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European Federation for Intercultural Learning

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The Federation of AFS Organisations in Europe

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Foreword



In 2007 in Lisbon, EFIL Members approved the Federation's Strategic Directions 2007-2012. In this publication we are looking back at the last two years of this period. Thanks to committed members, an active Board and a stable secretariat, EFIL has been able to meet the challenges of a well filled activity calendar, and indeed of the strategic directions 2007-2012 altogether.

in the political and lobbying processes under way in the field of educational exchanges and citizenship building, especially with regards to the preparations and negotiations concerning the shaping of the new generation of EU programmes 2014-2020 (YES Europe).

The EFIL network is expanding. We are proud of our new Partner Organisations in Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we warmly welcomed The Netherlands as a Member of our Federation in 2011. Good progress has been made with the development of AFS in Poland and the first careful steps have been taken towards setting up a potential future AFS structure in Romania and Bulgaria.



2011 marked EFIL's 40th anniversary, and this did not pass by unnoticed. In Vienna, during EFIL's biennial General Assembly, Member Organisations and guests not only celebrated this landmark anniversary, but also welcomed no less than 6 new Member Organisations into the Federation. We honoured our founding father Roberto Ruffino who was awarded Honorary Chairmanship of EFIL, we said farewell to

A continuous challenge is to work towards the overarching goal of the Federation, which is to create a greater sense of belonging and a closer cooperation among its Members, a greater "unity in diversity", to speak with one voice and move towards the development of an educational European community. Next to this, a strong sense of solidarity, too, is needed within the Federation, to support struggling and financially weaker Members and find common solutions to problems. It should indeed be mentioned that the fragility of the Federation remains an area of concern and a threat to the Federation (and AFS in general), as few Member Organisations are growing, and quite a number of the Members currently face difficulties of some kind, including a decline in participant numbers and a shrinking market share. The current political situation in the Mediterranean area is heavily affecting the operations of our Associate Members AFS Egypt and AFS Tunisia.

Tachi Cazal, President of AFS International and welcomed Vincenzo Morlini as the new President. The EFIL board launched the new EFIL logo and a new marketing and communication strategy.

EFIL's flagship projects have become not-to-be-missed annual features: our European Citizenship Trimester Programme with the closing camp in Brussels enjoys the participation of ever increasing numbers of young people from across the continent; in Portugal and Latvia, volunteers from 30 countries gathered for the 4th and 5th edition of the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit; and in September each year, EFIL and the Member Organisations reach out to the public on the Europe-wide Intercultural Dialogue Day- a celebration of culture and diversity. 2012 saw EFIL's first participation as a co-organiser of the Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange. Next to these large scale annual projects, the EFIL Academy offered several training events, seminars and meetings, targeting both staff and AFS volunteers. Substantial funding was raised by EFIL for the majority of the training activities, mainly through successful funding applications with the European institutions.

In the field of advocacy, the European Pool of Representatives (EPOR) established in 2011 proves to be an effective tool and has allowed us to gain additional visibility and be present at more networking and lobbying events than before. As a member of several European platforms and working groups, EFIL has closely followed up on developments in Europe, participating

Over the years Europe has changed. AFS has changed. And so has EFIL. We are operating in an environment where the European Union is defining a programme with activities for the next 7 years which will impact our operations. Providing more opportunities for young people to learn through youth exchanges, volunteering and participation in democratic life is one of the many ways in which the Commission's 2014-2020 "YES Europe" proposal wants to make a difference. It is clear that mobility for mobility's sake will no longer be enough. The pedagogical aims and content of exchanges will receive more attention. This means that we must learn to dialogue with our educational systems and be reliable partners in this change process. It is crucial for EFIL and AFS to stand out by keeping high standards of quality and by promoting a strong Intercultural Learning component, using our rich experience and excellent track record.

Christine Leimgruber,
Chair of EFIL Board of Directors

Paul Claes,
EFIL Secretary-General

40 years of EFIL

2011 was a special year in the history of EFIL. Forty years earlier, at the AFS World Congress in Lake Mohonk (USA) in 1971, the by-laws of a new European federation were approved and AFS Europa was created. Its first General Assembly took place a year later in Birgitz, Austria. In 1975, the organisation officially changed its name into the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL).

At the EFIL General Assembly in Vienna in June 2011, guests and delegates of all 27 Member Organisations of EFIL, celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Federation. For the official opening of the General Assembly, the first ever Chair of the EFIL Board, Fritz Otti, took the stage. In a presentation spiced with live and video-taped testimonials by several prominent people, Roberto Ruffino took all present on a walk down memory

EFIL the European Federation for Intercultural Learning is the umbrella organisation of 27 Members (incl. 2 Associate Members and 5 Affiliate Member Organisations), all of them AFS partners. AFS is a non-profit, volunteer based, educational organisation offering intercultural exchanges for young people among 110 countries around the world.

As a global education network, EFIL supports its Members in establishing programmes that bridge the gap between the training provided by most educational systems and the intercultural skills and global perspectives needed to foster a harmonious world. EFIL promotes intercultural understanding among countries, organisations and citizens, and actively helps its Members to operate within the European environment.

EFIL activities revolve around four main service areas: EFIL Advocacy (networking and lobbying), EFIL Academy (organising training events and seminars), EFIL Programmes and Projects, EFIL Expand (new Partner Development). All of EFIL activities are implemented through a combination of volunteer and staff resources and are carried out jointly by EFIL and its Member Organisations.

lane, starting on 4 November 1964 in Torino, Italy, when at an informal meeting a group of young and idealistic AFS volunteers for the first time talked about AFS cooperation in Europe. The walk through 40 years of history took us to the 1970s when AFS Europa became EFIL and intercultural learning was put on the table. The 1980s when EFIL's tasks expanded and its focus widened, was followed by a decade of challenges and changes in the 1990s. EFIL has been able to meet the many challenges and today's Federation has a strong membership, a committed Board and a stable secretariat, and enjoys increased visibility and credibility in Europe and in the global AFS network.



Ulrike Lunacek, Fritz Otti, Heinz Kröll and Roberto Ruffino



EFIL Board 2011/12 in Vienna

Board meetings

The EFIL Board of Directors governs the Federation. The 7-person Board focuses on strategic matters and EFIL's long-term vision. Other items on the agenda include finances, developments in the AFS network and in Europe, etc. In 2011 and 2012 the Board focused specifically on developing a new corporate identity for EFIL by working on a marketing and communications strategy (incl. the introduction of sub-brands, new logos, etc.), and on the development of the new Strategic Plan 2013-2020. Six in-person meetings took place. In June the Board met with the National Directors of the Member Organisations at the Heads of Office meeting

Milan, Italy, 18-20 February 2011

Vienna, Austria, 5-6 June 2011

Prague, Czech Republic, 21-23 October 2011

Naples, Italy, 24-26 February 2012

Baden, Switzerland, 8-10 June 2012

Helsinki, Finland, 19-21 October 2012



EFIL Board 2011/12 in Prague



EFIL Board 2012/13 in Helsinki

Regional Meeting

At the Regional meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, 11 February 2012 (alongside the AFS World Congress), the Chairs of the Boards and the Directors of EFIL Member Organisations were introduced by the EFIL Board to the interactive process suggested for the development of EFIL's new Strategic Plan 2013-2020.



Regional Meeting, Bangkok 2012

Vienna, Austria, 2-4 June 2011

Zürich, Switzerland, 11 June 2012 (e.o.G.A.)

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.

In June 2011, the leadership of the European network of AFS gathered in Vienna for EFIL's biennial General Assembly. The event included the celebration of EFIL's 40th anniversary and the inauguration of 6 new EFIL Member Organisations. Further highlights of the General Assembly included Roberto Ruffino's nomination and election to become the first Honorary President of the EFIL Board, the European farewell to the President of AFS International, Tachi Cazal, after almost six years of dedicated service, and the warm welcome to the incoming President, Vincenzo Morlini.



Christine Leimgruber (Chair), Roberto Ruffino (Honorary President), Johanna Nemeth (Director AFS Austria)



Outgoing AFS President Tachi Cazal and Roberto Ruffino

Incoming AFS President Vincenzo Morlini, EFIL Secretary-General Paul Claes and representatives of the new EFIL Member Organisations

Heads of Office meetings

The Heads of Office meetings aim at building a sense of unity and common identity within the network of European Partners, based on their commitment to the European dimension of AFS, and create a platform to discuss matters of relevance for the European AFS network. Heads of Office meetings take place twice a year and are attended by the National Directors of the EFIL Member Organisations. Topics on the agenda include 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; etc.

Vienna, Austria, 30 May - 1 June 2011

Riga, Latvia, 17 October 2011

Zürich, Switzerland, 10-12 June 2012

Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina, 7-10 November 2012

HOO meeting, Vienna 2011

HOO meeting, Zürich 2012

EFIL Activities



EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit

The EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit brings together a large number of AFS volunteers from all over Europe (and beyond) to share experience and improve practices in volunteer work and training through a series of learning tracks and workshops on both advanced and basic levels. Next to this great learning experience, the Summit guarantees a huge motivational impact on all participants and a great opportunity for volunteers to network with their peers from across the continent. After the first Summit in 2008 in France, Turkey (2009) and Hungary (2010) followed, and in 2011 and 2012 the Summit visited Portugal and Latvia respectively.

The workshops at the Volunteer Summer Summit are conducted by the European Pool of Trainers, EFIL's own pool of European volunteers, who have been educated to facilitate workshops using non-formal learning methods. The content is broad and links to the internal work of AFS, intercultural learning, personal development through volunteering.

A community charity project is included in every Summit to allow volunteers to promote the ideas of AFS and provide support for the local community.



2011 – Zambujeira do Mar, Portugal

More than 160 enthusiastic and motivated volunteers from 29 countries gathered in Zambujeira do Mar in sunny Portugal for the volunteer event of the year. During 4 days of learning and sharing, participants enjoyed a wide range of high quality workshops, the traditional bazaar, a Portuguese evening, fun events of all kinds, and most of all: each other's company!

The community project took place in the parish of Sao Martinho das Amoreiras, and proved to be an unforgettable encounter with the local population of the village. The wall with our hand prints and names will remain a lasting proof of the presence of 160 volunteers who "white-washed" the charming little village.

For the fifth edition of the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit, over 170 volunteers from 29 countries gathered in Ogre in the Latvian woods for the highlight of the summer of 2012. A newly introduced training track system allowed for an efficient and easy process for the selection of high quality workshops by the participants. Track themes included Intercultural Learning, Leadership and Governance, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Peace Education, Solidarity and Inclusion. Expert tracks as well as basic skill training were offered. The community project was organised in cooperation with the local community of Ikšķile. Participants helped renovating a school to transform it into a youth centre.



2012 – Ogre, Latvia

Intercultural Dialogue Day



Since 2008 the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, EFIL Member Organisations hold the annual Intercultural Dialogue Day on the last Thursday of September. The Europe-wide event celebrates diversity and promotes intercultural dialogue through youth exchanges. AFS volunteers across Europe come to the streets and reach out to their communities through fun activities, workshops, conferences, flashmobs, exhibitions, web events, dance and sport events, creative meals, getting a lot of media coverage. EFIL monitors the events through a public googlemap, which helps giving visibility to this initiative.

In order to promote IDD as a great opportunity for spreading the AFS message and getting in contact with the local communities and schools, EFIL produced the IDD Toolkits and the IDD Poster, available on the EFIL website. In 2011 EFIL launched the Intercultural Dialogue Day Facebook page to create a space where volunteers can share their ideas, pictures and videos of IDD, and also take part in contests. In 2011 there was a contest on the BEST IDD event, won by the local chapter of Catania (Italy) with the event 'Meeting of Cultures'. In 2012 there were 2 contests to capture the best (e) motions, one for the BEST IDD PHOTO won by the local chapter of Izhevsk (Russia), and one for the BEST IDD VIDEO won by the local chapter of Sopron (Hungary).



European Citizenship Trimester Programme



In 2009 EFIL launched the European Citizenship Trimester Programme (ECTP), a host-family and school-based programme with strong additional focus on active European citizenship. The 15-18-year-old participants meet their peers from all over Europe at the joint end-of-stay Camp in Brussels at the beginning of December, before returning to their home countries. EFIL coordinates the Camp in Brussels together with a large team of committed volunteers from our Member Organisations all over Europe.

At the Brussels Camp, the participants have the unique opportunity to share their AFS experience and reflect on their stay abroad. In dynamic workshops they link their intercultural experience with the concepts of Europe and its diversity, and reflect on their role of young people in helping shape this diverse community. This provides a superb climax and a substantial additional value to their trimester school exchange and stimulates them to become responsible European Citizens. A day trip to Europe's capital city is one of the highlights of the Camp, including a city rally and a visit to the European Parliament and the Parliamentarium - the European Parliament's Visitor centre.

ECTP is a unique, growing and successful programme which also attracts the attention of the European Commission and the European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning, whose representatives have visited the Brussels Camp. In 2012 no less than 200 participants from 21 countries took part in the programme.

To increase its quality and promote a more holistic approach, EFIL has prepared ongoing learning tools for participants, incl. the ECTP Booklet, which is meant to guide the participants in the learning process to European active citizenship throughout the whole programme. The European team of ECTP volunteers is in contact with students during their exchange through social media and challenges them with tasks and questions.

For more: www.ectp2012.eu





Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange

In October 2012, the Third Forum on Intercultural Learning and Exchange took place in Vienna, Austria. It was the first time EFIL co-organised the event, together with AFS Austria, Fondazione Intercultura, and Intercultural Development Research Institute (IDRIInstitute). The Forum will feature on EFIL’s annual calendar from now on as a fourth recurring flagship project.

The theme of this year’s high-level Forum was “The Contribution of Exchange to Intercultural

Learning for Educational Institutions”, putting the focus on the educational host institutions (universities and higher education as well as secondary education) and how they benefit/learn from international exchanges. The event in Vienna targetted academics and researchers as well as practitioners. Altogether 56 participants including presenters, facilitators and panellists attended the event.



Expert panel with Katerina Kapounova (European Commission), Roberto Ruffino (Fondazione Intercultura), Josef Huber (Council of Europe), Soren Kristensen (researcher)



Discussion group session

AFS EuroNet

In 2011 the “AFS EuroNet” initiative was launched. Following a call by EFIL, a group of enthusiastic AFS Alumni in Brussels, many of them with positions at the European Commission, the Parliament and the Council of Europe, together with EFIL, managed to revive the network of AFS people with international activities in Brussels. Close to a hundred names have been listed.

In May 2011 an AFS EuroNet dinner organised by EFIL, raised substantial funding, enough to sponsor the participation of three volunteers of EFIL’s new Member Organisations in the Balkans in the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit in Portugal.



Volunteers at the VSS, sponsored by AFS EuroNet



AFS EuroNet dinner, in Brussels



AFS EuroNet Steering Group

Training events



Meeting of Organisational Development Co-ordinators

Hamburg, Germany, January 2011

During the biannual ODC meeting, 18 Volunteer Coordinators came together in Hamburg to reflect on their role, learned more about the reality of different AFS organisations and their volunteer structures, differentiated between button and zipper volunteers, and learned how to detect possible problems that chapters face, how to (re)act to them as an ODC and how to interact with the volunteers. Other topics tackled included volunteer empowerment, school relations and links between ODCs and EFIL.



Study Session on host family support

Strasbourg, France, February 2011

Study sessions in partnership with the European Youth Centres offer a great opportunity to include participants from many different countries. This study session brought together 29 motivated volunteers from 17 countries. The topic of the training was host family support. Sessions and workshops focused on participants' experiences in host family support with special attention to aspects of intercultural and intergenerational learning. At the end of the study session specific projects were developed by participants to improve host family support on national level.



Fund-raising seminar – Making youth exchanges more inclusive

Ittre, Belgium, March 2011

Both larger and smaller network Partners appreciated the opportunity to receive training in the area of fund-raising. 12 motivated participants gathered in the rustic environment of Ittre near Brussels, to acquire competence in resource development from private and public sources. Different ways to approach private companies, foundations, local governments, EU programmes, as well as alumni, were discussed, with valuable input of trainers – the most experienced fund-raisers from national and international levels of AFS.

Meeting of Programme Directors

Maribor, Slovenia, March 2011

With participation of 21 Programme Directors from Europe and beyond, the yearly meeting once again helped to better understand each other's programme realities. Next to the general updates from national, European and global levels, the 3-day agenda included this time a number of special topics: Intercultural Learning for programme context, and mental health and LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender) issues for AFS participants. The event was also a good opportunity to get more familiar with the development of young AFS organisations in South-East Europe.



Training for Trainers - Needs-based training design for partner development

Piekary/Krakow, Poland, September 2011

The event focused on addressing real learning needs of participants in every training situation and designing activities on that basis. An ideal "practice situation" for this task was provided through the unique hosting environment by a developing exchange organisation in Poland. The participants faced a challenge of designing and implementing a weekend training for 14 new Polish volunteers - tailored to their exact needs. They managed not only to coordinate the work of 18 trainers from different organisational and cultural backgrounds, but also gave a crucial contribution to the creation of a new motivated generation of Polish volunteers.



Training on task-force based volunteering and project management

Bille, Latvia, October 2011

This training brought together 15 volunteers from 10 AFS organisations in the small village of Bille. The 5-day programme included basics on project management, volunteer motivation, fundraising, evaluation, challenges and opportunities of inter-generational teams, online learning tools and creative thinking. During the last day and a half, participants were able to create their own projects using the tools learned in this training and develop their projects further with the support of trainers. The follow-up of this seminar was carefully planned. Participants received support from trainers throughout the next year and were invited to join the follow-up event (see events 2012).





Support Staff Meeting

Evian, France, December 2011

The venue with a spectacular view on the Geneva Lake, hosted a motivated group of 24 AFS support staff from 19 countries. The packed three-day programme mostly focused on issues related to conflict management in participant support. The content touched upon understanding conflict as a learning opportunity, different conflict styles and the intercultural context in conflict situations. Other agenda points concentrated on various aspects of support work, starting from induction for new staff, through sharing practices on different cases, finishing with the topic of keeping up the motivation and balance as support co-ordinators.



Partner Development seminar - Youth mobility for intercultural competence

Bucharest, Romania, February 2012

This seminar was the first one to take place in Romania. In the framework of developing new AFS organisations in Romania and Bulgaria, this seminar brought together interested volunteers of both countries and of established AFS organisations. The seminar tackled the basics for the setting up of new AFS organisations: how to start up and run intercultural exchanges of pupils within AFS, how to build up volunteer and organisational management skills, and the planning of possible future development strategies in the targeted countries.



School relations seminar

Einsiedeln, Switzerland, February 2012

The seminar entitled "New opportunities for young people through cooperation of youth exchange and local school communities" gathered 26 participants representing an amazing mix of backgrounds, ages and profiles (12 staff members, 5 teachers and volunteers of various roles). The programme tackled not only Intercultural Learning in a school context or expectations of different school-related stakeholders, but also a number of related areas, such as organising teacher seminars, class exchanges, ICL workshops for schools, as well as European Union policies impacting schools. A strong spirit and motivation was built among participants, to strengthen this field of AFS work.

Meeting of Programme Directors

Krakow, Poland, March 2012

Sharing best practices and learning from each other, looking for common solutions and improving the overall programme quality were topics on the agenda of the annual Meeting of Programme Directors. The 2012 edition enjoyed the presence of 21 participants from all over the world, and included sessions dedicated to social media, standards and procedures, and intercultural learning. Special attention was given not only to the growing AFS Partners in South-East Europe, but also to the hosting organisation in Poland and their group of motivated volunteers and staff.



Seminar on 18+ programmes - Age matters

Riva, Turkey, April 2012

15 volunteers and staff met in Riva, Turkey, to evaluate current 18+ programmes run in the AFS network. Participants shared their 18+ programme reality regarding facts, procedures and content, evaluated the current target group and the potential learning offers of the current 18+ programmes, learned more about the new "Itero" initiative in AFS, developed future ideas on national level and looked into improving the cooperation on European level.



Seminar - Enhancing intercultural sensitivity through volunteering

Delémont, Switzerland, May 2012

A diverse group of 20 volunteers and staff participated in and contributed to the 5-day event, which put the spotlight on supporting intercultural learning processes of AFS volunteers. The programme tackled not only intercultural learning but also broader learning of volunteers within the organisation. The participants engaged in a critical assessment of the current support given to development of volunteers' competences and identified various opportunities which can be used better in the future. A big part of the programme focused on creating guidelines and concrete ideas for future improvements in AFS, to maximise learning of volunteers.





Training for Trainers on conflict management

Riga, Latvia, July 2012

The yearly EFIL Training for Trainers already for the 4th time enjoyed the synergy with the EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit (VSS). The event format enables participants to acquire new competences in the first half of the event, to then let them prepare and run “practice training sessions” for the VSS participants. This way not only can they try out their trainer skills but also a large number of other AFS volunteers can benefit from the delivered content. The 2012 edition of the training gathered participants and trainers from 17 countries, to focus on intercultural conflict management in AFS. The trained participants are expected to become the key trainers in their countries, sharing the conflict resolution expertise with volunteers engaged in programme support.



Governance and Leadership seminar

Zadar, Croatia, August 2012

The 2012 edition of the EFIL seminar for Board members attracted 21 participants, to focus on shared challenges of AFS national Boards. Next to recurring contents as governance models, linking to moral owners, strategic planning or Board-Management relationship, the programme reserved significant time for intercultural learning issues in the Board work, as well as for several practical aspects like running efficient meetings, communication, evaluation or succession planning. The meeting enjoyed particularly strong representation of newer and smaller AFS organisations.



Seminar on volunteer project management – part II

Mollina, Spain, September 2012

This seminar on project management was a follow-up event to the “Task force based volunteering” training in 2011. It brought together 10 volunteers to evaluate past projects and further develop project management skills. The focus of the seminar was to enable participants to take the lead in project work. A special aspect of this event was that it was placed at the University on Youth and Development where 200 volunteers from different youth organisations all over the world came together to explore a common theme. In 2012 this theme was “Youth Rights”. Therefore, the seminar combined project work with youth rights. Participants were able to already implement mini projects during the seminar itself involving participants of other activities at the University.

In 2011 and 2012 the EFIL Board focused on EFIL’s marketing and communication strategy. New (sub-)brands were introduced and new logos provided an attractive visual identity.



Website

The website <http://efil.afs.org> contains key information and updates on activities developed by EFIL.



Reports

EFIL publishes and distributes **project, seminar and training reports**, available for Members, shortly after each event.

Publications

“**EFILife**” is a monthly news magazine (10 issues a year) aiming at informing the Member Organisations and external subscribers about EFIL’s recent activities and about developments of interest to the Members and the AFS network.

“**EFIL on the Move**” is a new quarterly newsletter, launched in December 2012, targeting the volunteers in countries where EFIL is developing new AFS structures, and focusing on efforts and opportunities related to new Partner Development.

Celebrating **EFIL’s 40th anniversary**, a booklet was issued in June 2011, looking back at four decades of EFIL.

EFIL Activities

AFS programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia

In 2011 and 2012 EFIL continued to support the development of AFS structures in South Eastern Europe. At the EFIL General Assembly in 2011, the Federation welcomed five new Affiliate Members: UG Interkulturni susreti u Bosni i Hercegovini (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Globus Association for Intercultural Learning (Croatia), Interkultura (Serbia), Interkultura Slovakia (Slovakia), Educational Association Interkultura (Slovenia).

Several events took place in the new partner countries over the past two years, including a Programme Directors meeting in 2011 in Maribor (Slovenia), two project meetings in 2012 in Zagreb (Croatia) and Belgrade (Serbia), and the 2012 Leadership and Governance seminar in Zadar (Croatia). Also in 2012, a Heads of Office meeting took place in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Volunteers of the new Member Organisations took part in a large number of EFIL training events and meetings.

In 2012 special attention was given to the production of promotional and educational material to be used with schools, volunteers, orientations (incl. a promotional flyer and a project sponsored by the Council of Europe). Following a call by EFIL, Member Organisations and EFIL put together a budget to boost the further development of the Partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.



AFS in Romania and Bulgaria

With a number of feasibility visits in 2011, EFIL started to explore the possibility to establish AFS structures in Romania and Bulgaria. During further visits EFIL recruited volunteers, established links with local organisations, ministries and local authorities and shared the idea of intercultural ex-

changes with school teachers and students. Thanks to the funding efforts by our Italian Member Organisation Intercultura, 3 students from Romania were able to go on a year exchange to Italy. In addition EFIL recruited the first student from Bulgaria to go on an ECTP exchange to France.



Mirela Hrnjic, Paul Claes, Aleksija Djuric and Haris Buljubasic in Sarajevo 2012



National volunteer training in Serbia 2011

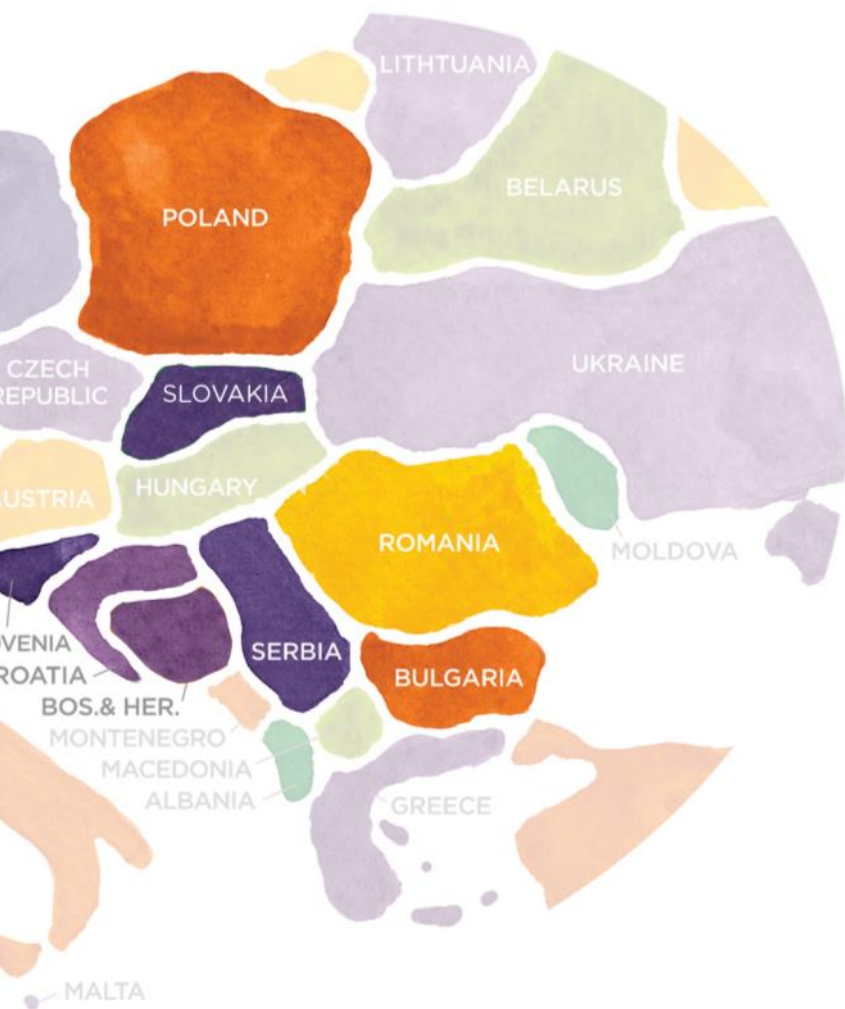




New Partners



Future Partners



by our Partner Organisations in Piekary near Krakow, and in March 2012 the annual EFIL Programme Directors meeting was held in Krakow. Participation of Polish staff and volunteers in numerous EFIL meetings and training events has speeded up the process leading to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Father Siemaszko Foundation and AFS International at the EFIL Heads of Office meeting in November 2012, officially making our Partner Organisation in Poland an International Associate in the AFS network.

Programme numbers in Poland have been growing fast over the past couple of years with significant numbers for both hosting and sending. Meanwhile, Polish volunteers have formed the Global Citizens Association, working closely together with the Father Siemaszko Foundation on family recruitment, school contacts and the running of orientation camps.

AFS in Poland

A first organised training for volunteers took place in Bucharest (Romania) in February 2012. In November 2012 fundraising conference was organised to take place at the German Embassy in Sofia to find scholarships for Bulgarian students.

Since 2004 AFS organisations have been cooperating with the Father Siemaszko Foundation, an established organisation in Krakow, Poland. EFIL, from the European level, has been supporting this process since 2007, with a particular boost of development taking place as from 2011. Over the years several visits to Poland have taken place, in 2011 EFIL's Training for Trainers was hosted



Signing of the MOU, November 2012



'Global Citizens' in Krakow, March 2012

EFIL Activities

EFIL contributes to the debates within the European and international institutions that affect the AFS core business. Advocacy also includes the enhancement of EFIL's visibility and credibility as a leader in inter-cultural learning and global education. EFIL builds strategic alliances and is a member of several Platforms to make sure its priorities are addressed at the appropriate level. In order to follow the developments on a number of topics, EFIL has a Pool of Representatives whose members attend events on behalf of the Federation. For gathering input from its Members Organisations EFIL is in contact with the EFIL Advocacy Liaisons.

Elisa Briga (EFIL) at EUCIS-LLL



EPOR Members

Fields of

Mobility:

EFIL conducted a large internal consultation in order to submit relevant input to the EU public consultation on the future rules on the entry and residence of non-EU national school pupils and volunteers in the EU (directive 2004/114).

Funding:

EFIL closely follows the development of the new EU funding programme for Education, Youth & Sport for the period 2014-2020, replacing the Youth in Action and Lifelong Learning Programmes. EFIL has been member of the Youth in Action Expert group of the YFJ, promoted the YFJ campaigns (whereareyougoing.eu and loveyouthfuture.eu), and joined the 30 Stakeholders Coalition promoted by EUCIS-LLL.

Non-Formal Education (NFE):

EFIL participated in the training cycle for Quality Assurance in Non-Formal Education with the project "Volunteer Summer Summit 2012" and the NFE week of the YFJ. An EPOT and TAB member were selected for the YFJ Pool of Trainers.

Volunteering:

EFIL has been part of the European Year of Volunteering Alliance (2011), contributing to the drafting of the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E.). EFIL also contributed to the development of the Charter on the rights and responsibilities of the volunteer, took part in the II Convention on Volunteering and the V-Village organised by the YFJ in the European Parliament esplanade.



The main external partners of EFIL

In the frame of the *European Youth Forum (YFJ)* - the Platform of International youth organisations and National Youth Councils in Europe - EFIL meets regularly with the Exchange Organisations Group which focuses on mobility and education.

EFIL is a member of the *European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL)* - the Platform for stakeholders in the field of formal and non-formal education.

EFIL has also been cooperating with the *Platform for Intercultural Europe* and the *Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism*.



EUCIS-LLL

action

Cooperation with national level advocacy:

EFIL is a part of the structured cooperation with the National Exchange Organisations Platforms present in European countries, including Inter-mundo (Switzerland), AJA (Germany), SPIL (Netherlands), UNSE (France), SAFU (Netherlands). Their focus is on recognition of study periods abroad, visa rules and procedures, accessibility of information on youth exchanges.



EU Structured Dialogue:

Since 2012 international youth organisations can take part in a process where young people and policy makers discuss and feed into European youth policy at national and European level together. EFIL takes part in this process.

Council of Europe:

EFIL cooperates with the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe and with the EU-CoE youth partnership in the field of intercultural dialogue and youth mobility on various levels, incl. the Expert group on Intercultural Dialogue Indicators in Non-formal Education Activities, participation in the 9th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in St Petersburg (2012), and cooperation with the European Platform on Learning mobility in the field of youth.

International involvement:

EFIL sent representatives to the UN Alliance of Civilisations Forum in Doha (2011), to events of the EU-China Year of Youth (2011), to the UN ICDP Global Youth Forum in Bali (2012), to the Symposium "Arab spring: Youth participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms" in Tunis (2012).



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors acts as the Executive Body. It consists of seven volunteer members elected by the General Assembly. The Board meets 3 times per year.

The following Board members served on the EFIL Board in 2011 and 2012:

Roberto Ruffino (Intercultura Italy) - Chair until June 2011, left the Board in June 2012, Honorary Chair of the Board since June 2012
Christine Leimgruber (AFS Switzerland) - Vice-Chair until June 2011, Chair since June 2011
Jörn Lehmann (AFS Germany) - Vice Chair since June 2011
Mari Dawe (AFS Finland) - Secretary since June 2011
Anett Klauudia Deaver Miklós (AFS Hungary) - Secretary until June 2011, left the Board in June 2011
Martha Eiriksdottir (AFS Iceland) - Treasurer, left the Board in June 2011
Philipp Wagner (AFS Austria) - joined the Board in June 2011
Bart van Doveren (AFS Belgium Flanders) - Treasurer, joined the Board in June 2011
Michael Rosak (AFS Czech Republic) - left the Board in June 2012
Anne Collignon (AFS France) - joined the Board in June 2012
Simone Caporali (Intercultura Italy) - joined the Board in June 2012



EFIL Board of Directors 2011/12 in Naples



Roberto Ruffino,
Honorary Chair of EFIL

Election Committee

An Election Committee is elected at each General Assembly to assist in the recruitment and supervision of the EFIL Board elections. Members of the Election Committee for the 2011 General Assembly were Johanna Nemeth (AFS Austria), Gérard Sautereau (AFS France), Filipa Santos (AFS Portugal). For the 2012 Extra-Ordinary General Assembly the Election Committee consisted of Sabine Siegrist (AFS Switzerland), Jan Van Keirsbilck (AFS Belgium Flanders) and Fatma Akgun (AFS Turkey) who was replaced by Ivana Pavlovic (Intercultura Serbia) in June 2011.

Secretariat

The following staff and interns were active at the EFIL Secretariat in 2011 and 2012:

Paul Claes, Secretary General

Frini Ezunkpe, Executive Manager

Izabela Jurczik-Arnold, Director of Training, Projects and Programmes

Inga Menke, Training and Partner Development Coordinator

Elisa Briga, Programme, Project and Advocacy Coordinator, since 23 May 2011

Ilyana Panteleeva, Project and Programme Coordinator, until 31 May 2011

Thomas Jürgenschellert, FSJ volunteer, until 30 July 2011

Charlotte Klinting, EVS volunteer, until 26 August 2011

Stefania Francescon, CRT intern, from 10 May 2011 until 17 April 2012

Gecem Gizem Bozan, EVS Volunteer, from 12 September 2011 until 31 August 2012

Giorgio Tessadri, CRT intern, since 07 May 2012

Kerttuli Heikkilä, intern, from 19 March 2012 until 27 April 2012

Sigrun Tinna Sveinsdottir, EVS volunteer since 01 October 2012

Francesca Bragagnolo, maternity leave replacement for Izabela Jurczik-Arnold, since 01 October 2012



Auditors

The EFIL Auditors meet in the first trimester of the year to check the EFIL accounts and provide recommendations to improve the quality of the accounting.

The General Assembly 2011 approved the following Auditors:

Charles-Henry de Streel - External Auditor

Jan Honinx - Internal Auditor

European Pool of Trainers

EFIL can rely on its European Pool of Trainers (EPOT) to help organise and actively participate in its training programme. In 2011-2012, 101 trainers from 23 AFS Member Organisations were part of the pool.



Trainers at the VSS in Portugal 2011

European Pool of Representatives

EFIL's European Pool of Representatives (EPOR) was set up in April 2011 and consists of AFS volunteers and staff supporting EFIL's Advocacy Coordinator, by representing EFIL externally in different areas and contributing to advocacy efforts. The EPOR 2011-2012 consisted of 30 volunteers from 14 Member Organisations.



EFIL TAB 2012

Training Advisory Body

The Training Advisory Body (TAB) was set up in October 2006 to assist the EFIL Director of Training, Projects and Programmes with the development of a coherent and strategic training approach, in line with the objectives of the EFIL Strategic Directions and Business Plans.

The members of the TAB 2011-2012 were:

Jana Holla, AFS Egypt, Volunteer

Eva Vitkova, AFS Czech Republic, Volunteer

Andrea Franzoi, AFS Intercultura, Volunteer Development Manager

Lisa Cohen, AFS International, Senior International Consultant, replaced in 2012 by Damayonti Sengupta, AFS International, International Organizational Development Specialist

Monika Bühler, AFS Switzerland, Director Organisational Development & Services, replaced in 2011 by Stephan Winiker, AFS Switzerland, Director Organisational Development & Services

Izabela Jurczik-Arnold, EFIL Director of Training, Projects and Programmes

Inga Menke, EFIL Training and Partner Development Coordinator

The TAB met twice in 2011-2012:

Hamburg, Germany, 5-7 February 2011

Zürich, Switzerland, 21-22 May 2012



Financial Policy

The General Assembly of EFIL adopted a Financial Policy intended to maintain the financial health of the organisation. It embodies the rules and guidelines applicable to all aspects of the financial management of the organisation.

EFIL's financial management aims at sound procedures, to:

- 1) guarantee the financial health of the organisation, through a diversified income composed of membership fees, grants, and coordination fees on projects, programmes and trainings;
- 2) guarantee the sound financial management of the organisation, through a set of internal guidelines and procedures;
- 3) guarantee transparent information about the financial status of the organisation, through appropriate accounting tools; through a meaningful financial planning and reporting.

Financial reporting procedures

- The Board of Directors provides a yearly financial report to the Members (income and expense statements as well as the balance sheet).
- From the Secretariat, every quarter each Member receives an overview of the transactions, invoices and credit notes that relate to the Member.
- The Secretariat provides the Board with a regular update of the financial health of the Federation.
- The Secretariat provides the Treasurer and the Auditors with draft copies of all documents of a primarily financial nature.


A reserve fund is built and maintained at a level of at least 35% of the budgeted yearly administrative expenditure. The Federation shall aim to raise at least 20% of its administrative costs from sources other than the membership fees.

Annual financial report


With the aim of promoting transparency and providing a complete overview of its activities, EFIL presents an annual financial report to its Members.



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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, help us think of directions for the future and help us improve our services: the staff and boards of the national offices and of AFS International, members of the EPOT, EPOR and TAB, 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 trainers teams.

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