL contribution to pivotal political developments

The European Federation for Intercultural Learning (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.

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



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

In the policy arena, EFIL represents the interest of civil society mobility providers, while at the same time enhancing the visibility and credibility of AFS as an educational organisation. 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.

Since 2019 EFIL has been involved in several of the EU initiatives launched in the framework of the **European Education Area** and the preparation of the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027. In addition, in 2020 following the outburst

of the pandemic, EFIL has advocated towards EU institutions for non-profit youth exchange organisations' access to post-covid recovery funding given the negative effect that travel restrictions had on international pupil and volunteer exchange programmes.

EFIL met with representatives of the European Commission and, in December 2020, talked directly with Commissioner Gabriel to stress the incredible efforts that AFS organisations put into repatriating pupils safely at the start of the pandemic, and how rapidly they were able to offer online support and preparation for exchange participants as well as brand new virtual intercultural learning programmes, and get organised for starting international exchanges again in September 2020.



Towards an **European Education Area**

In November 2017, the European Commission launched the European Education area, including the objective that learning mobility will be the norm by 2025. To support this goal the European Union foresees more pupil and teacher mobility funded through the Erasmus+ programme and progress toward the automatic recognition of learning periods abroad in general secondary education through the Council recommendation on the topic adopted in 2018. Both are key advocacy priorities for EFIL and in the last two years we partnered closely with the European Commission and other stakeholders for their implementation.

More pupil mobility in Erasmus+

To ensure that the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 included more opportunities for pupil mobility EFIL continued the campaign More pupil mobility and maintained the pupilmobility.eu website showcasing relevant information for policy makers and stakeholders. EFIL also joined the Erasmus+ coalition led by the Lifelong Learning Platform and the European Youth Forum, aimed at coordinating advocacy for the new programme, where it brought the specific instances related to the school sector. Between November 2019 and January 2020 EFIL ran a survey on the internationalisation of schools to collect data input from schools on the future of Erasmus+. The survey results proved that schools need support for running mobilities and they would welcome non profit pupil exchange organisations to be included among the beneficiaries of Erasmus+ school mobility to partner up with them for internationalisation.

Recognition of learning periods abroad in general secondary education

EFIL has been advocating for two years towards the European Parliament (EP) for the inclusion in the EU budget of a Preparatory action on recognition of learning periods abroad. Advocacy has been successful and the EP adopted this proposal for the budget 2019. As the expert and sole publisher of studies on the subject, in 2019 EFIL was selected by the European Commission to lead the Expert Network on Recognition of Outcomes of Learning Periods abroad in General Secondary Education. Thanks to this endeavour, in 2020, EFIL has been at the forefront of the EU's efforts to implement automatic recognition of learning periods abroad Europe-wide. EFIL has involved its members in this process to enhance advocacy efforts at national level, enabling the creation of meaningful links between non-profit exchange organisations and policy makers in the field of school education.

EFIL's involvement in decision-making **bodies and platforms**

In the past 5 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 Intercultural Learning (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 representatives also took part in the **EU Youth Dialogue**.

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.

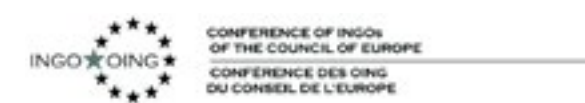
EFIL is a member of the **European Youth Forum** (YFJ), the platform of International Youth

Organisations and National Youth Councils in Europe. Within this framework EFIL contributes the youth-centred political processes and cooperates closely with YFJ members that focus on education and mobility.

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 and is coordinated by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership. Within the platform EFIL took part in the biennial conferences and contributed to the development of the Training kit of learning mobility.

EFIL was also involved in the Advisory Board of the EU initiative, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges; contributing to the discussion on the benefits and limitations of online learning for specific purposes.



efil ACADEMY

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.

Timeline of Activities

*"Social impact – AFS volunteers as educators, changemakers and advocates for a better world" was the thematic focus for several activities in 2019. For the app. **165 participants** involved, it brought attention to the importance of ensuring that our activities and efforts do not lead only to attitude change in our beneficiaries but to positive societal change. These activities were supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.*

2019

Meeting of Organisational Development Co-ordinators

04-08.02.

Belgrade, Serbia

Seminar "#AFSEffect: social impact in and through exchanges"

03-09.03.

Amersfoort, Netherlands

Meeting of Programme Directors

04-08.03.

Amersfoort, Netherlands

Seminar "#AFS Effect through external relations - building capacity to advocate for a better world"

28.05.-02.06.

Krakow, Poland

Volunteer Summer Summit on "Volunteering for Impact"

14-19.07.

Bad Gleichenberg, Austria

Teacher Training "Intercultural Learning - ICL @ School"

21-24.08.

Berlin, Germany

Education and School Relations Seminar

19-23.09.

Mechelen, Belgium

Training for Trainers "Sustainable Impact of Training" supported by the Erasmus+ programme

27.10.-04.11.

Odense, Denmark

Online course on Active European Citizenship for PEACE volunteers

November

online

Meeting of Programme Directors

02-06.03.

Riga, Latvia

Meeting of Support Staff

09-13.03.

Berlin, Germany

Online course "Global Citizenship Incubator"

18-19.06.

online

Volunteer Online Summer Sessions on "Global Citizenship Education"

June- July

online

Webinar series "Boost Education and School Relations through Erasmus+" for AFS staff and leaders

June- July

online

Training for Trainers "Volunteers as Global Citizenship Educators" supported by the Erasmus+ programme

20-28.09.

Krakow, Poland

Online course on Active European Citizenship for PEACE volunteers

November

online

The 2020 annual theme "Empowering Volunteers for Global Citizenship Education" involved almost **100 participants** in different activities exploring what it means to be a global citizen and how volunteers can promote active global citizenship through local projects. Due to the Covid19 pandemic these training activities were mainly held online. They were supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.

2020

Seminar "Revisiting the PEACE Programme"

01-02.03.

Riga, Latvia

10

11

Volunteer development for Social Impact through Global Citizenship Education

EFIL educational activities give particular attention to volunteers, helping to retain their engagement and to build competences 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. Through these opportunities EFIL maintains a solid European network of volunteers that support each other and work together toward the advancement of the AFS mission. In 2019, EFIL volunteer training focused around the question of how to ensure societal impact through our activities, while in 2020 it explored how to promote more Global Citizenship Education specifically.

The **Seminar “#AFSEffect social impact in and through exchanges”** (Netherlands, March 2019) explored how volunteers can better foster citizenship education among exchange participants and encourage them to have a positive impact on society by being active citizens. The **Global Citizenship Incubator Online Course** (May - June 2020) guided the participants through the development of a creative idea into a concrete project for the promotion of global citizenship at local level. Each year EFIL holds a thematic **Training for Trainers**; in the past two editions the emphasis was on how to structure training activities to ensure long-term impact (Denmark, October 2019) and on empowering volunteers to be educators of global citizenship (Poland, September 2020). Through these activities EFIL has played an important role in building **volunteers’ capacity as trainers**. By joining preparatory teams of international events volunteers practice designing and executing

advanced learning processes.

Finally, with programmes in mind, each year EFIL prepares volunteers to deliver **Global Citizenship educational content to trimester programme participants** via an online course on active citizenship for PEACE volunteers.

As Covid19 forced activities to take place online, EFIL was able to capitalise on its previous years’ work on e-learning to convert activities as seamlessly as possible into virtual ones. Blended and online learning has now become a feature of EFIL’s training and in 2021 we’ll further explore how to effectively offer a varied mix of activity formats.

Capacity building for external profiling

Prompted by new trends and opportunities in the school and youth sector at European level (see Advocacy chapter), and in line with the global AFS strategy, many educational activities contributed to stronger external orientation for AFS to strengthen the organisation profile as an expert in the field of quality pupil mobility and ICL. At the seminar **“#AFS Effect through external relations - building capacity to advocate for a better world”** (Poland, May 2019) AFS

volunteers increased their knowledge on current advocacy topics and practices, and learned how to advocate for their organisation at national level. Through the EFIL Advocacy Fellowship and Learning programme AFS organisations are supported in their national advocacy efforts through an online community and ad hoc mentoring. During the **Education and School Relations Seminar** (Belgium, September 2019) the AFS staff members responsible for school cooperation discussed different steps for making partnerships with schools more effective and sustainable. Fostering good relations with schools and AFS’s image as an expert in ICL and global citizenship education was also the guiding objective of the **Teacher Training** (Germany, August 2019). Finally, the Webinar series **“Boost Education and School Relations through Erasmus+”** (June-September 2020) built AFS capacity for leveraging opportunities in the Erasmus+ programme, especially those connected to pupil mobility.

Staff training

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 combine peer discussions, exchange of practices and chosen training components, based on the needs expressed. Topics tackled by the different staff groups in 2019-2020 included: volunteer engagement and leadership, upgrading exchange programme formats, the use of AFS online tools for staff, preventing sexual misconduct, 21st century challenges including responses to pandemics. For most of the staff meetings EFIL cooperates closely with the AFS International office, ensuring coherence of global processes in the organisation.



VOLUNTEER SUMMER SUMMIT

The Volunteer Summer Summit (VSS) is EFIL's largest annual training event that 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 annual theme, tackle relevant AFS topics, learn from one another, learn about the host country, and give back to the local community.

In 2019 and 2020 the VSS has been supported by the European Foundation of the Council of Europe.

VSS 2019 Austria

The VSS 2019 took place in

Bad Gleichenberg, Austria.

Theme: #AFSEffect Volunteering for Impact

Number of participants (including team): **155**

Number of countries represented: **26**



Highlights:

The thematic opening on Social Impact in the format of a panel discussion with participants and team members as guest speakers describing their own experience of creating impact at different levels, from high-level diplomacy to grassroot activism, and through different methods, including the use of digital tools.

The unprecedented number of follow up project ideas submitted to be considered for micro-funding, through popular vote on the final day.

VSS 2020 goes on(line) to become VOSS

In 2020, due the Covid19 pandemic the in-person VSS themed "Active Global Citizenship Hub" had to be cancelled. To still allow volunteers to connect internationally during these trying times and to continue to grow, share best practices and learn together EFIL launched the Volunteer Online Summer Sessions. During two summer months trainers of the cancelled event and from European Pool of Trainers (EPOT) hosted a series of webinars on diverse topics related to Global Citizenship Education.

VOSS

Theme: Global Citizenship Education

Number of sessions offered: **9**

Number of participants (including team): **84**

Number of countries represented: **29**

Highlight:

The commitment of the volunteers to engage with **Global Competences Education (GCE)** despite all the difficulties created by Covid19.

PEACE PROGRAMME

In 2019 and 2020, EFIL coordinated the trimester programme **Peace through Exchange and Active Citizenship Education (PEACE)**, which unified the European Citizenship Trimester Programme (ECTP) with the Peace in Europe and Asia through Global Citizenship Education (PEACE). The former programmes kept their peculiar elements intact, leading to a new PEACE programme in which participants join either the European Citizenship Track or the Global Citizenship Track.

PEACE is a secondary school exchange programme with a focus on **Active 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 active citizenship, either European identity or Global Citizenship Education, and on change making. In 2019 the PEACE programme grew to 333 participants.

During the programme, participants on the Global Track take on an individual "Global Citizenship in You" research project, exploring a "global issue" both in their home country and in their host country. 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 their local communities.

Since the Covid19 outbreak, the PEACE programme has adapted to survive in the pandemic. It was temporarily split into more cycles, and the final Camp was moved online to accommodate all safety measures and travel restrictions. Over 150 pupils had the opportunity to go on a PEACE trimester programme abroad at the end of 2020.

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

In both tracks of the programme 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) and they were revised and updated in 2020.



EFIL AT A GLANCE

learning mobility, global citizenship education, intercultural learning, volunteer empowerment, recognition study periods, schools internationalisation

2019 26 Full members
1 Affiliate members
2 Associates members

Number of participants sent worldwide (annually)	11724
Of which European	6467
Number of participants in the PEACE programme	331

Fundraising 506 081 €

In-person training events	8
Online courses	2
Volunteers trained in-person and online	245
Staff trained	71

Countries where events or meetings took place	9
Projects	8

EFILife editions	1
Publications	1

Number of external events where EFIL made a contribution 20/year
Platforms & decision-making bodies we belong to 7

2020 26 Full members
1 Affiliate members
2 Associates members

Number of participants sent worldwide (annually)	2741
Of which European	1582
Number of participants in the PEACE programme	150

Fundraising 615 729 €

In-person training events	4
Online courses	4
Volunteers trained in-person and online	128
Staff trained	60

Countries where events or meetings took place	5
Projects	6

EFILife editions	1
Publications	1

Leading research in the field of pupil mobility

Expert Network on Recognition of learning periods abroad

In view of the creation of an European Education Area by 2025 and to ensure that by then all pupils in Europe will be able to spend a study period abroad, the European Commission has entrusted EFIL to lead a consortium, with EIESP and CESIE, that is implementing the European Parliament's Preparatory Action to support the implementation of the Council recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad in upper secondary education.

In January 2020, the consortium has started a process of cooperation with a Network of Experts among relevant stakeholders to prepare the action that will eventually lead to a real automatic recognition Europe-wide. The Network is composed by 25 stakeholders from 15 EU countries, bringing together governmental and civil society representatives. The first step of this collaborative work has been the mapping of the state of the art among all Member States in

terms of recognition procedures and a thorough analysis of common challenges and enablers. This action lays the groundwork for a proposal of a European Framework to support the recognition that will be the basis for future European guidelines to be adopted by all Member States.

In addition, a model of training programme will be produced to support schools and education professionals in their assessment of transversal competences of pupils acquired during study periods abroad. Finally an online information site is being developed to provide specific and up-to-date information on recognition procedures in EU countries and showcase all the results and outputs of the project. The project will be completed in December 2021 but EFIL is committed to continue working on some of the most relevant outcomes.

More information: <http://recognisestudyabroad.eu/network-of-experts/>



PROJECTS

Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange

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

On 27-30 October 2019 the 10th Forum was hosted in Colle Val d'Elsa, Italy, with the title "Value education in students' exchange". The conclusions of the conference were that exchange programmes and activities can and shape learners' appreciation for human rights, democratic participation and respect for differences. To do so educators must address value education holistically, strategically, and explicitly in their work.

The 11th edition of the Forum titled "The values of living together: how to assess their evolution within intercultural student exchanges" was postponed due to the Covid19 pandemic and will take place in November 2021.



AFS as a key partner for internationalisation of schools

Class Exchanges Initiative

Class exchanges (short-term international stays of school groups) have been supported by several AFS organisations as an important measure to promote intercultural learning and mobility at school, beyond AFS long-term exchanges. The project 'EFIL Class exchanges initiative' aimed at boosting class exchanges within the EFIL network. The project team designed an educational framework and minimum requirements for AFS class exchanges, drafted promotional material and a standard contract to be signed between the two schools, and prepared a centralised database to support members in matching schools. Following the launch of the initiative, all class exchanges run by EFIL members can be organised according to the standards developed.

Teacher Training

Capitalising on the results of the Erasmus+ project "Intercultural learning for Pupils and Teachers" (2017-2018, intercultural-learning.eu), EFIL offers an annual international training event for secondary school teachers and school leaders. The 3-day course provides teachers with new methods and tools to promote intercultural learning in order to prepare pupils for living in diverse societies and working in a global labour market. The training as such is not embedded in the specific AFS context, instead promoting intercultural education and pupil mobility in general. The 2019 edition took place in Berlin, Germany, while the 2020 edition was cancelled due to Covid19.

Expanding Learning Mobility

"Expanding Learning Mobility through inclusion and cooperation" is an EFIL-coordinated large scale project involving AFS and school partners from France, Latvia, Spain and Belgium. Its key focus is to explore cooperation framework between schools and civil society organisations within Erasmus+, geared in particular towards including underprivileged pupils in individual long-term mobility. The project started in November 2020 and will last for 24 months. It is supported by Erasmus+ funding within Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships in School Education.



Partnerships with educational stakeholders for teacher education

Global Competence in Teacher Education

Since October 2019 EFIL, together with AFS International, is a member of the strategic partnership running the “Global Competence in Teacher Education” (GCTE) project. This 3-year strategic partnership, funded by Erasmus+, aims at developing cohorts of teachers who are both globally competent themselves and also have the skills to develop global competence in their students.

The project activities include the analysis and development of global competence curricula, sharing practice and resources for teacher educators and trainees, as well as providing and promoting intercultural learning experiences for teachers and teacher trainers, including virtual ones.



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+, was coordinated by UNISER Italy and involved mainly VET sector partners from several countries. EFIL's key contribution to the consortium was its know-how on intercultural preparation and support in the mobility programmes.

The main outcome of the project was the creation of a format, methodology and branding for an international Summer School addressing teachers of VET schools and staff of Mobility Coordinating Organisations from all over Europe. In July 2019 the second pilot edition of the MobiliTeach Summer School took place in La Rochelle, France, with AFS and EFIL represented by two trainers.



European Education Policy Network on Teachers and School Leaders

To provide expertise on ICL and internationalisation of school education through mobility, EFIL joined the European Education Policy Network on Teachers and School Leaders (EPPN), a 4 years project that started in January 2019. This Europe-wide network brings together education policymakers, practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders to promote cooperation and the development and implementation of policy at different governance levels, and it focuses on a specific topic each year. One of the main objectives is to support the European Commission's policy work on teachers and school leaders. **More information:** <https://educationpolicynetwork.eu/>



Increasing access to Intercultural Learning Opportunities

Developing Intercultural Competences through E-learning

The 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 five thematic “stations”: Power in Intercultural Encounters, Identities, Intercultural Media Literacy, Inclusion and Discrimination, Othering. No prior knowledge or mobility experience is required to take the course.

In 2019, the course prototype created in 2018 was perfected and piloted for a second time by participants from Europe and beyond, thanks to the support of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. In 2020, a simplified ready-to-use version of the tool was made available to member organisations for possible use as a digital intercultural learning opportunity with exchange participants or volunteers.



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 European secretariat, EFIL contributed to the visibility of the project via social media for the past two editions of 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.



Global Citizenship Education at local level

Following the Global Citizenship Incubator Online Course, several teams of AFS volunteers went on to implement projects on Global Citizenship Education at local level. The teams could rely on funding from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and an online community for peer support. EFIL offered opportunities for online group meetings to check on the progress of the project but the Covid19 pandemic slowed down the implementation of the projects and opportunities for regular follow-up. While some projects were fully implemented online, like in Austria the “Preparation of Outgoing Exchange Students SH20 and NH20”, unfortunately several projects were delayed or halted due to the difficulties or impossibility of meeting in-person which some projects were dependent on, like the project “Mosaïques Tunisiennes” which was only concluded in March 2021.

In both 2019 and 2020 EFIL was present on social media, including AFS International internal space on Workplace, and periodically published the newsletter EFILife in order to distribute information about various projects, activities, seminars and training externally and internally. From October 2020 EFIL distributes an internal Member's Bulletin to heads of office to report on activities.

Since 2018, EFIL relies on a communication plan to guide its social media outreach and communication on different platforms. In 2019 EFIL adopted a new digital format for the calls for teams and participants for its events.

In 2020, EFIL became a member of the initiative "School Education Gateway Friends" (SEG) to provide mutual visibility to each organisation's materials, news, events and more. In particular, we collaborated closely with them in November 2020, when Izabela Jurczik-Arnold was guest speaker at the SEG webinar on Intercultural Learning, and in December 2020, when we facilitated the publishing of two articles in their thematic bulletin on OECD PISA Global competence assessment and on pupil mobility.

Publications Featuring EFIL Articles

- **"Chapter 1 - Intercultural Learning for Pupils and Teachers: A Good Practice Case Study from an Erasmus+ Project"** in Rethinking Teacher Education for the 21st Century Trends, Challenges and New Directions, published by Verlag Barbara Budrich (2019). Article's author: Elisa Briga (EFIL).

- **"Chapter 2 - European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL)"** in The history of youth work - Volume 7, published by the Council of Europe (2020). Article's author: Elisa Briga (EFIL).

Reviewing the strategy

In 2019 EFIL reviewed its Member Support Strategy to embed the aspect of supporting its small and developing Members in all its activities transversally rather than it being a dedicated area of focus. EFIL continued supporting these organisations financially by offering fees reductions to their volunteers and staff for participating in EFIL events.

EFIL Members with status of International Associates as of 2019

- AFS Bosnia and Herzegovina
- AFS Bulgaria
- AFS Poland
- AFS Serbia
- AFS Slovakia
- AFS Slovenia
- AFS Tunisia

Activities

In April 2019 EFIL and AFS International organised the first ever Summit for 8 organisations with status of "AFS International Associate" (not yet full AFS members), hosted in Istanbul by AFS Turkey. The meeting aimed at guiding the members through the development of 5-year strategic plans and was preceded by several webinars in preparation. Following the Summit, AFS International took a bigger role in following the organisations through the implementation of the plans.

In 2020, EFIL had scheduled a specific training (Global Citizenship Education Lab) on how GCE projects can be implemented when few resources are available; the event was first postponed then cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic.

The impact of Covid19

Unfortunately Covid19 has hit EFIL's smaller and developing members the hardest. With no exchange programme running, several organisations could not overcome the financial strain and made the decision to close (AFS Slovenia) or to have their operations taken over by AFS organisations in other countries (AFS Bulgaria, AFS Bosnia and Herzegovina, AFS Netherlands). At the end of 2020 EFIL membership was reduced to 28 members.





PEOPLE

Board of Directors

The EFIL Board of Directors administers the Federation. The seven-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 2019 and 2020:

Alda Protti (Italy) – Member since May 2018, (Secretary since June 2020)
 Anni Siltanen (Finland) – Member since May 2018 (Secretary, May-June 2018, Chairperson since June 2018)
 Charlotte Klinting (Denmark) - Member since June 2020
 Mirela Hrnjić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Member since June 2019 (Secretary, June 2019 - June 2020, Deputy Chairperson since June 2020)
 Niklas Mengel (Germany) – Member since May 2018, (Treasurer since June 2019)
 Ömer Ongun (Turkey) - Member since June 2019
 Sabine Siegrist (Switzerland) – Member since June 2016
 Bart van Doveren (Belgium Flanders) – Member from June 2011 to June 2019 (Treasurer, June 2011 - June 2019)
 Bjarke Rix Rasmussen (Denmark) – Member from May 2017 to June 2019 (Deputy Chairperson, June 2018 - June 2019)

EFIL Board Meetings:

Brussels, Belgium, 23-24 February 2019
 Brussels, Belgium, 21-23 June 2019
 Brussels, Belgium, 26-27 October 2019
 Brussels, Belgium, 22-23 February 2020
 Online, 20-21 June 2020
 Helsinki/Online, 31 October - 1 November 2020

HOO meetings:

Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy, 27-30 November 2019
 Online, 4 June 2020
 Online, 7 October 2020

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 two or three years a HOO retreat takes place with a wider scope than the regular meetings, including training on leadership and management skills.

General Assembly

The EFIL 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 extra-ordinary General Assembly in the even years mainly (but not exclusively) serves to elect members of the EFIL Board.

General Assemblies:

Krakow, Poland, 30 May- 2 June 2019
 Online, 4 June 2020 (extra-ordinary G.A.)

Office

The following staff and volunteers were active at the EFIL Office in 2019 and 2020:

STAFF

Davide Capecchi, Secretary-General, since May 2020
 Paul Claes, Secretary-General, until October 2019
 Fabrice Gonet, Interim Secretary-General, February 2019 - March 2020
 Frini Ezunkpe, Head of Finances
 Izabela Jurczik-Arnold, Head of Education and Training
 Elisa Briga, Head of Advocacy
 Valentina Milanese, Head of Member Support, then Head of Communication
 Jenný Lárentsínusdóttir, Head of Communication then Head of Programmes, until July 2020
 Domenico Riolo, consultant, since August 2020
 Marie-Celine Falisse, replacement maternity leave, March - September 2019

Volunteers

Irem Elvin Unsal, EVS volunteer, July 2018 - June 2019
 Nicolas Martig, EVS volunteer, September 2018 - August 2019
 Valeria Di Muzio, EVS volunteer, September 2018 - August 2019
 Domenico Riolo, ESC volunteer, July 2019 - June 2020
 Caroline Mulle, ESC volunteer, September 2019 - August 2020
 Martina Benito Olmos, ESC volunteer, September 2019 - August 2020
 Michał Samoń, ESC volunteer, since September 2020
 Melis Saglik, ESC volunteer, since September 2020
 Natalia Johannsdottir, ESC volunteer, September 2020 - January 2021

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 training, as well as national AFS activities in other countries. In 2019-2020 a total of 115 trainers from 23 Member Organisations were a part of the pool.

European Advocacy Fellowship

EFIL relies on volunteers to represent EFIL and AFS externally on a number of decision making bodies, platforms, and at national and European level. In 2019 EFIL launched a fellowship programme to support advocacy efforts at national and European level by involving interested volunteers, providing them training, mentorship and an online community for peer learning. Fellows from the same country constituted National Advocacy Working Groups, together with other relevant people in the Board and staff. In 2019-2020 the group had 10 representatives from 5 member organisations. In addition, 6 expert volunteers from 4 AFS organisations have been supporting EFIL advocacy, 3 holding permanent external representation 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:

Brussels, Belgium, 22-24 February 2019

The TICLAB members in the 2019-2020:

Barbora Fenclova (AFS Czech Republic)

Kai Böttner (AFS Germany)

Anica Rimac (AFS Serbia)

Pedro Carmona (AFS Portugal)

Sarah Collins (AFS International)

Izabela Jurczik-Arnold (EFIL Office)

EFIL Volunteers 2019-2020

Preparatory teams, trainers and support teams:

Adam Hanka, Aleksandra Piskorska, Alessandro Sola, Alexander Eliassen, Alexander William Blomqvist Eliassen, Alexandra Dünner, André Carvalho, Andreas Heyerick, Andres Maraniello, Andrés Quintero González, Angelika Madycka, Aniello Cozza, Anke Prinsen, Annarita Signorello, Arnar Jónsson, Aron Horia Ciocan, Barbora Fenclová, Bernd Andersson, Bojana Ilic, Boris Kalicanin, Camilla Mitillo, Camilla Torresan, Can Aslan, Carmen Aterido Esteban, Carolina Perez, Caroline Mülle, Caterina Fani, Cátia Santos, Charlotte Klinting, Charlotte Mathieu, Cristiana Gonçalves, David Fernandes, Diana Rosta, Domenico Riolo, Elisa Coppo, Eric Bojs, Erik-Jan Kuipers, Eva Hütter, Fabian Kuzmic, Fareeda Atwan, Frederik Jensen, Gabriel Pitre-Traversy, Hannah Vleugels, Iliaria Peduto, Ingvild Grini, Johan Lehtonen, Jose Luis Malaquias, Josef Burkner, Julian Rössl, Juliao Zanelato Negriz Pessanha Gomes, Karolina Nowak, Karolina Lukaszczuk, Karolina Kania, Kjell Magnus Rivera-Høggberg, Kristin ISL, Kristin NOR, Laura Fuchs, Laura Paris, Laura Sólveig Lefort, Lea Schaumann, Linnea Ymsén, Lisa Wagner, Lomme Vanderhoydonck, Luca Volonté, Luca Maccarrone, Lucie Coufalová, Lukas Findeisen, Lukas Sean Kress, Magdalena Steringer, Maja Dzafic, Manon Scorneaux, Mari Cristina Iglesias Barco, Marianne, Schinnerl, Marie Nuzzo, Marie Bartelt, Martina Benito Olmos, Mary-Paz González, Max Kunschmann, Maximilian Bauer, Melis Saglik, Mert Cicigun, Michaela Svobodová, Michal Samon, Milan Kusmuk, Milana Semenova, Nadja Bruun, Natalía Jóhannsdóttir, Natálie Vildnerová, Nick Ludwig, Nicolas Martig, Nina Grmuša, Nina Senih, Noemi Diaferia, Olga Stefanović, Petra Móri, Riccardo Tipaldi, Roberto Savoldelli, Robin Segers, Robin Segers, Runa Falzolgher, Silje NOR, Silvan Zingerle, Stasha Stojkov, Stephan Winiker, Susanna Fin, Svein Olav Sæter, Thanakon Tiwawong, Thanakon Tiwawong, Theresa Rauch, Tiago Ribeiro, Valeria Di Muzio, Varvara Zemtseva, Veronika Meister, Vinicius Ramos, Wiktorja Zmuda, Xavier Moratonas, Yaşar Ohle, Zehra-Astrid Merdzanic, Zoya Tijan, Zuzana Dybalová

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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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European Federation for
Intercultural Learning



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