


NEWSletter

September 2007

Dear Friends of ICYE European Association,

We are happy to send out this third 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.

Best regards,
The office and ExCom of ICYE European Association

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1. **New Chair person of ICYE EA**
 2. **SHOROUK – call for participants**
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1. New Chair person of ICYE EA

As earlier announced, Jakob Paaske Jensen decided to resign as Chair person for ICYE EA.

Both the remaining members of the ExCom and the EO staff highly regrets this decision, as Jakob has been a highly valued asset for EA, but we do however wish him the very best!

His decision left to a call for a new Chair person, which Ragnhildur Einarsdottir from AUS successfully applied for, and the majority of the EA

members voted in favours of.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ragnhildur as a member of the ExCom! Ragnhildur appears very dedicated, and we are all looking forward to working with her.

We hope you will all give her a good reception, and welcome her as Chair of the ExCom. Please see the following boxes for letters to all NCs from Jakob and Ragnhildur.



1.1. Jakob's letter

Dear Friends of the European Association

I would like to thank all of you for the last three years. I have had the privilege to work with you through the European cooperation together striving for high quality exchange programs in ICYE.

Since I first time got acquainted with the European Association I have experienced a whole new level of the organizational work lying behind ICYE. When working with dedicated people you learn that the cultural differences between countries are of minor importance. I have personally learned a lot during my time with the European Association, both from the work being carried out but just as much from the other people working within the organization.

I have always experienced a strong fellowship amongst ExCom members. We have our different viewpoints but there is at the same time genuine respect for the other members. It has been this special combination of dedication, different opinions and respect for one another, that has created results during the past years.

Then why did I leave? Having been working for Danish ICYE for some years before joining the European Association I for one know that there is a huge difference in the type of work and the organizational challenges you are met with. When I got the opportunity to put a stronger focus on my career outside the ICYE world, I could no longer give the time that neither I nor the organization be happy with.

I am leaving the ExCom with a good feeling, and I am happy to see that the European Association has found a new chairperson to continue the work where I left it. I am certain that Ragnhildur will do an excellent job, and I am looking forward to follow the developments from the sideline.

Lastly I would like to personally thank Melanie Jacobs, Oscar Mauricio Uscategui, Marcus Vreecer, Sarah gram and Bianca Andersen for all that you have taught me, and your work and dedication, I have deep respect for your persons and your work.

Even though that I will no longer be a member of the ExCom I will stay in contact through my representational work with Youth Forum. I am looking forward to contribute to give ICYE a stronger voice amongst the European youth organizations.

Besides this I will of course stay in contact through Danish ICYE; *Once ICYE – Always ICYE...*

With the best wishes for the future

Yours Sincerely,
Jakob Paaske

1.2. Ragnhildur's letter

Dear Friends of ICYE.

I am the new Chair Person of the ExCom and I am delighted to be given the chance for this position.

I experienced life as a volunteer doing EVS in Oradea, Romania in 2002-2003. Since coming back I have been active in AUS, firstly as a mentor and later as a board member. Out with my voluntary work with AUS I am studying Food Science in the University of Iceland. I am currently in my final year of my master and am due to graduate in the summer of 2008.

I became interested in ICYE EA when attending the EAGA in Århus last April. I agreed with the aims and purposes of the organisation. I believe that with sharing information and experience between members of the EA they will gain a lot.

In the EAGA I became acquainted with Jakob and his method of working was very professional and hard working. It will be a loss for the organisation and I wish him all the best with his studies.

I am looking forward to working with the members of the organisation, the office and the ExCom and all the opportunities that will arise.

Kind Regards,

Ragnhildur Einarsdóttir



2. SHOROUK – call for participants

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

"Shorouk" will gather organisations from Programme countries - mainly ICYE committees and partners - and organisations from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Morocco and Syria, to foster partnerships in the frame of the Youth in Action programme. One expected outcome of "Shorouk" is the joint agreement on and shaping of a multilateral Euromed EVS project, to be co-ordinated by the EO and to be applied for by the EO at deadline February 1st.

For further information, see the email sent out on call for participants, or go to www.icyeeurope.org/calendar

3. Learning to Create Changes

The 1st of September ICYE EA also applied for this training, to be held early in the Spring 2008.

The training course is part of the series of Training for Trainers, designed and provided by the excellent trainers Lene Mogensen and Yvor Broer. It will be hosted by ASERMUN, and take place in the south of Spain.



4. EVS and YiA in International Youth Exchange Networks – *the case of ICYE*

ICYE EA applied for this course at 1st of September, under YiA Action 4.3. It will be a short seminar / working meeting on the impact of the Youth in Action programme and specifically EVS on our organisations and our network, and vice-versa.

This meeting is a follow-up activity to the YiA meeting organised by the International Office of ICYE and AFSAI this past February in Brussels, and it will also be combined with the General Assembly of the ICYE European Association, which will be held in the two days immediately following the meeting. The meeting is scheduled for spring 2008 and should last 3 or 4 days.

The next EA GA will be hosted by Grenzenlos – i.e. it will take place in the surroundings of Vienna, Austria.



5. ExCom / EO staff meeting in Reykjavík, October 2007

The next ExCom meeting will be held in the beginning of October, in Reykjavík, Iceland, where two of the ExCom members live.

The main topics to be discussed at the meeting will be the General Assembly of the International Federation, the next projects to be applied for such as multilateral EVS and YiA 4.1 administrative grant, and it will of course be an opportunity to welcome Ragnhildur, and introduce her to the work she will be conducting for the ICYE EA.

6. AVSO

- AVSO will have their next General Assembly the 19th-20th of November in Brussels, Belgium, and the ICYE EA AVSO representative, Sarah Gram, will be attending this GA. On the agenda is ratification of new members, and overview of the work of 2007 and 2008.
- AVSO has sent out an email on two open positions; for director and a 6 months internship – for more information, go to www.icyeeurope.org/news.php
- AVSO organised a conference on the 13th June 2007 in the European Parliament in Brussels entitled: "Shaping policy for voluntary service through service - investigating the effects of research in the field of voluntary service for forming global and European policies". See the full report at www.avso.org



Contact ICYE European Association:

European Office (EO)

Ms. Bianca Andersen
Information and Administrative Officer

Klosterport 4A, 3rd floor
DK-8000 Aarhus C
Denmark

Phone: (+45) 8618 0715
Fax: (+45) 8618 0761
Email: admin@icyeeurope.org
Skypename: icyeeurope_admin
Web: www.icyeeurope.org

Office hours:
Tuesday 11-14
Friday 12-15

The Executive Committee (ExCom)

Ragnhildur Einarsdottir, Chair Person, ragnhildur.einarsd@gmail.com
Oscar-Mauricio Uscategui, Treasurer, oscar.mauricio.uscategui@gmail.com
MarCus Vreecer, Third Member, arus.work@gmail.com