



World News

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CIF-Conference **2023** Hannover - Germany



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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues, Members of CIF

Security is all about planning for the worse and hoping for the best. This has not been the global case though. The time has come to recalibrate security priorities by adopting a much more holistic security framework that places a premium on health care, environmental protection, and universal education.

We need to focus on rebuilding our strengths and our societies, to bring back prosperity, trust, human impact, wealth, health, education, and social balance to the world. And, we need to focus on **SOCIAL SOLIDARITY, EMPATHY, AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY!**

Social Networking is now expanding and is taking over in a constructive way. At the same time, one can see the impact of "social deprivation" created by COVID-19 last two years. This issue is becoming more and more apparent both in children and adults. We also see the impact of this in our students when we all realized that they did not know what "class" meant, what sitting in class was, and more importantly what it meant to take physically an exam, write an exam with your own handwriting, and not on the PC. This was a real shock for most of us once we realized that our first, second, and third-year students had only the experience of online classes and exam taking. and here is where we say that while technology can assist in making up for the absence of human contact during an emergency it is clear that technology is no substitute for humans being able to interact with one another on a permanent basis. Social interaction is fundamentally important if the mental well-being of people is to be maintained.



by Maria Christopoulou,
Editor, World News

Dear Colleagues

What we lived through these past two years is the most adverse peacetime shock to the global economy in over a century. The economic consequences of this evolving crisis have already started to show its impact negatively on both developed and developing countries. Strengthening networking, international chats, and cooperation among us is a step forward

to a new era. Positive thinking as well as creativity in re-establishing our goals and objectives will help us all rebuild a new tomorrow.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year full of happiness, success, health, and prosperity. I do hope that soon we will be able to meet face to face and be able to enjoy to company of each other and expand our network and collaborations both on a

personal, interpersonal, and country level. I congratulate our Executive Committee (EC) that undertook the responsibility to continue our communication and act energetically and positively to create the forum for virtual meetings for both EC and BD. More should be done and we should think widely about using social media more, to organize more training seminars, discussion groups, and task force groups with open discussions on presentations on topics of common interest for all of us. We can do this and we can take this opportunity and unity to expand and make our association known to the world as WE can make a difference. But mostly, let us all focus on getting together physically after so long. Let us all plan to meet in Hannover, Germany for the CIF - Conference 2023 entitled "Social Work leading towards Social Justice and Sustainability – Be part of it", in June 2023.

**Maria Christopoulou, president CIF Cyprus,
editor CIF World News**

12/01/2023

*I would like to take this opportunity
to wish you a Happy New Year
full of happiness, success, health,
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CIF International President's Message

Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen
President CIF International

2017, just after CIF had adopted new Statutes, the Board of Directors decided to form a **Committee CIF 2028**. Its task was «to analyse key elements of CIF, its products, such as Professional Exchange Programs (PEPs), conferences, World News and others; its organization (the means we have to accomplish our mission and achieve goals). This includes people (including the Executive Committee (EC) and (BD), finances, PR tools like the website, social media, and possibly other aspects of the organization). Are these what we need? If not, what do we need? What will keep us relevant by 2028?

The BD kindly asked the Committee and all responding 'to think out of the box'.

The BD in 2018 adopted the following goals:

CIF in 2028

- **is the relevant International Professional Exchange Organization**
- **is active in social work and closely related fields**
- **offers programs for professional and personal development**
- **is forward thinking while keeping its values**
- **builds bridges through fostering intercultural relationships, promoting and demanding tolerance and understanding, acceptance and "peace".**

Did we move towards these goals which were set in 2018? Where are we now, four, five years later? In relation to what circumstances? Did CIF 'think out of the box'?

- Do we have **more members** compared with 2019/20?

We had 819 members in 2021, compared to 785 in 2020. Not what we wanted, but a rise of 2%, with a pandemic and other external problems.

- A study group on the **quality management of IPEPs** was appointed.

The IPEP Manual, including all attached documents, has been revised from scratch and

approved.

NBs can look in a better-informed way into IPEP diversification, regarding themes, language, with or without field placements (depending on language and financial conditions, including the needs of participants).

We have IPEPs in French,

Spanish and English. There are NBs who are

starting to develop IPEPs into different specialities without losing the basic qualities of IPEPs.

- **Media planning** is for new partnerships, for increased visibility and recruitment of targeted

audiences.

The basic work is done. We have a new website, and CIF International is present on all channels of social media. It is now our members' task to bring all these possibilities to life. CIF International has been awarded the medal in Memory of Andrew Apostol-Mouravieff by the International Federation of Social Workers, IFSW, for CIF's decades of work for international professional exchange and peace.

- **More focused BD meetings:** online meetings helped to bring CIF to clear working: meetings are focused, and spread over the year, working groups have taken on tasks around IPEPs, around possibilities to assist with the financing of IPEP participation, and others.

- **Committees** are more intergenerationally representative, interculturally varied, and showing more diversity. The financial situation of CIF International in the US is clear, and CIF International has guidelines for its fundraising. We do not have new application forms for IPEPs, reviewed conference goals, and



“Whether summer or winter,
CIF has been
and is quite active!”

structures, topics and finances of these should be discussed; and there are many other aspects of CIF to look at.

I would love to discuss with our members these achievements and any further steps - my personal view is, perhaps, somewhat biased. Maybe there will be an occasion for discussion

at the conference in Hannover - the first time we'll meet again person to person after almost four years being online.

With kind regards and my best wishes to all of you for 2023,

Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen, President

Baltic meeting in Helsinki

October 7-9, 2022

During the successful return to the concrete IPEP in May after a cancelled one 2020 and virtual 2021 a thought to restart the biannual Baltic-Nordic meetings, so called CIF mini Conference, which had been circulating in countries around the Baltic Sea since 2002 began to rise in the CIF Finland board meeting and evaluation of the IPEP22 in early June: a small planning group was established, and an inquiry letter sent to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Scotland, and Sweden about the

interest to participate in a potential meeting in September / October.

Yes – there was interest of some 35+ so the concrete plans could take place.

The theme was naturally peace when our all-grounded safety and normal life had been shaken by the brutal war in Ukraine already months and the global pandemic just before that not to mention the quick change in Finland to apply to

FINLAND

By CIF in Finland team/LeoH



NATO had developed from pro 20 % to 40 % in February and risen to the end of summer to almost 70 % pro. BUT how to concretize it for this meeting was the question as it always is when planning also an IPEP. How to build up an idea of peace on grassroots level to avoid high-flying ideas about world peace and the embrace of the world. How we'll see each other, our neighbour, the world after this all is over, if it ever is – how will we get along with each other so: "–Peace getting along" began to take form in middle of July.

Finally, after all, on October 7 some twenty plus participants among them two



from Estonia, three from Sweden, one from Norway, got together in Helsinki City Hall for morning coffee and Karelian pie. The first presentation of an alternative way to find mutually satisfying solutions and means on individual or group level to compensate for any harm caused by the events was welcomed by Helsinki [Mediation office](#) Director Sini Heino-Mouhu and presented by the mediators Ibrahim Aydarus and Minna Oikarinen. Mediation started as local projects and became part of City of Helsinki Social Service Department 1990 and further nationwide service after Mediation Law in 2006 was done. Now 18 offices around the country, about 100 mediation advisors and 1200 voluntary mediators. Currently professionally controlled voluntary work and is governed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and organized and regulated by National Institute for Health and Welfare.

Benefits of mediation are for a victim chance to talk about consequences of the crime, possibility to express feelings and emotions and fear and anxiety decrease beside fast and easy material compensation and for an offender possibility to hear about consequences and feel

shame/guilt in a safe environment, take active role and responsibility on ones' actions, possibility to ask for forgiveness and can be educational for young offenders.

Thereafter Leena-Kaisa Åberg, Executive Director of [RIKU](#) presented how Victim support advocates on behalf of all victims of crime by offering face-to-face services, internet, and phone as well as legal helpline, online chat service and visitor services at police stations, shelters, court houses etc. The aim of the Support Jour is to improve the situation of victims of crime, their loved ones, and witnesses of crime by advocacy work and producing support services. Generic victim support agency is responsible for the general victim services in Finland according to the Victims' Rights Directive (government funding). They also produce specialist services to victims of human trafficking.

Latter '[Peace Unions](#) Laura Lodenius, Executive Director, brought a whole range of peace and disarmament issues how they lobby and advocate for better peace policies. Her main point was to introduce how to break peace work in smaller pieces; to solve small hinders first and then to a bigger picture, change mind of decision

making by adult education, peace schools for coming generations, debate about choices.

After all this mind mixing package it was time to take fresh air on a very windy [Suomenlinna](#) fortress with short ferry ride and a guide to learn about the history of former war-oriented rulers of Sweden and Russia beside Britannia and Denmark on centuries before ours.

The second day begun with the visit in [Help Centre](#) for Ukrainians and ended with a discussion about the two days after the Member of Parliament Anders Adlercreutz' summary about the situation in NATO application process, which had gone forward with surprising speed – with the exception of Hungary and Turkiye, which have not yet ratified Finland's and Sweden's NATO application.

The Ukrainian centre opened 16.3.2022 as a type of start up by Anna Suchodolski and a co-



activist developing services and knowledge day by day, month by month offering now beside humanitarian aid and emotional support but also guidance on migration rights and different registrations in the country, accommodation (up to 7 days), sim cards, language courses beside food help and clothes. The centre consists of a warehouse, a lounge, a corner for kids and

kitchen area, registration desk and two therapy rooms.

Now in the centre some 50 volunteers and seven employees are running the centre on daily basis and 7000+ people have passed by the centre until today. Donors are private people, companies, and NGOs resulting 350 000 € until today.

In the feedback discussion with the participants there was an expression of relief that the days were not too heavy despite the substance. There was emphasis on hope on all levels – "...by doing something.", "...by sharing something", but also, a dilemma was arisen: "Why Ukrainians are so welcomed when the other groups are



not?" "The program was well composed – we should not start building from the top, but from down – from you and me." All over feeling was that the meeting reached H.B.Ollendorff's original spirit very well.

The two days meeting was wrapped up in [Konstan Möljå](#), a traditional Finnish restaurant with a maritime twist in Karelian atmosphere lifting flow of ideas where Baltic-Nordic NBs and

CPs will meet in 2024 and go on to build up peace with more tools in social field we hopefully have then.

On Sunday four participants had still energy to make a visit to [Lotta museum](#) with exhibition about the multifaceted social responsibility of the women who worked in the Lotta Svärd organization during both war and peace.

My experiences and learning from attending CIF Israel's 2nd IPEP Peace Project – May 2022

1. Beginnings

by Shirley Worland
(Australian living and working in Thailand)

CIF has been part of my life now for more than 20 years. I have had the privilege of participating in three IPEPs, the first in 1999-2000 in India. This IPEP profoundly changed my life focus and indirectly led me to the work I do today. As I naïve Westerner, with Western only focused social work practice, I encountered social work that gave a whole new meaning to the IFSW definition of social work. In my early 40s with hardly any international experience, I was inspired by the vision to make a change outside of my Western mindset. Step by step, it led me to my work today with ethnic Karen youth from Burma; first as an exploratory trip to refugee camps in Thailand in 2002-2003, then a Ph.D. focusing on refugee Karen identity in the face of what was then 60 years of war, to these last 15 years, informally facilitating accredited higher education for Karen and other ethnic refugee youth. Accidentally, along the way and remaining in my informal role, I ended up with a formal role of Lecturer in the international Bachelor and Master programs in Social Science at Chiang Mai University (CMU). The two roles have coalesced, with many of the Karen and other ethnic youth I had privilege to teach in refugee situations gaining qualifying documents to study and graduate in the degrees in which I teach in CMU.

My second IPEP in Sweden in 2012 provided a more rounded professional dimension to my informal social work practice with refugees in Thailand. By this time, I was living full time in a Thai Karen village, with dual roles of Director of an informal refugee college and Academic Dean of a refugee Bible seminary. I had graduated with my PhD in Social Work from the University of Queensland, Australia, but being truly honest, my knowledge of refugees was a microcosm of the sad situation of the reality of refugee experiences globally. The CIF Sweden IPEP was my first glimpse into the horrible unfolding of the Syrian refugee crisis. Importantly, the activities and placements facilitated my wider understanding of refugee asylum seeking and resettlement, which led me to research and subsequent publication on the experiences of Karen refugee resettlement in Australia.

2. CIF Israel IPEP, May 2022

As a Christian, the CIF Israel IPEP in May 2022 was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream to visit the Holy Land. However, more to the focus of this article, it started me on a new journey of a study of peace – its myriad dimensions of meaning. The President and members of CIF Israel are to be highly commended for their vision of first creating and secondly hosting its second IPEP program focusing on a Project of Peace – of having the tenacity and will to rise above the travel and day-to-day restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that enabled me, Min-Chu and Francisco to have this amazing experience of a lifetime.

The remainder of this article will begin with a snapshot of our IPEP program before focusing on the highlight of the IPEP – our four (4) days in Wahat Al-Salam~Neve Shalom (WAS [Arabic]-NS [Hebrew]) (its

meaning in English is “Oasis of Peace”). The article will conclude with “my future days”, putting the learning from the IPEP into action since returning to Thailand.

2.1 The Program – First Half

“Since wars begin in the minds of men [women], it is in the minds of men [women] that the defenses of peace must be constructed” (UNESCO, 1966).

Wars are not only those fought by nation against nation, but occur on an everyday basis in our social, family, and work lives. CIF Israel’s IPEP program encompassed a holistic response to how peace is waged against the war from the macro-international and national levels to the micro-society level.

The first day grounded the program at the macro level with a visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum. Left to explore individually at our own pace, Yad Vashem is a stark reminder of the evil nature of humankind. But Yad Vashem does not only highlight this evil. Through the depth of human depravity that sought to extinguish one of the oldest civilizations on earth, Yad Vashem also highlights how peace in the form of resistance and compassion shone through the darkness with the stories of individuals and communities who opposed the regime by devising ingenious ways to save lives.

2.1.1 Field Visits

Central to all CIF IPEP programs are the agency field visits. In our IPEP, I am so grateful to the committee who took many months to negotiate a broad range of field visits in centers around Jerusalem and Jaffa as well as northern areas that provided us with an “insider view” to how peace is being waged against wars of societal injustices in both Arab Palestinian and Jewish communities. These included a Palestinian after-school program in the old city in which social workers provide a safe space for children to express their emotions and a Jewish Orthodox women’s shelter which is a culturally and religious sensitive haven for women and children suffering domestic violence. At Ein-Yael Living Museum, set amongst nature just outside Jerusalem, we joined another safe space program where a group of Palestinian girls meet weekly to experience nature and to openly talk their thoughts and feelings.

In my northern placement, I was overwhelmed of the commitment and ethical practice of female Palestinian social workers in the Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence in Nazareth. Through intensive individual and group counselling, not only with women and children, but also with the male perpetrators of the violence, these social workers are striving to achieve peaceful homes where children can grow in families with security and love. Having worked in this field in my Western social work practice, I left immensely encouraged what is being achieved in this place, where the negative aspects of social and cultural norms are being challenged and overcome. Just a little south of Nazareth, adjacent to Beit Alfa Kibbutz, we spent a morning at an acculturation center for Ethiopian Jewish immigrants who leave lives of poverty and conflict with hopes of opportunity in the “promised land”.

In Jaffa, I never cease to be amazed of the impact a single person can have in the war against injustice when our field visit took us to Shanti House. This most unique youth shelter established in 1984 has homes in Jaffa and in construction in Jerusalem as well as a village in the Negev that have been much more than a shelter, but a home to many Palestinian and Jewish youth who found no peace in their natal homes. At the time of our visit, its founder, Mariuma Klein had just been awarded Israel’s Prize for Lifetime Achievement and Special Contribution to Society and the State.

2.1.2 My Personal Cultural Highlights

Envisioned by our founder Henry Ollendorf as central to achieving global peace through understanding and appreciating cultural diversity, cultural experiences are also a central aspect of CIF IPEP’s. I am so thankful for the most generous hospitality of my host families – Miriam in Jerusalem, Ronit and Avi in Gidona, Hagit and Howard in Nirit, Hanna and Uzi in Rosh Haayin, and informally after the program, Juliet in East Jerusalem. Two special cultural highlights I would like to share – the first when staying with Ronit and Avi; the second relating to the two occasions I was privileged to share Shabbat Friday dinner with host families Ronit and Avi and Hanna and Uzi.

A spiritual and cultural coalesce

Avi is an avid walker and one evening, he invited Min-Chu and me to join him in his walk up a section of Mount Gilboa. Nearing the lookout, he surprised me when he asked me to read a passage from the Bible.

Bemused, I asked which, to which Avi pointed to a section of the mountain that was devoid of trees and greenery compared to other parts of the mountain and said that is where the first king of Israel Saul, and his son Jonathan were killed in battle. He wanted to hear the story of David's reaction to the news of their death from the Christian Bible in English. In our modern day, we all carry our smart phones everywhere, and being familiar with the story, I did a quick search and opened the phone to 2nd Samuel 1. As I read the passage, tears came to both our eyes. For me, I realized I was sitting in a part of ancient history where David is recorded as cursing the place where Saul and Jonathan were killed saying, "Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields". For Avi, he said it was the first time he had heard the passage read in English from a Christian Bible. Two religions, the center of many wars, experienced peace that evening on the slopes of Mt. Gilboa.

Friday evening Shabbat dinner

Shabbat dinner on a Friday evening is both a Jewish religious and cultural tradition. Over two weeks, I was warmly welcomed as a special guest to join the Shabbat dinner at Roni and Avi's and Hanna and Uzi's home. On both these occasions, I was humbled to participate in a tradition spanning more than 5,000 years.

3. The IPEP's Peace Project's focal point – 4 days in Wahat Al-Salam~Neve Shalom (WASNS)

This time was a most special experience I will treasure for all my life. WASNS is a one-of-a-kind type of place. Beginning as a vision by Father Bruno of the Latrun Monastery in the 1960s, he gathered young followers who shared the vision of creating a place where Jews and Palestinians would intentionally live and strive together for equality, justice, and peace; to intentionally challenge racism, discrimination, and the conflict prevalent in their divided land. In 1970, on land first leased and later donated by the Latrun Monastery, they created the village – WASNS. From its humble beginnings of no paved roads, electricity or running water, this village remains unique in Israel with some of the original citizens plus others numbering more than 70 families with plans in progress to extend to 150 families in the next decade (WASNS website).

Education has long been recognized as a tool for peace (Page, 2010). Concurrent with establishing housing, Father Bruno and the original inhabitants of WASNS step by step established the first binational and bilingual nursery, kindergarten, and primary school in Israel. Today, the primary school hosts 270 children in Grades 1-6 including those living in the village and others who travel daily from a radius of 30 kilometers. While following the nationally approved curriculum, the primary school adds a unique module – "Culture and Tradition" which aims to give space for both Arab and Jewish students to experience and learn together each other's language, cultural and religious traditions.

In 1979, the School for Peace (SFP) was established in WASNS as

"... the first educational institution in Israel promoting ... change towards peace and more humane, egalitarian and just relations between Palestinians and Jews" (School for Peace, 2020).

In its more than 40-year history, SFP works towards its goal through workshops, training programs and special projects with university students and Jewish and Palestinian professional groups employing methods of "cultural wisdom" and "critical intergroup dialogic approach" that places power dynamics "on the table" and expands critical thinking and identities to include "the other" (Sonnenschein, 2019).

As a final vision of Father Bruno's to be realized, the Pluralistic Educational Center was inaugurated in 2000 – four years after his death. This Center hosts film screenings, spiritual and cultural activities creating a space for learning and searching for peace both within and between us (WASNS website).

Over four days, staying in the hotel on site, Min-Chu, Francisco, and I had the privilege of "living the WASNS vision". We joined "Culture and Tradition" classes in the primary school which focused through film and art on the meaning of the recently remembered Nakba Day (May 15th) – the catastrophe for Palestinians resulting from Israel independence in 1948. The Principal, Ms Neama Abu Delo and teachers shared with us the vision and accomplishments of the school and a new annual program to be held on May 31st – the Festival of Hope – where the whole community celebrated a hope for peace and a better future for their country.

We also attended the School for Peace to understand its vision, methods, and activities. A local artist

took us on a most interesting walking tour of the whole village and surrounds making the history I had read on the WASNS website become real. Later, Diane shared the stories behind some of the art exhibits in the local art gallery. Disturbing, but necessary for our learning and understanding of the inherent inequalities faced by many who live in this country, we attended the 2017 screening of the film “Junction 48”, based on real experiences of Palestinians living in Lod with an interview after with the film’s main actor, Tamar Nafar. The final field visit just a short drive from WASNS to the place that was once the ancient village of Emmaus (central to the story of Jesus’s resurrection), but whose people were forcibly displaced in the 1967 war, challenged our thinking of how peace can be attained in this country.

4. Conclusion

I think all of us who have ever participated in a CIF IPEP, approach the final days with dread of the experience coming to an end, but also anticipation to return to our countries to share our new learning. CIF Israel’s President and members thoughtfully considered this in their final program. On our final morning at Wahat-Salam~Neve Shalom, CIF members Juliet and Baruch representing both Arab and Jewish identities, facilitated a time of debriefing and meditation. Juliet and Baruch are founding members of Ossim Shalom –Social Workers for Peace and they began by sharing some of their work. Beginning in 1990, their mission initiates pro-peace activities that stress the interdependence of peace, welfare, and human rights, utilizing the power of dialogue to strategically intervene in cases such as Palestinian children’s arrests and subsequent court appearances. We each then had the opportunity to debrief our experiences in WASNS followed by a time of guided meditation.

May 20th – our final day together – arrived. We gathered at Hanna and Uzi’s home with Israel CIF members in person and on Zoom where we each shared our experiences and evaluation of the program. I left with a wide range of emotions and thoughts related to this complicated country – its many accomplishments in its short modern historical period, but also aware of its overt inequalities. My mind frequently compared the situation there with what I am more familiar with – a different history but a similar inequality – that of Myanmar (before the 2021 coup d’état). I returned to my adopted country of Thailand determined to learn more about how peace is being achieved in Myanmar rather than the glaringly obvious focus on the war raging across the country. My research is in its fledgling stages, but I am preparing to deliver a paper – “Pockets of Peace in our Complicated World – a Comparative Analysis between Israel and Myanmar” – at the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference in Bangkok in November.

Early in this article, I quoted from UNESCO about how we need to build the defenses of peace to oppose wars that steal the peace of many. I close with a quote from Father Bruno to give us hope that these defenses of peace are an achievable goal, “Keep faith in the final victory of love over enmity ... keep alive hope ... plant a lot of love in the dry land of our country. The harvest will eventually come” (WASNS website).

CIF Israel, your Peace Project is contributing to building defenses of peace. I encourage you to keep faith and hope for this goal alive. I look forward to hearing the outcome of your 3rd Project for Peace IPEP in 2023.

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CIF Hellas Holds Virtual Empowerment Event–Playback Theatre: HD Stories

During the quarantine period and in the face of the times, CIF Hellas, exploiting the potential of the internet, carried out a series of actions that aimed to educate but also to bring together its members and friends. Nowadays, human relationships are not limited to the here and now but are expanding in the global space of the internet.

On the 28th of November 2021, CIF Hellas in collaboration with the Playback team held an online interactive performance of improvised Playback (theater).

As the team of Playback Psi informs us on their website (<https://palmos.info/playback-psi-eng/>), Playback theatre is a form of improvisational theatre that is based on people's real-life stories, which are enacted on stage by a number of specially trained performers. This non-scripted theatre can be used to strengthen emotional bonds within a community of people who want to express and share their personal life experiences. Playback theatre has been used worldwide in education, for people with special needs, for people with mental disorders or emotional problems, for people who belong to minority groups, for people with a drug dependence, for victims of traumatic events or disasters, for people who want to enforce their business skills, as well as for members of teams, conferences or social and cultural events.

Playback Psi has been first established in Greece in 2004, by a number of performers (actors, dancers, musicians, singers, stage and light designers) who have had special training in theatre improvisational techniques as well as drama-therapy and psychodrama techniques, under the guidance of Lambros Yotis, psychiatrist and drama-therapist, with studies and professional experience in theatre and acting. Its aim is theatre as a means for social, educational and During the quarantine period and in the face of the times, CIF Hellas, exploiting the potential of the internet, carried out a series of actions that aimed to educate but also to bring together its members and friends. Nowadays, human relationships are not limited

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The call was international and we were very happy for the response of friends and associates from CIF USA, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The computer screen was filled with "windows" and the faces that appeared one by one opened a new perspective on our world. Familiar faces and new faces. Their stories began to unfold. Stories from different countries, different experiences but also so common. One story gives the baton to the next. The roles are reversed. Viewers have the

"dominant" role as they tell stories from their lives.

The actors on the occasion of the story, improvised, through the movement, the sounds, the expressions, the language, the objects, they represented and brought to life events and emotions so that through the latter we all have identification. This sharing is the required thing. Let us all share the narrator's memory so that he feels relieved.

For us social scientists, members of CIF, this experience has connected us once again with colleagues from other countries, through

emotion this time. Because one of the goals of CIF is to unite people from different parts of the earth.

Finally, this tool gave us a new perspective on our work; enriched the tools of our work as theater techniques can be utilized in the way of approaching and supporting our beneficiaries.

We would like to thank Mr. Yotis and his team for their contribution from here as well.

(Mr. Yotis's book, "Playback Psi, Acting in theatre the stories of the world" is also available in the English language)

CIF Hellas, Athens

CIF Hellas program was one of the best experiences I've had in my professional life. This program exceeded my expectations in every aspect. Mix of work visits, trips and socials gave me an all-inclusive experience of Athens, touristically, as well as professionally. There was a well-designed learning part, with dedicated professionals and fantastic social program that helped us enjoy the incredible atmosphere. Everything was so well planned and coordinated. Meeting people from different places all around the world was very eye-opening and I have gained so much.



CIF Hellas IPEP 2022

**By Jovana Scoric
participant from Serbia**

JOVANA ŠKORIĆ, SERBIA

Gratitude to be a member of CIF

Autumn is a favorite time of year for me. A time for new beginnings. A time to go back to school, bring out my wool sweaters, and prepare my gardens for winter. I feel a lot of hope this time of year, and gratitude for the meaningful work I do one day a week as a speech language pathologist and another day as a counselor. At the end of the day, I have the comfort of knowing that I reached out and helped a member of my community achieve a small victory, and in some cases feel better about themselves. As a member of the Council of International Fellowship, I feel a deep connection to

other professionals in healthcare throughout the world. This connection grew stronger after I attended the online CIF Conference last fall. I was amazed how well the visual and auditory connection was from my home in rural Salmon Idaho, USA. I listened to CIF members speak about their work and life in general, and I was informed of the importance of action, community engagement and education. I came away with a better understanding of the challenges that people faced during COVID-19, and how they were coping with change and uncertainty. These are things I could not have learned from watching a news station. To be honest, I came away from the conference inspired and motivated to forge new connections with other CIF members.



So now a year later, I aspire to travel outside the US and attend a CIF conference in person and apply for a PEP program. I live in a small town, population 3135 and the closest town of similar size or larger is 3 hours away. I enjoy the slower pace and enjoy that I can do all my shopping in one small location of town. Salmon is known for its beauty and opportunities for outdoor adventures; hiking, rafting and fishing. My town is surrounded by wilderness areas and notably the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Areas near Salmon were a stop for the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the birthplace of the Shoshone navigator, Sacagawea. As you can tell by my writing, I am happy to live in this area and at the same time I am grateful to be a member of CIF to learn about life in other parts of the world. When I get the opportunity, I let other healthcare workers know about CIF and encourage them to go to the website and learn more about the organization. So as the days get shorter and the weather cools, I look to the winter and spring to prepare for new adventures and hope to one day meet other members in person and learn more about their work and their lives.

Beth Guzi MS, MCoun

CIF TAIWAN 2021

For the past 2021, it was a terrible year we can only meet each other on the web. These virtual meetings were really making our distance. People cannot feel others' warm and kind feelings from distance meetings. Therefore, we did not have extra activities besides regular ones (such as the annual members meeting as the picture). We have several committees that were all stalled and worked nothing last year. We do face members lost due to low interactions. Fortunately, we still stay healthy; though we do have members who were infected. People did overcome this and went back to work. Nevertheless, it was a struggle process.

We do wish normal life can come back soon and we can still be healthy people. However, the environment needs everyone to do an effort on making it better. We do sincerely wish all CIF members are well and see each other in person rapidly.

Tung-Ru J. Shieh, CIF
Taiwan, President.
Sep. 30, 2022





**Council of International Fellowship
Deutschland**

35. CIF International Conference
12.06. – 17.06.2023 | Hannover

Dear CIF-friends all over the world,

We are very happy to share some more information concerning the upcoming conference in Hannover, Germany in 2023.

The conference will take place June 12th to 17th. Before – as usual – the annual EC- and BD-meetings will be held. After the conference we will offer four post-tours to wonderful locations in the northern and eastern part of Germany.

The conference site is a social-cultural center located in the inner city of Hannover. The Pavillon as it's called

**Social Work leading
towards Social Justice and
Sustainability**



was founded in 1977 by a citizens' initiative. It's a place where critical discussions are held with the idea of bringing people from different origins together and trying to live grass-roots democracy.

We believe that is a very suitable and eligible place for our conference!

The topic will be:

Social Work leading towards Social Justice and Sustainability – Be part of it!

Main questions are:

- What does sustainability mean in terms of social work? To what extent is (or is not) social work sustainable today?
- In which way can social workers contribute to achieve more justice regarding human rights, poverty, health and wellbeing, education and gender issues?
- How can principles and strategies of empowerment, participation and networking be beneficial to improve the current situation?

Some of these issues are also part of the 17 sustainable development goals, which were adopted by all United Nations



Member States in 2015 to promote peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

In this global context we decided to abstain from meat. Instead, we are offering fine vegetarian and vegan food throughout to whole conference.

We would appreciate your contribution, support and responsibility!

The registration for the conference will start in January 2023. And again, we will try something new. We are dividing the conference costs in conference fee and accommodation.

That means we have a tight amount for the conference (350 Euro). The costs for the accommodation depend on your personal wishes. We have a contract with four hotels in the nearby surrounding area with different standard. They are offering single and double bedrooms as well as triple rooms.

We are launching an additional email-address to help and give answers to your questions.

You can reach us from October 1st at the following address: conference2023@cif-germany.de

We are very optimistic that the pandemic situation will allow us to have a conference in presence. Nevertheless, we are checking the possibilities to stream the keynote speeches and the General Assembly for those who are not able to come.

We will keep you updated.

For further information please visit the following websites:

www.cifinternational.com

www.cif-germany.de/CIF-Conference-2023/Information-English/

Hope to see you in Hannover!

Best wishes

Board members and volunteers of CIF-Germany

August 2022



The dates

EC	June 8 – 9, 2023
BD	June 10 – 12, 2023
CIF-Conference	June 12 – 17, 2023
Post-Conference tour	June 17 – 20, 2023



Annual CIF-meeting, October 16, 2021

CIF-Conference 2023 – Hannover, Germany

CALL FOR PAPERS

The CIF-Conference 2023 topic will be discussed and further developed in workshops.

We are now looking for workshop leaders!

TOPIC:

Social Work leading towards Social Justice and Sustainability – Be part of it!

Social justice is a fundamental issue for social work all around the world.

According to the Global Definition of Social Work “principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work”. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations comprises 17 goals to end poverty, reduce inequality, improve lives and prospects of everyone everywhere and to protect the planet – among them goals with a social dimension which directly lead to the mandate of social work.

Given these goals, the CIF-Conference 2023 will provide an opportunity to take a look at different aspects of social justice with a focus on sustainability:

- What does “sustainability” mean in terms of Social Work? To what extent is (or is not) Social Work sustainable today?
- In which way can social workers contribute to achieve more justice regarding human rights, poverty, health and well-being, education and gender issues?
- How can principles and strategies of empowerment, participation and networking be beneficial to improve the life of people?

The workshops:

The workshops are intended to take up, deepen and further develop the key questions of the conference in relation to individual subject areas. In doing so, we want to focus on the goals of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

We have formed six topic groups from these goals for our conference workshops to concentrate on:

SDG 1 Poverty

This 2030 Agenda goal is based on a holistic understanding of poverty. The goal of sustainable development is a life of all people in dignity. Poverty can only be overcome globally in the long term if people have equal access to good work, quality

education and health care, and when human rights are guaranteed and people can live in peace.

All people worldwide must be actively involved in promoting sustainability.

The 2030 Agenda places special emphasis on “leaving no one behind”. It demands more attention must be paid to people often suffering from poverty and discrimination in order to promote equal opportunities for all.

SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being

Health is one of the 17 global sustainability goals (Sustainable Development Goals = SDGs). It is directly related to other SDGs. For example, people who are starving (SDG 2) or who have no access to clean drinking water (SDG 6) cannot live healthy lives.

The most important sub-goals of SDG 3 range from ensuring health care for all, putting an end to the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics, fighting diseases of civilization, preventing and treating drug abuse and excessive alcohol use, implementing the Tobacco Framework Convention, guaranteeing access to medicine and vaccines, reducing child and maternal mortality, combatting tropical diseases and epidemics, to strengthening the capacities for early warning systems, management of global health risks and reducing the numbers of diseases caused by environmental pollution.

SDG 4 Quality Education

Education enables upward socio-economic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty.

Education helps to reduce inequalities and to achieve gender equality and is crucial to fostering tolerance and more peaceful societies.

Over the past decade, major progress has been made towards increasing access to education and school enrollment rates at all levels, particularly for girls. Nevertheless, about 258 million children and youth were still out of school in 2018 – nearly one fifth of the global population in that age group.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe, countries announced the temporary closure of schools, impacting more than 91 per cent of students worldwide. By April 2020, close to 1.6 billion children and youth were out of school.

SDG 10 Equality

With this goal the UN aims to reduce inequality in and among countries.

Furthermore, inequality is seen as a cross-cutting topic within all 17 goals in order to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda. The Agenda's guiding principle "leaving no one behind" expresses this especially.

By means of goal 10 the growth of income of the poorest 40 % of the population is to be raised in a sustainable way. All people must be enabled to

self-determination and their social, economic and political inclusion is to be developed. Step by step increasing equality should be reached through fiscal

measures as well as wages policy measures and measures of social protection. Equality of opportunity is to be given through the repeal of discriminatory laws, politics and practice. An orderly, sure and responsible migration of people is to make bearable - between others - through a systematic and well managed migration policy. Besides that, development

money and cross-border flow of finances - including foreign direct investments - are to be created especially with direction to less developed countries. Countries in development must be given a stronger representation in international institutions of economy and finances and their increasing participation in the decision-making process must be ensured.

SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Sustainable development is impossible without a secure environment and institutions that act in accordance with the rule of law. Ethical incorruptible

governance is an essential prerequisite for a country's peace, justice and judicial proceedings.

Economic prosperity and the development of a democratic constitutional state

require not only the observance of fundamental and human rights, but a sound administration that respects the rule of law. The most important sub goals of SDG 16 are to: create peaceful and inclusive societies, fight all forms of organized crime, build effective, transparent and accountable institutions, guarantee access to justice for all, combat corruption and limit illicit finance transactions and arms trafficking.

Multiple SDGs Ecology and Economy

Economic growth, social development and climate

protection are highly dependent on investments in infrastructure, sustainable industrial development and technological progress. In the face of a rapidly changing global economic landscape and increasing inequalities, sustained growth must include industrialization that first of all creates opportunities for all, and second, is supported by innovation and resilient infrastructure.

Inclusive and sustainable industrialization, together with innovation and infrastructure, can unleash dynamic and competitive economic forces that generate employment and income. They play a key role in introducing and promoting new technologies, facilitating international trade and enabling the efficient use of resources.

The growth of new industries means improvement in the standard of living for many. Whenever industries implement sustainability measures, they will have a positive effect on the environment.

You can find more information about the goals here:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>

If you do have another workshop idea related to our conference topic, please suggest it. We will consider it.

In terms of methodology, the workshop leaders can freely design the units.

In principle the workshops should:

- **inform:** participants expand their expertise in this area
- **inspire:** participants transfer this information to their work area and exchange ideas
- **activate:** participants develop concrete and realistic implementation ideas

A workshop lasts 90 minutes and there will be between 20 and 30 participants.

If you are interested in offering a workshop, please send us a short abstract

of your planned workshop by January 31st 2023 to: kirsten.prange@web.de

You can also send further questions about the workshops to this e-mail address.

We are looking forward to receiving your ideas!

BE PART OF IT!



CIF-Conference 2023 – Hannover, Germany

POST CONFERENCE TOURS

General information:

All tours depart from the main train station in Hannover at 10 am on Saturday, June 17th, 2023.

Transportation will be by train to the named destinations.

The accommodation will be in single or double rooms in ** and ***-star hotels.

The size of the groups will be 20 to 30 people.

If there are not enough registrations, a tour maybe cancelled. In that case you can switch to a different post conference tour.

The cost for the tours will vary from 400 – 480 Euro, depending on the destination and whether a single or double room is chosen. Detailed information will follow as soon as possible.

If you would like to find someone to share a double room, please contact conference2023@cif-germany.de and we will try to find you a roommate.

Included in the price are accommodation, breakfasts, guided tours, and public transportation.

The tours will end at your destination hotel after breakfast on Tuesday, June 20th, 2023.

If you would like to return to Hannover, we will help with the needed arrangements.

The registration deadline for all post conference tours is **March 1st 2023**.

Payment is to be made after receiving the confirmation in the beginning of March.

We recommend a travel (cancellation) insurance.

Post-Tour 1: Hamburg

Travel time from Hannover to Hamburg approx. 2 hours

Accommodation in the heart of Hamburg at the famous „Reeperbahn“

Highlights: Harbour Boat Tour, Elb-Philharmonie, Harbour City, OldTown, „Schanzenviertel“

Post-Tour 2: Berlin

Travel time from Hannover to Berlin approx. 3 hours

Highlights: Boat Trip on the Spree River, Reichstag building, Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Wall, Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe - Holocaust Memorial, bus-tour

Post-Tour 3: “Hansa Cities” - Lübeck and Wismar

Travel time from Hannover to Lübeck approx. 2,5 hours

Highlights: Lübeck’s famous landmark “Holsten Gate”, medieval heart of

Lübeck’s Old Town as a World Heritage Site with three gothic brick

churches and a historical Town Hall, International Museum of the

Hansa (optional)

trip to Wismar, one of the best-preserved medieval town centers in Germany, World Heritage, City of the Hanseatic league, old town with monumental brick churches and an impressive market square, harbour trip



CIF Hellas IPEP 2022

In the following text I will share some of my memories related to my participation in the CIF-Hellas Program. I already applied for the program in 2020 and fortunately got accepted.

But then the Corona virus entered the world stage and destroyed any kind of travel plans. Finally, after two long years of waiting the CIF-Hellas Program took place from 14th – 26th June 2022.

First of all, I must say that it was an impressive program with so many exciting impressions and I can't tell all of them. So this are just some of my memories I would like to share.

The arrival in Athens was warm in two kind of ways- the welcome meeting as well as the weather.

We started with a orientation seminar to get to know each other. That was very helpful. In the following two weeks we visited a lot of different agencies. Some of them where: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), the Aeginitio Psychiatric Hospital, Atrapos OKANA, the Juvenile Probation Office, the Department of Support and Social Integration for Refugees, ELPIDA Friends Association of children with cancer and the KETHEA-STROFI.

We learned a lot about the social system and social work in Greece. About the accomplishments as well as the challenges the professionals are facing.

We also saw the beauty of the country. We visited the famous Acropolis, the Herodion Theatre and went to Vravona an archeological place outside Athens.

After finishing the program, I continued to travel to Crete where I hiked the amazing Samaria Gorge and then to Santorini where I enjoyed my off days.

I'm very thankful to the people of CIF-Hellas who makes this experience possible and unforgettable.

Written by Lars-Christian Christiansen
participant from Germany



CIF Israel Peace Project

May 8 – May 22, 2022

Introduction:

CIF Israel proposal was presented to EC and BD in spring 2019 to be conducted in spring 2020.

The proposal was outlined as follows:

".... according to CIF International guidelines: "International Professional Exchange Program



(IPEP) participants representing equally conflicting groups with specific peace related activities worked out".

The program is conducted in collaboration with an organization involved in peace and conflict resolution issues, sharing the same philosophy as CIF.

The project is aimed to enhance cross-cultural coexistence: Encounter the possibility of diverse cultures flourishing side by side, in mutual respect, without loss of one's identity or culture.



It will take place in a village - Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom. It is in Arabic and Hebrew "Oasis of Peace": an intentional community jointly established by Jewish and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. The village is located midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

More information about the village:



<https://www.wasns.org>

Residents can explain how this kind of coexistence works at the village and will discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Address political issues arising from the shared life lived at the village, in discussion groups or through lectures by a Palestinian and a Jewish Israeli speaker.



The main purpose:

"to expose our IPEP participants to an exclusive place where conflicted groups live together and demonstrate a practical expression to its vision of an egalitarian society through pioneering educational work at The School for Peace, Children's Educational System, and the Pluralistic Spiritual Centre".

Further on, the proposal stated that "IPEP will include an orientation to introduce the diverse fields of social work and welfare agencies for the Arabic and Jewish populations in the light of the Arab-Jewish conflict in Israel, the impact of the political, social and cultural situation on two million Arabs (out of nine million citizens in Israel) as well



as Jews who are Israeli citizens living and working together”.

In conclusion: “The program will be part of the Israeli IPEP and will offer, beside the living and activities in the village, Arabic and Jewish host families, visits to Arabic and Jewish agencies and meetings with Arabic and Jewish professionals”.

The proposal stated the benefit as follows:

“Recruiting Jewish and Arab professionals who are involved in the village agencies and activities

to CIF through personal networks, open meetings, and conferences in the village and around the country”.

Organizing the program with Neve Shalom and taking part in the village activities, as well as connecting with the organization which strive for the same purpose and the same vision of CIF, may offer a chance to organize a CIF international conference in Israel in this unique place in the future”.

CIF Israel was granted with nine hundred Euro and was ready to start to work on the project when the pandemic broke out. Meetings with CIF Israel

members and professionals in the village set a plan which was postponed three times till it could be realized in spring 2022.

In this period of time, CIF Israel faced changes in planes, higher prices and the value of the grant went down. Therefore, the project was published with needed changes and asking for IPEP fee of 350 Euro. Four participants were accepted while during the time two dropped out, one was accepted in 2022 and one dropped in March 2022, so we ended with three participants. Furthermore, one participant arrived a week late due to Covid and joined the others, one participant arrived three days ahead and needed to be hosted till the program started.

Program description:

The program started on Sunday May 8, 2022, in Jerusalem with a welcome meeting and two participants presentations. These two participants were hosted at one home for four nights.

The professional program started the next day with an orientation meeting at the International Relations Department, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security following with a visit to Yad Vashem: Holocaust Museum. Later, the participants accompanied by CIF members visited the city market and cultural-touristic sites in Jerusalem.

The next day participants visited the Old City of Jerusalem and an Arabic girls' school while accompanied by CIF Israel Arabic member. Later they visited Israel Museum with CIF Israel members.

The next day participants visited an Orthodox Women Shelter and then an archeological site with educational activities including school, after school and summer camp programs for children with special needs and youth at-risk where they use





nature to return to normative environments, new immigrant children and others. The participants met with a group of Arabic girls from a nearby neighborhood who were taking part in the program.

On the fifth day, the participants went to other host families in the north part of the country. Over the weekend they had visits to various places

with CIF Israeli members. Entering hotel rooms and lunch, introduction, and orientation tour in the village with a village habitant and head of village foreign affairs.

In the evening: Pickup by CIF members for a tour in the ancient mixed Arabic and Jewish populations cities Lod & Ramla.



where they experienced a variety of cultures and touristic sites which reflect societies, cultures and religious including a visit to a Kibbutz.

On Saturday they visited a child protection center and prevention of family violence in the Arabic society in Nazareth and one participant, who just joined the program, was accompanied by CIF Israel Arabic member to religious and cultural sites around.

On Sunday morning two participants visited an Absorption Center for Ethiopians and all three participants met together at the village where the Peace Project started.

Peace Program description:

On May 15 noon, arriving in "Oasis of Peace"

Next day meeting with Elementary bilingual school manager and staff to learn about the special system and unique program for Arabic and Jewish children in the school. Later, meeting at the village library with the School of Peace leaders and visiting the art gallery with one of the inhabitants' Arabic artists. Later they met with her husband Rayek who authored a book: "The Anteater and the Jaguar" - A Story from the Oasis of Peace. In the book, he shares his journey in Israel, Palestine and in the Oasis of Peace, discusses the history of NSWAS and explores the questions: "Who are we politically?" "What is our stance toward the wider conflict?" "How can we bridge gaps between our two narratives? And more importantly, "How do we, in the face of the wider conflict, educate the





children of the community?"

Evening: Joining the community at the Pluralistic Spiritual Centre for a dinner, movie, and discussion with the movie actor along with community members and CIF Israeli members.

The next day started after breakfast with cultural activity with the elementary school students. Following a meeting with school staff for discussion and lunch.

Then, a guided tour to Emmaus and discussion about the Palestinian situation past, present, and future. Later, meeting with CIF Israeli members to elaborate and discuss the day experiences.

The next day (fourth day in Neve Shalom) after breakfast, Mindfulness, mediation and coping with trauma session moderated by CIF Israel members and chairpersons of "Ossim Shalom" organization.

The Peace Project in "Oasis of Peace" village was completed and the participants left with CIF Israel members to Tel Aviv area while visiting another historical site. They started the last part of the program at other host families.

The first day with another host family, the participants met with two CIF Israeli members to visit together a youth Hostel and shelter for disadvantaged youth who cannot stay with their families.

Later, they had a tour in Old Jaffa while one participant continued the tour, two others went with a CIF Israel member to meet at one of the host family a social worker who specializes in Inclusion and accessibility in higher education and employment for people with disabilities and learning disabilities. He led the accessibility of institutions of higher education in Israel, including the establishment of support centers and policy-making processes in the field. A Zoom meeting was held with a professor in Thailand through the participant who connected these two professionals to discuss their work in the same area. The meeting of the three opened an opportunity to continue with their discussions in Thailand and in Israel.

Later, the participants had free time to spend time with their host families and to prepare the evaluation form.



The next day, the participants went to visit an Arabic town and met with the citizens. When the participants returned from their tour. The Spanish participant (who arrived five days later to the program and missed the Jerusalem part) showed his presentation. Then, we had the evaluation meeting while each of the participants described and discussed the experiences and conclusions.

Following the evaluation meeting there was a farewell party and a final group picture

Program evaluation as reported by the participants:

The Peace Project exposed CIF participants to the different problems and confrontations between two nations and different diverse cultures within a tense political environment: "The conflict between the Jews and Palestinians is very complicated...living in "Oasis of Peace" was a great experience as residents try their way to find out the solution for the conflict – it's hard work but need to be preserved to bring a change...."

"...CIF Israel arranged not just "Oasis of Peace" but visits to many places to get the idea of how, why, and what Israel is all about..."

From the professional point of view: "...social workers have to engage with complex and diverse situations when ethnic and religious issues are difficult to treat, and it is impressive to learn that the social workers can understand the abuser and can bring a change...as well as the methods used to help the youth in distress..."

The program was reported as "no problems" about information regarding CIF before the program, receiving adequate information from CIF Israel about the program before arrival and there were no problems with the application process. Two participants were accepted two years ago, and the third participant was accepted last year when a new deadline was published.

All participants had experience with IPEP before arrival and the only complain was that they had to follow the Covid-19 requirements by themselves. Also, because of the special situation



after the pandemic, CIF Israel was more flexible with hosting the participants when they arrived up to three days before the program started. As reported before, the third participant arrived 5 days late but was hosted after the program was completed and had two days orientation and tours in Jerusalem.

All participants reported on high satisfaction with the professional aspects of the program, the cultural/social exchanges and the host families living.

They all reported a very high satisfaction and strong impression regarding the program in "Oasis of Peace".

Peace Project results:

1. The purpose to expose our IPEP participants to an exclusive place where conflicted groups live together and show a practical expression to its vision of an egalitarian society through pioneering educational work at The School for Peace, Children's Educational System and the Pluralistic Spiritual Centre was fully achieved.

2. The purpose to introduce the diverse fields of social work and welfare agencies for the Arabic and Jewish populations in the light of the Arab-Jewish conflict in Israel, the impact of the political, social, and cultural situation on two million Arabs as well as Jews who are Israeli citizens living and working together was fully achieved.



3. In line with the proposal, the program was part of the Israeli IPEP and offered, beside the living and activities in the village, living with Jewish host families but not with Arabic families though there were visits to Arabic and Jewish agencies and meetings with Arabic and Jewish professionals and cultures. Also, the plan to have host families in the village could not be reached and the participants lived in the local hotel.

4. The participants had a full program in the village arranged ahead by CIF Israel, but no plan was set for CIF Israel members to take part in several activities (like at the schools and at the coffee shop) to support and help the participants and the staff to exchange information on CIF. Those activities which involved CIF Israel members were very well received by the participants, the community, and the

professionals.

5. The benefit expected from the program did not realize: We didn't succeed in recruiting Jewish and Arab professionals who are involved in the village agencies and its activities to CIF branch though we tried to explain who we are. On the other hand, organizing the program in the village and taking part in the village activities as well as connecting with organizations which strive for the same purpose and the same vision of CIF, may offer a chance to organize a CIF international conference in Israel in this unique place in the future.

Dr. Edna Bar On, CIF Israel President

Pictures thanks to CIF Israel participants and members

CIP Webinar Series

Global Perspectives: Human Trafficking

In continuing our work in the human services field, CIP has developed "Global Perspectives" a virtual program designed to partner with experts around the world to provide global perspectives on issues facing individuals, communities, and nations in order to build bridges of mutual understanding.

CIP established a new community partnership with the [Renee Jones Empowerment Center](#) in Cleveland, Ohio earlier this year to address the issues of human trafficking and bring educational webinars to a global audience. As of June 2022, Ohio ranks fifth in the United States for human trafficking cases.

The four-part webinar series includes topics such as best practices in addressing human trafficking, trauma-informed care for victims of human trafficking, and advocacy for victims of human trafficking. Utilizing CIP and CIF's vast network of professional connections, international panelists have included: Dr. Clemencia Ramirez Herrera (Colombia), Karin Werkman of Fier (Netherlands), Priti Patkar of Prerana (India), and Iana Matei of Reaching Out Romania (Romania). The webinar series has attracted an audience of 150 from more than 15 countries over the first three webinars.



The fourth and final webinar, focusing on advocating for victims of human trafficking, will be held on **Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 11:30 am EST**. Individuals interested in attending the webinar should [register](#) ahead of time. Panelists will include **Dr. Albina Balidemaj**, Associate Dean of Students and Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology - RIT Global Campus, RIT Kosovo, **Angeliki Serafim**, Greek NRM Legal Advisor at the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), and **John Morgan**, Cleveland Police Detective and member of the Ohio Attorney General's Cuyahoga Regional Human Trafficking Task Force.

KNOW HUMAN TRAFFICKING



In addition to the global perspectives webinar series, CIP and the Renee Jones Empowerment Center have partnered to offer a three to four-week professional development internship with the Renee Jones Empowerment Center in Cleveland in 2023. Interested applicants should contact Lisa Purdy (lisa@cipusa.org) for additional information.

The Renee Jones Empowerment Center (RJEC) Professional Development Internship will equip interns with hands-on training and knowledge about the Project Red Cord Programs, services, and new RJEC initiatives. Individuals will learn how these models can be used in various countries to provide services to victims while educating the community on human trafficking prevention and awareness. Individuals will work directly with the RJEC Director and RJEC staff to develop strategies for how RJEC programs and services models can be used in the intern's country.

Individuals will gain a full understanding of the day-to-day operations of Renee Jones Empowerment Center. On-the-job training will occur daily at the direction of the individuals' supervisor and other RJEC staff, Board Members, and volunteers. Individuals will develop skills vitally important in today's nonprofit environment including team-based interaction, the ability to manage outcome without having direct authority over others, and the capability to use innovation to change hopeless environments into empowered communities.

- Time Frame: 3 to 4 weeks in 2023 (date to be determined between individual and RJEC)
- Internship is unpaid. Applicant is responsible for airfare and personal expenses, including international health insurance
- Lodging and Transportation: Vetted host family to provide housing, meals, and assistance with transportation to RJEC and outreach activities
- Applicant Requirements: English proficiency, bachelor's degree and minimum one year of experience in the field (five years of experience in lieu of a bachelor's degree)
- Council of International Programs will assist with visa support

Interested applicants should submit a resume and statement of interest to Lisa Purdy (lisa@cipusa.org).

The first step after Pandemic restrains

A well successful CIF Finland IPEP22

Indeed, it wasn't easy for the program prepared to execution in regard to the Covid-19 pandemic situation at the time. Having an opportunity to have the physical CIF Finland IPEP22 was a milestone for us, the participants of the program. Unlikely, one could imagine or experience a daily Finish way of life through a virtual program. Think about the sauna bath, swimming in the lake with zero degrees Celsius or below, this was a breakthrough program from what the world had experienced for the last two years.

Despite of all the challenges and uncertainty that could be in place due to the pandemic, the Finish CIF team had wonderful preparation plans for the program implementation. All participants acknowledge the richness of the CIF Finland team for their commitment, organization, love, and support, and cherish all the time throughout the application process to the program. "The first step" program had well-coordinated Agency visits in Helsinki and in all other different cities/towns where each one of us was placed on the second week of the program according to the area of interest.

We were extremely impressed with the choice of the agencies and truly we learned a lot from the visits and dialogues we had. This meant a lot to our professions, work daily duties and as well a chance to reflect on our country's CIF branches. Upon returning home the group members have more knowledge, links, and means to work and develop new approaches to peace projects in our respective countries.

Through the strong, lovely and kind host family network built up, all participants had a wonderful moment to live in different host families and get to experience what is like daily finish life. This is the moment experience each one of us is carrying back to our home countries.

Again, we thank all the people who worked with CIF Finland to make this experience happen and particularly after the pandemic breakout which made physical programs impossible for the last two years. We were so happy with the hospitality and support we had from you all. Indeed it was a high level of commitment to make sure everything was in place and that we were fine all the time.

Awadhi

by Mr Awadhi Hamis,
a participant from Tanzania



CIF France 2022 programme

Four years passed before we did a face-to-face programme again to welcome participants in France.

In 2019, a conference in Saint Malo, the last international event organised by CIF France, during which we were able to share beautiful moments with our friends from (almost) every continent.

In 2020 and 2021 the COVID disrupted our international life and we could not organise our hosting programmes.

In 2022, finally, it happened again.

13 people had applied to participate in the CIF France programme, some of whom had been selected for the 2020 programme, and we had maintained contact with them.

7 participants for this programme, which was initially planned for June 2022, had been postponed to October of the same year.

It was a great pleasure for the CIF France team to welcome them and to share beautiful moments of work and conviviality.

The reception of the group in Paris allowed us to get to know our team and also to have rich exchanges with the group: 2 Spain, 2 Morocco, 1 Kirghizstan, 1 Romania, 1 Sweden. A real international group as we wanted. For this orientation programme: an approach to social work with professionals and Michel Chauvières, a researcher in social work who regularly shares the fruit of his work with CIF France. Of course, there were also times to discover the sights of Paris. Time passes very quickly and these moments seemed too short to all.

Then the group split up for a little over two weeks for the practical programmes to discover



areas chosen according to the objectives of each participant: Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Aix en Provence, Rennes, Paris and Saint Florent sur Cher welcomed each of the participants in their professional teams.

The evaluation period allowed for reunions..... but contacts had been maintained between them through social networks. Sonia Panafieu and Mireille Boucher led this period: work in the premises of the Mission Locale de Saint Florent sur Cher (a long-standing partner of CIF France), discovery of Bourges, reception at the town

hall of Saint Florent sur Cher.

They were delighted to meet up again and would have liked to stay together longer.

We strongly encouraged them to get involved in their branch to welcome participants from other countries and to rejuvenate our branches.

We took the opportunity to talk about the European ECCAY programme

We are delighted that this long 2-year project, which took up a lot of our time, has enabled us to organise the programme of participants, and thus to do so for the next group in 2023 under the same conditions. The candidates who had to postpone their participation are already on the list.

The last evening was a moment of conviviality with the local partners and host families, and then it was time for everyone to return to their country, their family and their professional activities.

What beautiful memories for all and for us too, we are already preparing the 2023 programme which we hope will be as rich in encounters, as dynamic and as warm.

Sonia Panafieu Vice President CIF France

Mireille Boucher President CIF France



My IPEP in Argentina

First impressions

After a quiet flight, Alicia Gardel CIF Argentina, picked the Greek participant and me up at the airport at 6 am on September 1st, 2022. We were taken to our first host families. A warm welcome from my host family, Carina and her husband Mariano. They have two grown daughters who are in college. They live in an attic apartment with a small terrace. Carina works as a social worker in a children's hospital. The stroll in downtown Buenos Aires was already most interesting: a leisurely walk along Puerto Madero alongside the wide Rio de la Plata. Nearby is the main government building. We observed how groups of people with blue and white flags were converging from different side streets. Carina explained that the situation was a bit tense. On this first day, there were demonstrations due to an assassination attempt on the incumbent vice president, Christina Kirchner. We talked to a security officer and heard that the situation was very serious. However, they did not assume that a military coup would occur. (Nor did it!) With Carina we always ate out in restaurants. The two days with her were so pleasant and cordial!

Getting to know each other

As a kick-off for the five members of the IPEP group, we all spent the first weekend in Chascomus. The city of Chascomus is about two hours away from Buenos Aires. Here I got to know better the Argentine CIF representatives, Monica Guarino, Susana Garcia Penaloza, Silvia Nutter, Silvia Marceca, Silvina Dagorret, Marta Murray and the other four IPEP colleagues. With the help of the documents we received, we learned how the two weeks were being organized and who our contact persons were. There were important tips to consider for the exchange of money, since we might encounter some risks regarding exchange rates, due to high inflation. These two days were very helpful. Due to their warm and open manner we felt well integrated, and this remained so for both weeks.

Following this weekend, I went on to spend the first



by
Marisa Tejo Löönd, Switzerland

week with my second host family. Well embedded in everyday life with helpful outlined information, I found the agreed meeting points without any problems.

The first week

The five of us always travelled together in the IPEP group with the CIF representatives. We visited institutions, organisations and ministries in Buenos Aires, such as the

- Palace of Nations, the seat of the Argentine National Congress,

- Plaza de Mayo,
- Ministry of Social Development,
- Linea 102, the free telephone service for children and adolescents to learn about their rights,
- Barrio Mitre, a legendary residential neighbourhood defended by an elderly woman, acting for 60 years to help people obtain affordable housing in the big city,
- ESMA, a secret detention, torture and





extermination centre. In Argentina, during the period of state terrorism 1976 - 1983, there was a total of 23 such centres.

- Visits to hospitals, civil and family courts,
- Visit to the Department of Social Work of the University and participation in an open exchange with a student class.

The second week

My place of stay changed to Tigre and to the third host family. Tigre is the capital of the large delta area near Buenos Aires. My new host mother was a social worker, Graciela, who lives alone and sees her adult son very often. Fortunately, this son put his car at our disposal, so that Graciela and I could visit the institutions organized for this week. These are all located outside Tigre, between 20 - 30 km away.

The second week was designated to look at my field of special interest, child protection. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning I was with my host mother Graciela in the large General Directorate for the Strengthening of Local Services and the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, Prevention Area for Families and got to know the Department for Placements of Children.

The afternoons from Tuesday and Wednesday Graciela and I visited a Children's home, Querubines with its Psychological and Social office as well as the school social services of Primary School N° 28 Laprida and Belgrano, at Bancalari.

With Susana Kaiser from CIF Argentina we visited the Pediatric Clinic Dr. Florencio Escarro. There we

participated in a case discussion on the pregnancy of a 10-year-old and the birth of her son, born with Downs Syndrome. 25 professionals from pediatrics, health, social work, as well as legal representatives shared what could have been done differently and what had worked well.

On Friday we all went back to Buenos Aires and with the CIF Argentina Team we had an evaluation of the two weeks of the IPEP and received our Certificate of participation from CIF Argentina. We all celebrated the end of the program on Saturday night at the wonderful roof terrace of Monica Guarino and her husband, enjoying a delicious dinner and a farewell party.

Review

What amazed me most about social services was the fast way of working and especially the well structured interdisciplinary cooperation. Where we were able to gain insight into processes, teams of three professionals mostly worked together: social workers, psychologists and lawyers.

This allows short routes for decisions and for taking the necessary measures. In casework, systemic and behavioural therapy methods are used for the most part.

Both weeks were very rich and exciting for me and fortunately I was able to communicate very well thanks to my mother tongue being Spanish. The reactions I got when I mentioned that I was from Switzerland were along the lines: "Does Switzerland have any social cases at all?" or how beautiful Switzerland is and so rich.

I am left with unforgettable experiences and encounters with the host families, but also with the CIF team on site. We IPEP participants are still in contact with each other and with the host families. Many thanks to CIF-Argentina and CIF-Switzerland for allowing me to participate in this program.

Marisa Tejo Lüönd



**CIF INTERNATIONAL – 2023 ELECTION
CALL FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) NOMINATIONS!!
*PLEASE RESPOND ON OR BEFORE APRIL 2023***

To All CIF Members

The election for CIF EC will take place during the 35th CIF International Conference in Hannover June 12-17th 2023.

Nominations are open for all EC positions!

Send your additional nominations and nominee agreement now to the Election Committee by email (scan and/or email the required signatures) using the Nominations Form.

Note: nominations can be accepted up to 24 hours before the election however, we want to identify qualified, willing and well-prepared nominees before we arrive at the Conference.

NOMINEE QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Agree to be nominated.
2. CIF Member (paid CIF International dues).
3. Must have attended a CIF or CIP USA exchange program in the past.
4. Must have Internet connection, email capability and state-of-the-art.
5. Active and committed to CIF goals.
6. Should be ready to volunteer 2-3 hours per week (depending of the seasonal tasks).

Our bylaws allow no more than eight (8) consecutive years in any position on the EC. ***Most of the current EC members are eligible and ready to be renominated*** for their present position or for a new position, except Merja Niemela (vice president).

Additional candidates must be identified to create a truly democratic election with competition and to identify/develop future leaders.

Election Committee members are available to answer your questions and willing to consider your communication with us as confidential.

Your Election Committee:

Ilse Hoffmann-Klee, Convener (CIF Germany) hoffmann.ilse@gmx.de.

Mieke Weeda (CIF Netherlands) mieke.weeda@gmail.com.

Catherine Psarouli (CIF Hellas) kpsaroul@otenet.gr.

IN MEMORIAM –

Mary Koustelou - Giannikaki (CIF Hellas)

One of CIF Hellas's most senior members, Mary Koustelou - Giannikaki, passed away last July. Mary Koustelou - Giannikaki participated in the CIPUSA Program in 1966 as a Social Worker. She was one of the founder members of our NB.

She worked and gave a lot to CIF Hellas and the field of social work. Also she worked as a member of CIF Hellas's Board.

Over the years, we shared moments of joy with her, responsibilities from different roles we had as CIF members.

She was a lovely human being, very upbeat, very hospitable, with a strong sense of humor.

Her family and friends will miss her as will CIF Hellas members.



Kees van de Klundert.

Dear CIF members,

Unfortunately, on July 15, 2022, our member of many years, Kees van der Klundert, passed away.

Kees has been a member of CIF Netherlands since 1982. He became a member after participating in the CIF program in the United States of America and later (1987) also in India. A country that he took close to his heart from that moment on and with which he has maintained an intensive relationship ever since.

Kees was an active member of CIF Netherlands for many years. He was actively involved in our Exchange Program, organized internships for many of our participants, was a host family and, as an experienced member, he gave us many advices.

In addition to his activities for CIF Netherlands, Kees has also set up his own exchange organization, IDEA. He used this to organize exchanges for Indian and Dutch students who specialized in agriculture and forestry. He brought many students to the Netherlands for a program in agriculture and agricultural training.

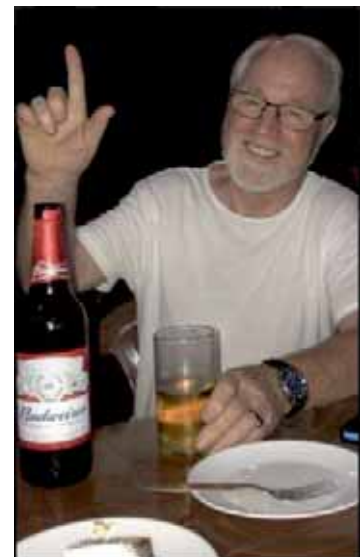
CIF has been able to benefit from his experiences all the time. Kees was an amiable man, who was always ready to assist in our programs and to share his knowledge and experience.

We look back on our time with him with fondness and gratitude and will miss him. We wish his family and friends in the Netherlands and abroad, especially India, strength with this loss.

On behalf of CIF The Netherlands,

David Scheele

President



Obituary for Klaus Ahrens (08/08/1935 - 05/22/2022)

On May 22nd 2022, our long time member Klaus Ahrens died at the age of eighty-seven after a short, serious illness. I met Klaus first in 1960 when our CIF was founded in the Hamburg Youth Hostel "Stintfang" as a parallel association to the "Cleveland International Program for Youth Leaders and Social Workers (CIP)". Klaus had attended one of the first CIP

programs in 1958, all of which were in Cleveland, Ohio at the time. Henry Ollendorff had created this company out of his own terrible experiences in Nazi Germany, so that in his homeland, Germany, a youth should never again grow up like he had to experience as a Jew. To this end, in 1956 he invited twenty-five German youth leaders and social workers who were expected to act as "multipliers" in the upbringing and education of post-war youth. They should be given a chance to get to know and appreciate professional as well as private

and social life in a democratic country in order to then implement the newly gained knowledge in post-war Germany. Just one year later, CIP became international.

Klaus and I have met many times since then. Not only at the international CIP/CIF conferences that take place every two years, but also in between, e.g. when Henry Ollendorff was in Hamburg to select new applicants for participation in the CIP. We then met in private with Henry for extensive discussions. I got to know, liked and valued Klaus as someone who was very open to the message of "Henry" right from the start and also knew how to implement his new experiences and insights in many ways. He had good opportunities for this as an active member and functionary of the union and especially as a teacher and headmaster. He developed a series of school activities that significantly supplemented the lessons in cultural and social terms.

In our conversations, Klaus always presented himself as a socially and politically critical contemporary. That seems understandable to me in view of his experiences as a child during the bombing war in Hamburg, being bombed out with subsequent evacuation of the family to Austria, the end of the war and the return to Hamburg. In Austria, too, the family had to flee again from the fightings after Russian troops invaded Austria and were finally able to return to Hamburg in mid-1946. He attended elementary school, as was possible at the time, at different places of residence. In 1949 Klaus received a grant to stay in Yorkshire (England) for several months, where he continued to attend school. At that time, 4 years after the end of the war, Hamburg was still considered a British occupation zone (until September 1949).

After graduating from high school, Klaus initially began an administrative apprenticeship, which he did not like. Instead, he decided to study education and sports. In order to finance his livelihood during this time, he took up a number of practical jobs. These ranged from unskilled work in a factory to bookkeeping, driving and working as a youth secretary in a youth organization. In the summer of 1957 he worked during the semester break for UNESCO in Paris on racial integration. It was at this time that he applied to attend the CIP, was accepted, and then attended from April to September 1958. After his return he continued his studies in Hamburg. As part of the program, Klaus was employed at a summer camp for socially disadvantaged children in Cleveland, the Hiram House Camp.

From today's perspective, it seems to me to be important to take a closer look at this résumé because it characterizes the person Henry Ollendorff was looking for as a "multiplier" and innovator in West German society at the time and on whom he placed his hopes. After all,

CIP was originally financed from funds that the American government had earmarked for its "Readucational Program of the German People". It was about overcoming National Socialist (Nazi) ideologies through democratization.

The impressions he brought back from America must have given Klaus new perspectives for future developments in the German Federal Republic. In this sense, Klaus Ahrens was certainly one of

the formative democratic forces in the education of a youth who then also became capable of initiating a "Sixty-Eight Movement". Anyone who knew Klaus will know that his work was not an uncritical adaptation to US conditions. Rather, he tried to create a new, unique way to build a democratic Federal Republic, while also building on what he had learned in England at the time and particularly through the CIP.

Klaus was married to Hella and had two children and four grandchildren. He was usually accompanied by his wife at the CIF events, which he often attended over the years. Together with the married couple Dieter and Hella Bettels (also CIP members), with whom the two were close friends, the Ahrens couple undertook extensive trips to the country of the conference after the foreign conferences, mostly on their own. They continued this habit even after Klaus had retired early as head of a school in Hamburg. Klaus often took an active part in the conferences themselves. Unforgotten is the sale of real Hamburger "Rollmöpsen", which he also designed together with Dieter Bettels, both in Hamburg fisherman's clothes with fisherman's hats, for the pleasure of the participants. Klaus was also actively involved in the preparations for the Hamburg conference. Until the last few years, the group of 1958 participants at the CIP met in a European country. Klaus and Hella were mostly there. A nice example of how deep and lasting the effects of the experiences from these first years were and still are. The founding and development of the "Council of International Fellowships" is living proof of this.

With Klaus Ahrens, a participant in one of the first years of CIP has now left us after a fulfilled life. His professional and private life has left important traces and we will keep him in friendly memory.

Jürgen Kalcher



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January 2023

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WORLD NEWS November 2022

CIF International - The CIF Executive Committee 2021-2023

More than half of our term has already gone - so the Election Committee is about to search for new members to serve on the Executive Committee (EC) 2023-2025. The six of us feel that we definitely form a cohesive group, and we hope this was visible at the Board of Directors meeting in October 2022. We will go on through to June 2023 and until then there is a lot to do:

- CIF now has social media channels with Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Our website looks fresh and interesting, but all of these need constant attention, care and followers. **It is now up to our members, alumni and others to participate and make these channels lively and informative.**

- We know that there are professionals who would like to participate in our IPEPs, but do not have the financial means to do so. On the other hand, not all our IPEP places are filled; there are very often places, organized with lots of care, which eventually remain empty. By June 2023 we hope to have not only guidelines for a project to assist with finances to professionals and national branches who cannot offer their IPEPs without a fee, but also ideas where to find the money necessary for all this. These and other questions will be discussed in our IPEP Coordinators meetings in January 2023 as well as in June 2023.

- We will have to present to the next BD meeting a proposal on what to do with our "gold

mine", all the addresses of our alumni.

- According to Article 11 of our statutes, the EC "ensures the proper running of the Organization". This means: Annual Report 2022, Accounts, Budget 2024, statistics, preparation of the meetings in 2023, support of national branches and their sometimes huge activities such as organizing a conference, and so on.

- All these activities have been and will be developed in close contact with the Board of Directors. They have been discussed at the BD meeting in October and are open to BD members and other representatives of national branches.

- But the "proper running of the Organization" only supports what is CIF's single most important activity: the International Professional Exchange Programs, our IPEPs offered by national branches. In 2022 these were in Argentina, Austria, Israel, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Sweden, Turkey and the IPEP in Netherlands is imminent. These have been in English, in Spanish, in French. For 2023 already nine IPEPs have been announced.

Your Executive Committee is busy online, and eager to meet all of you face to face in Hannover. Until then we send you our warmest wishes

**Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen,
on behalf of Astrid Sehmer, Demet Gülaldi,
Maria José Tera Sanchez, Merja Niemelä, and
Silvia Nutter**



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SCHROBILTGEN
(SWITZERLAND)
PRESIDENT



MERJA
NIEMELÄ
(FINLAND)
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We're on the Web!
www.cifinternational.com

CIF-Conference 2023 – Hannover, Germany EC- and BD-Meetings

General Information:

EC- Meeting (June 8th to 9th 2023)

BD-Meeting (June 10th to 12th 2023)

The meeting will be held at our conference site "Kulturzentrum Pavillon", Lister Meile 4 in Hannover; www.pavillon-hannover.de .

The total BD-cost of 180 Euro includes meals (lunch, dinner, coffee break), conference room and technical equipment rental fees.



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Click on this link to join the CIP/CIF social media group and connect or reconnect with your CIP/CIF family and friends worldwide:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/89002757584/>

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