



NEWSletter

December 2007

Dear Friends of ICYE European Association,

We are happy to send out this fourth edition of our NEWSletter in 2007. The newsletter is sent out quarterly and we hope that it will give you some insides on what we are working on in ICYE EA, and that you will use the opportunity to get back to us if there is any additional information you might want to add or require.



We would further like to use the opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, as well as thank you for the cooperation in 2007. We wish you the very best for 2008, and hope that our cooperation with all members, partners etc. will be continuously fruitful!

Best regards,

The office and ExCom of ICYE European Association

Topics of the 4th ICYE EA NEWSletter 2007:

1. **What happened in ICYE EA 2007?**
2. **SHOROUK**
3. **YFJ COMEM 2007**
4. **AVSO General Assembly 2007**
5. **ExCom / EO staff meetings in 2007**
6. **Extraordinary General Assembly in Tamsui (Taiwan)**
7. **Possible upcoming activities**
8. **Upcoming applications for activities**





1. What happened in ICYE EA 2007?

2007 has been a year of many changes in the ICYE EA.

The ICYE EA ExCom, which consists of three people, received a resignation from the Chair, Jakob Paaske Jensen, as of the 1st of September 2007. Jakob's replacement was found to be Ragnhildur Einarsdóttir from Iceland, as by decision by the EA members via email voting.

Further the EO staff, Sarah Gram, decided to resign as of May 2007. To replace her, Bianca Andersen was employed.

Since staff and board in total only add up to 4 people, these changes have had substantial impact on the work of the EA. We do however think that the cooperation works very well amongst us, and the work we do united appears to be fairly fruitful.

ICYE EA has been involved in the following activities in 2007:

ICYE EA Trainings

- *The Potential of Conflicts - Managing conflicts and crisis within the YOUTH Programme.* Held in Portugal in January
- *Learning deluxe - Training of trainers and facilitators.* Held in Sweden in February
- *Developing organisational management to ensure multicultural understanding and promote inclusion.* Held in Denmark in April
- *SHOROUK - EuroMediterranean Partnership-Building to strengthen Solidarity and Participation.* Held in Italy in October

Internal in ICYE

- 5 ExCom / Staff meetings, held different places in Europe
- Regular ExCom / Staff Skype meetings
- EAGA in Århus in April
- Extraordinary EAGA in Taiwan in November
- ICYE International Organization General Assembly in Taiwan in November
- Application for trainings in Spain and Austria in 2008, as well as admin grants for 2007
- Applications for further funding, e.g. from Folmer Wisti Fonden

Representation

- AVSO General Assembly in Brussels in November
- Youth Forum COMEM in Brussels in November

External

- EVS & Youth In Action Training cum Planning Seminar. Held in Belgium in February
- Sending participants to Council of Europe Language Courses
- Council of Members of the European Youth Forum in April in Azerbaijan

Remaining

- Distribution of external calls for partners, participants and facilitators
- Distribution of external vacant positions and internships
- Continuous communication with members and partners of ICYE EA

We in ICYE EA therefore believe that 2007 has been a good year for ICYE EA, with many fruitful and useful outcomes, with the need for future activities kept in mind.

We would like to thank our members, partners, as well as our AVSO and YFJ representatives for contributing to this successful year. We will strive to make 2008 equally productive and successful, and hope that you all will help us in our effort to do so. We wish you all a **Happy New Year 2008!**





2. SHOROUK

EuroMediterranean Partnership-Building to strengthen Solidarity and Participation - Euromed CMS, was held in the surroundings of Rome, 24th-28th of October 2007.

"Shorouk" gathered organisations from the following countries:

- Algeria; Association des Jeunes Cadres Batna
- Czech Republic; Czech Youth Programme of the Duke Edinburgh's award
- Denmark; International Cultural Youth Exchange Europe (ICYE EA)
- Finland; MaaIlmanvaihto
- Italy; Associazione per la Formazione, gli Scambi e le Attività Interculturali (AFSAI)
- Jordan; Quested Peace
- Spain; Asermun
- Sweden; Interkulturellt Kulturutbyte (IKU)
- The Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; YDVWA - Youth Development and Voluntary Work Association

The training was held by ICYE EA, and hosted by AFSAI. The facilitators were Marcus Vreccer and Florian Fischer, with support of Valerio Pellirossi and Valeria Lapenna. The aim of the activity was to gather organizations from Programme countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries to get to know each other, to get an idea of the respective (local) realities of youth work and voluntary work / civic commitment, to exchange best practices, to discuss specificities of the regions and of implementing international volunteering activities there, to find partners for international volunteering and exchange activities, mainly to be implemented in the frame of the YiA programme, and to give support in making the envisaged projects feasible and concrete. For further information on the training, go to: www.icyeeurope.org/calendar





3. YFJ COMEM 2007

In November there was a Council of Members of the European Youth Forum. Ragnhildur Einarsdóttir went on behalf of ICYE EA. The meeting is a platform for the members of the Youth Forum to meet up between General Assemblies evaluate the work of the Bureau, Secretariat and other working structures and define the policies of the forum. In this meeting that was held in Brussels the main topics were the internal structure of the Youth Forum, policy papers on training, gender equality and lowering of the voting age. The Dutch National Youth Council also proposed to implement Youth Capitals of Europe and the first capital will be Rotterdam.



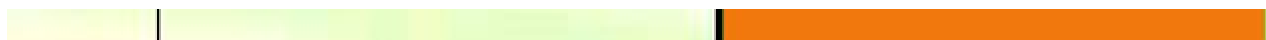
4. AVSO General Assembly 2007

The annual AVSO General Assembly took place in Brussels from the 18th till the 20th of November 2007, where the ICYE EA representative, Sarah Gram, participated.

One of the primary issues on the agenda was the discussion of AVSO's strategic- and business plan – a roadmap for the next three year period. The plan was a thorough and extensive work, and it is clear that the plan will benefit the work of AVSO.

The three main pillars of AVSO's activities are: 1) Lobbying and advocacy, 2) Support services to members and 3) Research. AVSO has 21 members.

For more information, go to www.icyeeurope.org/calendar, where you will find an extensive report from the GA.



5. ExCom / EO staff meetings in 2007

In 2007, the staff and ExCom of ICYE EA met several times, to discuss, plan and work on EA matters. The meetings took place in connection with projects in Sweden and Denmark, and additionally three meetings were held in Vienna, Reykjavík and Aarhus.



The meetings ensure a good cooperation between the international ExCom and the staff placed in Aarhus.

The main topics of the meetings were the future plan of action of ICYE EA, continuous financial updates from the office, and various at the times pressing matters. For further information on the meetings, contact the European office (see contact information at the last page).

The meetings are additional to the daily communication between the ExCom and staff, that also carry out Skype meetings approximately every two weeks.

6. Extraordinary General Assembly in Tamsui (Taiwan)

The European Association of ICYE (ICYE EA) held an extraordinary General Assembly November 7th in Tamsui (Taiwan). Even though our geographical scope of work is not directly connected to the venue for the GA, representatives from our members gathered there in the frame of the XXV GA of the ICYE Federation.



The Executive Committee, represented by its Treasurer – Oscar M. Uscategui – used this opportunity to call for an extraordinary GA, which was attended by 9 of our 10 members as well as several guests from ICYE Federation members and associated members as follows:

- Austria, Grenzenlos – ICYE Österreich. www.grenzenlos.or.at
- Denmark, Dansk ICYE. www.icye.dk
- Finland, Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland. www.maailmanvaihto.fi
- France, Jeunesse et Reconstruction – ICYE France. www.volontariat.org
- Germany, ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e.V. – ICYE Germany. www.icja.de
- Iceland, Alþjóðleg ungmennaskipti (AUS) – ICYE Iceland. www.aus.is
- Morocco, Chantiers Sociaux Marocains (CSM) – ICYE Morocco. www.multimania.com/csma
- Sweden, Internationellt KulturUtbyte (IKU) – ICYE Sweden. www.iku.nu
- United Kingdom, ICYE UK. www.icye.org.uk

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As mentioned, a few guests were invited and participated at the meeting:

- Belgium, Interculturele uitwisseling via vrijwilligerswerk (VIA) – ICYE Belgium. www.viavzw.be
- Italy, Associazione per la Formazione, gli Scambi e le Attività Interculturali (AFSAI). ICYE Italy. www.afsai.it
- Lithuania, Deineta, Jaunimo Savanoriškos Veiklos Centras - ICYE Lithuania. www.deineta.lt
- Moldova, ADVIT, Europe without borders. - ICYE Moldova.
- Russia, Swallows – ICYE Russia. www.swallows-icye.ru
- Switzerland, ICYE Switzerland. www.icye.ch

Additional attendee was Andreas Schwab, programme officer from the International Office of ICYE. www.icye.org

After election of president and secretary for the GA (Massimiliano Viatore and Jakob Paaske Jensen) the floor was open to our members to discuss and receive updated information on ICYE EA, latest changes since our last GA in April in Århus, and our activities and working plan for the next 2 years 2008/09

Of special importance was the ratification on the e-mail vote for new Chair person of the Executive Committee (Ex.Com.) and updating our members about the new staff in the office.

Since Jakob Paaske Jensen's resigned in September, Ragnhildur Einarsdóttir was elected via e-mail to take over the post of Chair; during the GA our members ratified the vote. Same wise, Sarah Gram left ICYE EA in May and Bianca Andersen was chosen among different qualified candidates to be in charge of the European Office, as administrative and information officer.

Additional topics included:

- The launching of centralised EVS projects in the SEE (Southeast Europe & Balkans) and EECA (East Europe – Caucasus) regions, after the agreement made with the Federation, handing over the responsibility to ICYE EA to start developing projects in these 2 areas, which have been run by the ICYE Federation during the last years.
- The status of our applications for administrative grants, as training projects to both the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Additional funding sources included the training fund of the ICYE Federation and Folmer Wisti Fonden, which supported some of our activities this and last year.
- The current affairs and issues in hands of our external representatives at the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO) and the European Youth Forum (EYF).
- The common interests on passing special motions at the ICYE Federation GA, which was at the time ongoing.
- The discussion and sharing information on common issues being faced by our members during the first year of the new Youth in Action programme, and possible topics to be elaborated further during our upcoming GA in Austria, as a follow up to the YiA cum meeting held earlier this year in Brussels.
- The next GA to be held in Eggenburg (Austria), planned for April 23rd to 27th, 2008.

We once again would like to thank Massimiliano, Jakob, delegates and guests for their help and contribution during the meeting! We look forward to meeting you all in Austria and hopefully the new 2008 will be once more a year of good cooperation for our ICYE EA!

7. Possible upcoming activities

The following two activities have not yet been approved, but if they are approved, they are to take place in the spring of 2008:

- *Learning to create changes – a training for trainers on self-directed learning in the area of diversity and inclusion.* To be held in Spain, the 1st-9th of March. This project aims at increasing inclusion and diversity in the participating organisations. The participants will at the end of the training be able to facilitate self-directed learning and reflection on real-life experiences. The training is a follow-up training from the training in February 2007 in Sweden, and is expected to have participants from the following countries: Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Finland, France, Estonia, Spain and Austria.
- *EVS and YiA in international youth exchange networks - the case of ICYE.* To be held in connection with the EAGA 2008 in Austria, the 23rd-27th of April. The Youth in Action programme and networks/programmes like ICYE are important and synergetic partners, as both have similar aims, priorities and quality standards, yet complementing actors, channels, tools and approaches. ICYE has contributed a considerable amount of EVS projects to the YOUTH and YiA programme, many of them in partnership with partner countries (SEE, EECA, Latin America, Africa, Asia) or with a focus on priorities such as inclusion or participation. The aim of this seminar is to assess the experiences made so far, covering topics such as practical issues, relevance for the target group, and best practice in the area of the priorities of the YiA programme.

8. Upcoming applications for activities

For the February 1st 2008 deadlines of the EC and CoE, the EA intends to apply for the following activities:

1. Training Course as a first step on the implementation of a centralised EVS project with the MEDA region
2. Training Course as a first step on the implementation of a centralised EVS project with the SEE and Balkans region
3. Returnee meeting in cooperation with IO
4. CoE/EYF Administrative Grant

The official calls for partners will be send out as soon as possible, and we are hoping for your interest and commitment in connection to this.





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Office hours:
Tuesday 11-14
Friday 12-15

Please notice that the the office is closed during the Christmas holiday, except for Friday the 28th of December. Emails sent to admin (at) icyeeurope.org will however be read at a regular basis.

The Executive Committee (ExCom)

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Merry Christmas