



**Council of International Fellowship**

# Council of International Fellowship 2022 Annual Report

[www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com)

**Contents**

- Contents ..... 2
- Introduction ..... 4
- International Professional Exchange Programs (IPEPs) ..... 5
  - General information ..... 6
  - Participants’ feedback about benefits of the IPEPs..... 9
  - Success stories in IPEPs ..... 9
  - Suggestions made for improvement of IPEPs in the future ..... 10
- Organizational Activities ..... 11
  - Board of Directors meetings..... 11
  - Executive Committee ..... 12
- Committees ..... 13
  - Election Committee..... 13
  - Financial Advisory Committee ..... 14
  - Social Media Team..... 15
  - Finances for IPEP participants ..... 16
- Financial Report ..... 17
- CIF National Branches..... 20
  - Public relations activities ..... 20
  - National and international activities/projects (apart from IPEPs)..... 21
  - New opportunities ..... 23
  - Aims and goals for the coming year(s) ..... 23
  - Distribution of information from CIF International, BD meetings etc. to individual members ..... 24
  - Comments about the cooperation between NBs and CIF International ..... 25
- CIPUSA Annual activity report..... 25
- Contact person and branch development..... 26
- World News ..... 28
- IFSW Award in memory of Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol ..... 28
- List of committees and working groups ..... 29

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

GA: General Assembly of CIF International  
BD: Board of Directors meeting of CIF International  
EC: Executive Committee of CIF International  
IPEP: International Professional Exchange Program  
VIPEP: Virtual International Professional Exchange Program  
CIP USA: Council of International Programs USA  
NB: National Branch of CIF International  
CP: Contact Person of CIF International

EDITORIAL BOARD: Executive Committee of CIF International  
EDITORIAL ADVISOR: Paul Dolan, Birmingham, UK.

Approved by the Board of Directors, June 10, 2023

## Introduction

What a difference in this report of 2022 compared to that of 2021, with several positive as well as some negative aspects!

CIF International, and most of its national branches, have gone back to normal, but have also made significant progress.

- National branches have organized successful International Professional Exchange Programs (IPEPs). They are run as before, but there is also some development in IPEPs, using more technical means, adapting to new circumstances and therefore trying out new ways of conducting them.
- CIF Germany has developed all parts of the 35<sup>th</sup> CIF Conference to be held in Hannover.
- CIF International is better connected to its members as well as to the rest of the world through the regular 'Letters' to our members, and through social media channels.
- CIF International's 62 years of work have been honoured by the International Federation of Social Workers' highest level of recognition, the Award in Memory of Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol.
- The war in Ukraine, but also conflicts in other areas of the world, have brought really close how much suffering there still is in the world.
- Yes, climate has always changed, but now this is much more man-made. It is not only politics, science, the 'others', who have to think about what can be done: not only to adapt, but to avoid further harm to us, to our neighbours closer and further away, and to nature itself. We have to do so too.
- What does all this mean for CIF's historic mission "*to promote professional, cross-cultural and educational exchange for those working in the field of social services. The learning and sharing generated by the exchange provides opportunities for broadening professional as well as personal development and so contributes to peace and understanding.*"? We do not know yet. But we will develop an understanding of what this means. There is a lot of work ahead of us.

It is my honour to thank everyone in CIF for working so much to develop the organisation and its activities, and for supporting its values into the future.

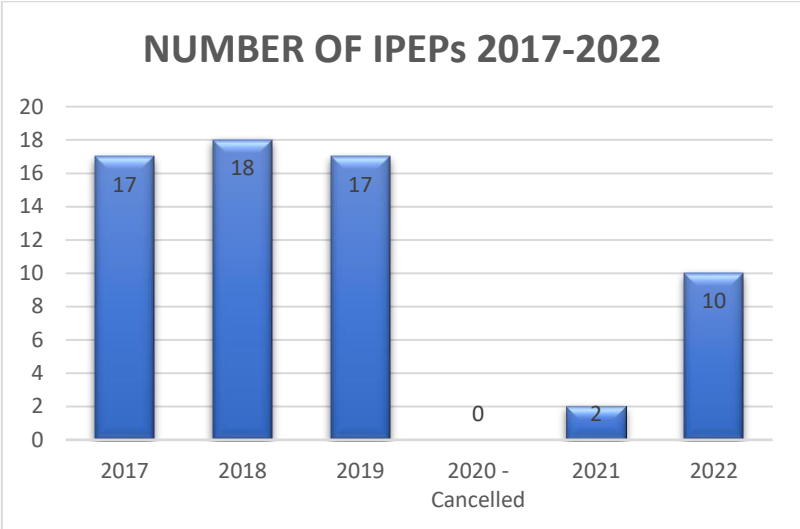
Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen, President

## International Professional Exchange Programs (IPEPs)

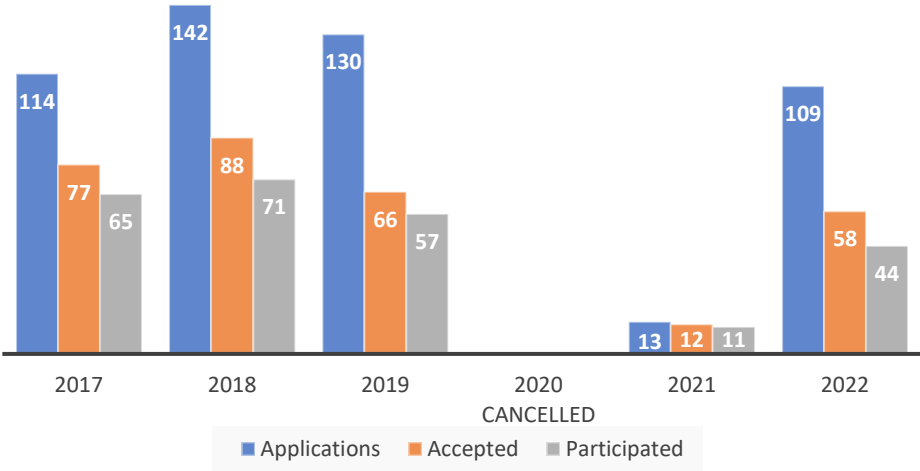
In 2022, 10 National Branches (NBs) organized CIF International Professional Exchange Programs (IPEPs): Argentina, Austria, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Israel, The Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey.

All 10 National Branches provided information about the IPEPs by sending a Final Evaluation Report (FER) 2022.

These were the first in-person programs after a two-year break because of COVID 19. 17 programs were cancelled in 2020, and in 2021 there were 2 virtual programs. Due to the pandemic, it was still a complex scenario; and this implied a repeated challenge for the NBs to organize an IPEP.



## Number of participants 2017-2022



Two NBs had to postpone their programs: France (from June to October, because the social services were not ready to accept participants on account of pandemic issues) and Switzerland (to 2023, because of a low number of applications).

Two NBs had to cancel their programs: Nepal (due to a dengue outbreak) and Germany (due to some last-minute cancellations and troubles in getting visas).

## **General information**

The IPEPs were two weeks to three and a half weeks long, and the average duration of a program was 18 days.

They were implemented from April to November.

Most of them were in English, except for Argentina, in Spanish, and France, in French.

Participants got information about CIF and IPEPs through:

- a friend or colleague
- CIF International and NB websites
- social media
- NBs
- professional associations
- previous participation in an IPEP
- some host NBs, who contacted the participants they had accepted for the 2020 IPEPs.

Some branches had an IPEP coordinator, or an organization committee, with allocated tasks. These posts were all unpaid and undertaken by members of national branches.

Everyone agreed that due to the consequences of the pandemic, they faced new difficulties and challenges in the recruitment process: such as getting visas, permissions to travel, fulfilling health requirements, and last-minute cancellations:

- Austria had to reject applicants for not having the vaccination status required for the country and for the host social institutions. Despite that, they pointed out that “the face-to-face contact worked very well”.
- In Sweden only participants from Europe were accepted, as it was uncertain until the end of March if non-European citizens could be allowed to enter the country.
- In Italy one participant got COVID and couldn't finish the program.
- Israel had two cancellations and one participant started late because of COVID.

Other issues, such as there being more applications than vacancies in the NBs, or not being able to match the available professional field, were also mentioned.

All applicants used the standard application form.

The two-year break also had implications for the organization of the programs:

- “(We had to) re-establish the contacts with the agencies and host families, many of them were not ready to provide accommodation for participants” (France).
- “Planning again and again and taking into account pandemic issues” (Israel).
- “Finding an agency for longer periods” (Argentina).
- Visa issues were common.

Every IPEP had an orientation program with general information mainly about the country, social policies and the welfare system, and which lasted from 2 to 7 days. Participants were together in a hostel or a centre usually located in the countryside or in areas outside the cities.

All programs offered agency visits: for the whole group, and individual visits; and placements according to the participants’ interests.



*IPEP Argentina*

Two NBs implemented changes in the schemes they previously provided:

- Argentina added three different regional locations for three participants for the second week, with a coordinator of the program in each region.
- Italy changed the location of the introductory week, which involved new agencies and contacts.

Most branches were organized in cooperation with universities and professional associations, with different levels of participation and support. Eight NBs provided lectures.

All the branches had host family living programs. Depending on the length of their programs, each participant stayed with at least one family and at most three families.

They also had other types of living arrangement. The participants' group mostly stayed together in a guest house/apartment during the orientation period. France also offered another place, "a cottage", during the final days including for the evaluation.

Each program included sociocultural activities such as sightseeing together with local hosts, visits to museums, concerts and theatre, nature trips, collective lunches/dinners, cultural evenings, farewell parties and other gatherings for cultural exchange.

The programs were mainly financed by:

- participation fees – 6 IPEPs had a fee which covered 50-100% of the whole domestic cost of the IPEP. It covered program costs, domestic travel, meals and sociocultural activities.
- contributions by local members – 6 IPEPs used these contributions.
- support from professional associations (in one IPEP all costs were covered by funds from the local social work association/union).
- NBs' own funds and donations were used in 8 IPEPs. CIF France organized the program with its own funds for the first time (with contributions from local members and the NB).
- None of the IPEPs received any financial support from the country's governmental organizations or from international funds.

Every program had a final evaluation and most of them used the CIF Participants Evaluation Form. The Netherlands and Turkey also carried out a mid-term evaluation.

In general, participants expressed satisfaction with the organization of the program, the professional aspects, the host family living arrangements and the cultural/social activities.

Some suggested having more time on their own outside the agenda.



## Participants' feedback about benefits of the IPEPs

- "Personal and professional enrichment"
- "New ideas to bring back home"
- "High level of commitment and coordination"
- "Learning new strategies and creative solutions"
- "Being well taken care of by CIF members and host families"
- "Understanding social work systems in other countries, sharing methods and experiences"
- "Becoming a CIF pioneer in one's own country"
- "New friends"
- "Keeping up the communication after the program"
- "Getting to know colleagues from different countries".



*IPEP Austria*

## Success stories in IPEPs

"For the first time we received two applications from Central America - Costa Rica and Colombia – and this was very good because we were able to broaden the reach of our program to Central America, where there is no CIF branch." Argentina

"We are happy to have had participants from New Zealand and Romania as this is not common." The Netherlands

"On the last days of the program in İstanbul, participants and members all together

joined the Istanbul Marathon. It is unique and the only intercontinental marathon in the world". Turkey

## **Suggestions made for improvement of IPEPs in the future**

- Fundraising and giving more possibilities to those countries who need support,
- Exchange with other NBs in order to get new ideas and share best practices,
- Proposals to improve the evaluation form (FER) and to make it shorter and in Google form,
- Set up an information network for CIF members and IPEP participants,
- Extensive use of social media,
- International blog possibility for all participants – to share experiences, discuss issues and inspire others,
- Recruiting more candidates: we should attract young professionals by resorting to all the means of communication they use, such as LinkedIn or Instagram,
- To have more time for the group together, to discuss the experience, and to share social and cultural activities,
- As English is a tool that can enable mutual understanding, having basic English skills is very important for participants.



*IPEP Israel/Peace Project*

## Organizational Activities

### Board of Directors meetings

Early in the year it was unclear what would be possible. The Board of Directors (BD) agreed to have a first meeting by ZOOM on April 30 to ensure some of the administrative tasks were done. The BD

- approved the Annual Report 2021,
- approved the Financial Report 2021,
- elected Catherine Psarouli, CIF Hellas to be a new member of the Election Committee, and
- on a proposal of the Committee CIF 2028 it decided to terminate the Committee CIF 2028, release the current members from their duties, and transfer the remaining tasks to the EC to form new working groups with clear goals and tasks.

The BD also discussed and eagerly looked forward to the BD meeting in Israel, the first one to be face-to-face after a long time. Due to varied reasons, such as the insecure situation regarding Covid, inflation in Israel, and an extremely demanding IPEP just a few weeks beforehand, CIF Israel had to raise the costs for the Executive Committee to meet. Together with costs for flights and the travel costs for the EC meeting in March, the EC's expenses would have exceeded the budget of 3'900 Euros, reaching up to 8'200 Euros. The EC therefore decided to change the format to a ZOOM meeting again; and after some discussion the BD approved this decision by an online vote.

On October 20 and 21 the 2<sup>nd</sup> BD meeting of 2022 took place, by ZOOM again. It approved the budget for 2023 and discussed a number of subjects which were presented under the heading "Ask the BD". With this further work was identified for the BD and the EC:

- adapting statutes of CIF International,
- establishing a working group to examine finances for IPEP participants,
- expanding media work,
- moving from holding a CIF IPEP historical address list to create a viable database,
- ensuring CIF International being present on Wikipedia in NBs' own languages.

The highlight in this meeting was the announcement by Maria José Sanchez Tera that CIF International is now on almost all social media channels!! This came as a gift, a "surprise" after years of being talked about. Readers can find the channels listed on the last page of this report.



*Some members of the BD meeting October 2022*

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee 2021-2023 met in person (besides holding 12 online meetings during the year) for the very first time in March 2022 in the Swiss Alps. It was felt to be about time - to work together without knowing each other in person had turned out to be possible, but difficult. So we were happy to have three days to work together, to meet the board of CIF Switzerland, and to see at least one Swiss mountain, the Säntis, full of snow and sun.

The EC realized that its working style had changed with new people being in the EC, but also due to having regular ZOOM meetings. All attested to the view that they felt well in the new setting, but the workload was high and intense.

One theme came up again and again, as in previous years: communication. The theme had been looked at already in 2018/2019, and resulted in the CIF report 'Communication Strategy', which was adopted by the BD in 2019.

Communication is within the EC, between the EC, NBs and CIPUSA, between CIF International and other relevant organisations such as IFSW<sup>1</sup> or FICE<sup>2</sup>.

In particular communication can be with the 'public', e.g. communication through

<sup>1</sup> International Federation of Social Workers, [www.ifsw.org](http://www.ifsw.org).

<sup>2</sup> Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives, [www.ficeinter.net](http://www.ficeinter.net).

written material such as World News, annual reports, and through social media such as CIF's website, Facebook and Instagram accounts, and LinkedIn.

In 2021 the new website had been established, and in the autumn 2021 there was the first "Letter to our members".

In March 2022 the EC not only looked at the whole range of communication channels, discussed systematically goals, target groups, content, means (working hours and money), but grouped and finally set some goals. Maria José Sanchez Tera and Silvia Nutter formed a task group which was successful in identifying new channels of social media (see the report on page 15). To keep these achievements alive and in a good shape, activities by our national branches, our contact persons and members are essential, today and in the future.

The other theme which came up again and again in EC meetings was that there are too many professionals in the world who just cannot afford to participate in an IPEP due to financial limitations. On the other hand, there are regularly IPEPs which do not have all their IPEP places filled. This was again noted at the IPEP Coordinators' meeting in January 2022. The EC decided to form a group to look at this problem. By the end of 2022 we aimed to have a first draft of guidelines, a draft of an application form, and in the first months of 2023 a plan on how to find the necessary money was to be worked on.

## Committees

### **Election Committee**

The new Election Committee (ELC) was elected; and when all positions were taken after May 2022, the group met via Zoom and Whatsapp calls (7 times from May 2022 till February 2023) and expect this to be more frequent closer to the conference. One Whatsapp meeting took place with the attendance of the CIF International President.

### **Raising awareness**

Ilse Hoffmann took part during the Zoom meeting of the BD on October 22nd 2022. She aimed to raise awareness of the importance for future leadership of nominations for the upcoming and future elections. The request was to invite members of the ELC to speak at the annual national branch member meetings on a virtual basis.

So far there has been no response to this new step and none of the national branches has indicated taking action to make an invitation. Only the ELC members'

own NBs gave opportunities for this introduction to be made to the elections. Possibly NB meetings are only held in-person and so virtual attendance is not practicable.

An article was written for the latest issue of the World News asking for applications. Contact was made with the nominees from the existing list (established during the Saint-Malo conference in 2019). Some renewed their interest in standing for a position during the next election, some withdrew permanently, and some reported they would not run for election in 2023.

Two letters were sent to all NBs and CPs in order to encourage nominations of potential candidates.

### **In search of new candidates**

Regrettably the Committee have to report that no responses with nominations have yet been received from NBs through this new type of approach.

Though there have been nominations through other routes, further discussions are being held amongst the committee on how and with whom we can revitalise the process, such as through:

- action on Facebook,
- a frequent presence of ELC members during BD meetings,
- and virtual meetings with the presidents of NBs and with CPs.

The problem of applications for the position of CIF Treasurer, and the unwritten rule for nominations being only for one person from a particular country was aired.

There is a suggestion for further discussion concerning all these topics and the EC has been contacted for further action.

The procedure for the 2023 election was a topic discussed during ELC meetings. The positive result, and participation in 2021 during the first virtual voting arrangement together encouraged considering keeping this arrangement for those NB presidents not present at the place and time of the conference. This would add another voting tool beside proxy voting.

Ilse Hoffmann-Klee, Convener

## **Financial Advisory Committee**

No meetings were held in 2022.

## Social Media Team

The **Social Media Team** consisted of five members in 2022: Annica Frank (Sweden), Silvia Nutter (Argentina), Jocelyn Damaso, Marian Perez (Spain), and María José Sánchez Tera (Spain), who is also an EC member. They worked tirelessly through 2022 to achieve the relevant goals.

There were several virtual meetings and informal sessions: on 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022. In line with the Communication Strategy for 2028, it was proposed to all NBs that they assign one person to be responsible for communication activities and purposes, with whom CIF communication goals could be discussed and planned. As a result, the **CIF Social Media Key Communication Team** was created, comprising members from Austria, Finland, the USA, Costa Rica, Spain, and Argentina. The email addresses of the team members are shown on page 30.

To better connect with social workers, CIF accounts for all members were created on various **social media platforms**, such as

**Instagram** (<https://instagram.com/socialmediacif?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>)

**Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/Socialmediacifinternational>)

**LinkedIn** (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cif-international/>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cif-international/>), and

**YouTube** (<https://youtube.com/channel/UCbV2BvfQPknvdL8NgHifsJg>).

These accounts enable members wide sharing of knowledge, news, and updates on the network's activities and events.

Essential information was also posted on the **CIF website and the Document center** for members' access, such as IPEPs of different countries, information about the next conference to be held in 2023 in Germany, the monthly letter to members, and World News. In response to member requests, we uploaded new pictures to the website's home page.

Throughout the year there was coordination with Julien Ferard, a digital marketing specialist at Pineapple Web Company, appointed by CIF to manage the CIF website and resolve any queries. There has also been the creation of a new social media email account for better communication: [socialmedia@cifinternational.com](mailto:socialmedia@cifinternational.com).

Overall, the Team are proud of the progress made in promoting CIF's vision through social media and look forward to continuing its efforts in coming years.

## **Finances for IPEP participants**

The wish to enable professionals without the necessary financial resources to participate in IPEPs is a long-standing one. We all know that some interested professionals do not apply because they can't afford the costs (flight expenses and IPEP fees, along with other costs), and it's very difficult to find financial support.

Therefore the Executive Committee of CIF International brought this topic to an IPEP coordinators' meeting, to invite CIF members to be part of a group to look at the possibilities to find financial assistance and to develop criteria for such activity.

Throughout the year the working group (for the participants see page 30) held three virtual meetings and undertook some informal contacts to work on the topic. There was total agreement on the importance of the subject, to encourage and provide some assistance to potential participants without the required funding, to be part of an IPEP and of the CIF. There was detailed discussion of two documents (application form and guidelines for grants), which were reported in the most recent virtual IPEP coordinators' meeting (February 18 2023).

In parallel to considering these documents there was initial thinking about where the necessary money should come from; CIF still has to look for financial sources and develop a strategy of resource mobilization.

Silvia Nutter, Convener, EC Member at Large



## Financial Report

### **INCOME**

In 2022 CIF International had an income of **€ 6.511,75**.

Due to there being no face-to-face CIF International conference and no donations, the annual membership fees € 6.111,75 were almost the entire revenue income for the year. Every national branch is responsible for ensuring that 10 or 5 Euros for every member go as an annual membership fee to the bank account of CIF International, the amount depending on the financial situation of certain countries. In 2022 the membership fee was paid in respect of 592 members. Some payments were also based on years before 2022. From countries where money transfer expenses are too high, CIF International agrees to have fees paid as a group and even in cash when practically feasible.

As income we also received € 400 reimbursement of the hotel fee for the cancelled BD meeting.

The bookkeeping of CIF International is based on real payments/expenses and does not include "debts" of members.

### **EXPENDITURE**

In 2022 CIF expenses were **€ 4.322,79**.

The main costs were for one face-to-face EC meeting (Switzerland, March 2022) (€ 2.193,82). All other meetings, including the BD Meeting, were held by Zoom. It should be mentioned that all CIF members work on a voluntary basis, there are no meeting fees, and often no expenses allowance. Many also support CIF financially. We would like to thank all of them for their strong commitment, both at international and national levels.

The magazine of CIF International is CIF World News. It is only published digitally as of 2020. The layout of one issue costs € 450; in 2022 one issue was produced. CIF spent € 587 on web and email hosting. Further costs were administrative expenses and bank charges, together € 192,97.

The postponed Peace Project was held in 2022 in Israel. CIF International supported the project with € 900.

### **RESULT**

The operating result showed a surplus of **€ 2.188,96**.

## ASSETS

This also affects the assets. In the end of the year 2022 CIF International had an **asset value of € 76.868,89**.

Most of the money is held at the Sparkasse Koblenz in Germany. Unfortunately there is no interest paid at the moment. A small part, of around € 2.500, is invested with S Broker, the online broker of the Sparkasse financial group.

The assets include the following **earmarked** funds: HB Ollendorff /M Ollendorff Fund, S & P Unger Fund and Peace Project Fund. All these together in 2022 amounted to € 14.082.19.

<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS STATEMENT per December 31, 2022</b>			
<i>in Euros</i>			
	<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	5.681,00	6.700,00	6.111,75
Fundraising	0,00	500,00	0,00
Donations, Fundraising Peace Projects	0,00	500,00	0,00
Reimbursement hotel fee Marrakesh	0,00	500,00	400,00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5.681,00</b>	<b>8.200,00</b>	<b>6.511,75</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Travel & board EC	1.593,16	3.900,00	2.193,82
Travel & board BD	0,00	1.500,00	0,00
Grants	0,00	1.000,00	0,00
World News (Layout)	450,00	900,00	450,00
Internet expenses, Social media	0,00	400,00	587,00
Website	3.500,00	0,00	0,00
Administrative expenses	338,05	200,00	83,30
Bank charges	102,76	0,00	108,67
New national branches	0,00	200,00	0,00
Peace Projects	0,00	0,00	900,00
Other expenses	1.091,75	100,00	0,00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7.075,72</b>	<b>8.200,00</b>	<b>4.322,79</b>
<b>Operating results</b>	<b>-1394,72</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>2.188,96</b>

<b>ASSETS 2022, December 31</b>		
<i>in Euros</i>		
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
SPK Koblenz Bank Account	21.100,99	24.223,53
Money Market Account	50.108,56	50.108,56
S Broker Depot	2.536,80	2.536,80
Transferred Grants Peace Projects	900,00	0,00
<b>Capital of the Organization</b>	<b>74,646,35</b>	<b>76,868,89</b>
<b>The assets include the following earmarked funds</b>		
HB Ollendorff/M. Ollendorff Fund	7.387,74	7.387,74
S & P Unger Fund	5.958,86	5.958,86
Peace Project Fund	1.635,59	735,59
<b>Earmarked funds</b>	<b>14.982,19</b>	<b>14.082,19</b>

The full accounts 2021 were presented by the CIF Treasurer, together with confirmation of the independent audit, at the meeting of the BD on 30 April 2022, where they were accepted. The audit of the accounts 2021 was done by CIF Germany's members Dorte Feierabend and Conny Zwar.

The 2023 Budget was presented and approved at the meeting of the BD on 21 October 2022.

**Donations** are very welcome to maintain and improve the work of CIF International. Here is the relevant information:

Name: Council of International Fellowship e.V.

IBAN: DE02 5705 0120 0000 1884 25

BIC-Code: MALADE51KOB

Bank: Sparkasse Koblenz (Germany)

For all further information please contact the Treasurer of CIF International, Astrid Sehmer: [treasurer@cifinternational.com](mailto:treasurer@cifinternational.com).

## CIF National Branches

At December 31, CIF had a total of 31 National Branches (NBs) in the following countries:

Algeria	India	Russia
Aotearoa/New Zealand	Israel	Scotland
Argentina	Italy	Slovenia
Austria	Japan	Spain
Cameroon	Jordan	Sweden
Cyprus	Kyrgyzstan	Switzerland
Estonia	Morocco	Taiwan
Finland	Nepal	Turkey
France	Netherlands	United States
Germany	Norway	
Greece (CIF Hellas)	Palestine	

Annual reports were requested from all the national branches; 24 reports in total. Aotearoa/New Zealand, CIF-USA, Jordan, Norway, Palestine, Russia and Scotland did not answer and did not send reports.

The presidents of the national branches tell in general of their attempts to return to regular times and activity after the pandemic. Some have succeeded in organizing international exchange programs (IPEPs) and /or sending participants to IPEPs. Many have also made plans to organise an IPEP next year. Activities in their own country and internationally have also started; and contacts with members, organizations, professionals and universities are going on, as well as contacts with social workers' associations. Activities to reach all their members and enlarge their networks to draw in new associates are often mentioned in the reports. Some NBs mention direct involvement of their members with responses to emergencies such as natural disasters.

Not everything is yet possible. The effect of the pandemic is not the only thing to overcome, resources and funding are also needed.

*The activities are reported here question by question, including highlights and future plans.*

### Public relations activities

**CIF France** gradually resumed activities to make CIF better known in France: for example they have made contacts with schools for training social workers. They developed prevention activities in partnership with a member of CIF Algeria as part

of the "Pink October" Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.

**CIF Germany** have tried to maintain regular and reliable communication within their branch. To achieve this they mail newsletters to all their members (e-mail and „snail-mail“), activate regional groups and invite members to attend their „CIF-online forum“. This is a format they created during the pandemic, and they still use it.

**CIF Hellas** got together in January 2022 in the hospitable house of one of the members in order to “cut the New Year’s Pie “, with CIF Hellas members and friends such as host families, representatives of participating organizations and public services.

**CIF Nepal** undertook work with local and national government about the activities of CIF Nepal and CIF International.

**CIF Switzerland** is pleased to have a better organized network with contact persons in the universities of applied sciences in the German speaking regions.

**CIF Taiwan** did not have any public activities. Under official regulations they needed to meet on line, so they could only exchange their service experiences on-line. They needed to evaluate the post COVID environment and form a new program for a possible IPEP. The regulation of social service bodies is still under serious consideration by the government.

## **National and international activities/projects (apart from IPEPs)**

**CIF Argentina** partnered with the Council of Social Workers of Buenos Aires and the Argentine Federation of Professional Associations of Social Workers, in endorsing the CIF International nomination for the IFSW Award in Memory of Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol. They are happy that the videos made last year with Spain and Costa Rica will be uploaded to the CIF International website. They also continued to network with colleagues travelling abroad. Silvia Nutter and Melisa Alvarez Suarez had a meeting in Madrid with CIF Spain members.

**CIF Cameroon** has, with support from the NGO AJESH (<https://www.ajesh.org>), helped with distribution of food and non-food items to internally displaced persons and to elderly people in rural communities. Also they organised a training meeting with young people on income generating activities. They also provided women and young girls with hygienic sanitary pads and WASH materials.

**CIF Cyprus** organized one on-line seminar (3 hours) on social issues, with the collaboration of the Cyprus Association of Social Workers.

**CIF Estonia** had only one face-to-face meeting with their members, in June 2022, which ended up being hybrid, since not all could come. At that meeting they also had elections for the executive board, managing to secure one new member. The rest of the board has been working for 10 years or more. It is very challenging to

find people who are willing to engage in the work of the board. They planned a 2-days mini-program for members in September, but had to cancel it because of lack of interest.

**CIF Finland** arranged the Baltic-Nordic meeting October 6-9, 2022, with the theme "Peace getting along". Their theme was peace, when normal life had been shaken by the war in Ukraine and the global pandemic. Invitations were sent to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Scotland and Sweden. There were some twenty plus participants, from Estonia, Sweden, Norway and Finland. The first day's theme was safety inside our society, and the second's the international situation. The group also visited the help centre for Ukrainian refugees and heard a presentation from the Peace Union and from a Member of Parliament who talked about the NATO application process in Finland and Sweden.

**CIF France** has completed the European project ECCAY, which started on 1 March 2020 and ended on 31 August 2022. ECCAY is an Empowering and Co-Constructing Agency of Young People at Risk of Exclusion. It is an Erasmus+ validation project. Information is available in English, German, French, Italian, Romanian, and Spanish: [www.eccay.eu](http://www.eccay.eu).

CIF France continued its partnership with CIF Algeria, CIF Morocco, and with the contact person in Tunisia.

**CIF Israel** managed to carry out the Peace Project which was postponed twice previously. More can be read in World News, February 2023. They were also planning the EC-BD meeting in Israel October 2022, which was eventually not held there due to high costs. Also a proposed meeting of Russian social work and health professionals in Israel organised by CIPUSA did not happen, due to rejection of the proposal by the U.S. Department of State.

**CIF Kyrgyzstan** has had several meetings and discussions with local agencies' representatives concerning their future IPEP. These include the Public Foundation League of Children's Rights Defenders, Centre for Rehabilitation of Children and Family Support, National Centre for Maternal and Childhood Welfare, Community Development Alliance and the crisis centre for women "Sezim".

**CIF Morocco** held national meetings in different parts of the country in order to interview new IPEP candidates and in preparation for the international activity of CIF's EC and BD meetings, to be held in Morocco.

**CIF Sweden** was at last able to arrange a member meeting, gathering 33 members over two days. It gave thanks to the late member Lollie Bailey with the theme of CIF and Lollie Bailey's life with CIF, plus lectures on honour-related violence and human rights.

**CIF Switzerland** hosted the first face to face meeting of the CIF Executive Committee 2021-2023.

**CIF Taiwan** indicated that more social workers might apply for new IPEPs in 2023. Travel expenses are extremely high after the pandemic. Social workers nevertheless expect to have foreign experience. However, people are worried

about their English language skills. The NB might need to develop a plan to assist them and lower their anxiety levels.

## **New opportunities**

**CIF Cyprus** is trying to set up activities and training seminars among college students with Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Greece. Also there is a move to undertake a regional CIF seminar with Israel, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, etc. - something like an IPEP, but with joint collaboration and associated activities. This is going to be discussed thoroughly during the Hannover Conference in Germany in June 2023.

**CIF Kyrgyzstan** reports that a 'video competition' was organised among their volunteer students to improve the visibility of the ideas and work of CIF Kyrgyzstan. The video of winners was placed on their FB page, and will be sent to CIF's Social Media Team.

**CIF Spain** is starting preparation for creating an English language practice group for the forthcoming IPEP candidates.

**CIF Switzerland** indicates seeking better financing methods for their IPEP and the expenses of their participants (notably the participation fee and flight costs).

**CIF Turkey** as a national association joined a National umbrella organization for Early Childhood which is called " Early Childhood development NGO's Platform". Thus, there was an opportunity to introduce the organization to wider audiences.

## **Aims and goals for the coming year(s)**

**CIF Algeria** plans to organize an IPEP and concentrate to fundraising (sponsorship).

**CIF Argentina** plans to continue with joint work, in alliance with other organizations such as the professional councils of the different provinces, for the dissemination of the objectives of CIF and its IPEPS. They will strengthen bonds with social workers' organizations in South America to continue the project they have already started.

**CIF Cyprus** plans to increase the number of members, make the association more visible to the public and especially to professionals in social, educational and health departments, and assist the community in supporting citizens with the increased problems that have appeared because of COVID 19. They say that the after-effects on both children and adults are now evident; and problems are different from earlier times and much more difficult to deal with. There is a shortage of social workers, and the ones in place are underutilised as they are underestimated by society. There is a need to work on the upgrading of this image for the benefit of society.

**CIF Germany** is using video-conferences – their CIF-online forum – to stay in

contact with their members and share information. They report that it has been great to see that members who are in their seventies and eighties are open to use this new medium.

**CIF Hellas** plans to organize social activities for their members in order to strengthen bonds and interest in CIF.

**CIF India** has a new board. Their aim in the year 2023 is to give wider coverage for CIF work, to prepare for hosting the forthcoming conference in 2025 and to organise the IPEP.

**CIF Italy** will organize a conference for Italian social workers to present their experiences as examples of professional training and to find new members.

**CIF Japan** plans to send participants to IPEPs, to think out a plan for an IPEP in Japan for next year, and to increase the number of members.

**CIF Kyrgyzstan** plans to seek opportunities to participate in joint projects with other CIF national branches, besides exchange programs. In their opinion, a face to face meeting in Germany will contribute more on this issue through talking with others.

**CIF Netherlands** has similar plans to those of others, namely to send out people to IPEPs, renew and increase membership, find ways to get more people involved in the organisation of the IPEP in the national board, and to look for new board members.

**CIF Slovenia** plans to arrange a meeting of members of CIF Slovenia and to promote IPEPs among social workers.

**CIF Spain** mentions fundraising. They also plan to continue distribution of informative videos on YouTube among Latin-American professionals through their social work professional bodies. Also they plan to sign official collaboration agreements with agencies and professional social work bodies.

**CIF Sweden** plans to participate with a lecture/workshop in the annual Conference for Social Work in November 2022, with the aim of addressing the importance for social workers of intercultural learning and understanding. Also they plan to continue to work on a document on climate and environment adopted by CIF Sweden in 2020.

## **Distribution of information from CIF International, BD meetings etc. to individual members**

The national branches have distributed information in various ways; new Instagram account, Facebook, WhatsApp, a new website, emails and meetings.

**CIF Austria** reports that they also have two "signal groups" (one for the EC and one for interested members) but very seldom do they contact members with written letters.

**CIF Germany** reports that they are forwarding information to their members via e-mail and snail-mail: the Newsletter, and World News. They encourage their



members to look at CIF Germany's website as well as the CIF International website. But they experience a kind of general tiredness to respond to information.

## **Comments about the cooperation between NBs and CIF International**

Most national branches indicated that cooperation between their branch and CIF International works well. Special mention is made of the monthly letters that have been found useful and a contribution to cooperation. The replies made to NBs have been quick when there have been specific questions. Branches that have a member as a member of the CIF Executive Committee seem to be most satisfied with communication. Many also look forward to the face-to-face meeting in Hannover. One further comment is that CIF International works well; "we are sometimes a little bit disconnected; but we want to improve".

## **CIPUSA Annual activity report**

CIPUSA hosted a Global Perspective Series on Human Trafficking, which consisted of 4 webinars where people from around the world in the Human Trafficking field spoke about their experiences. CIPUSA also hosted 12 delegations of social workers, educators, public administrators, NGO professionals and other civil society professionals from Mongolia, Romania, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Moldova, and Armenia, for 8-day programs. Also they hosted through their network offices 5 German Social Workers and 2 CIF recruited participants from Finland and Spain. CIPUSA has been working on developing a CEU program for U.S. social workers who participate in their programs, or possibly CIF programs.

During the coming years CIPUSA aims to go on with their work as in 2022. They plan to host an IPEP in one of their network offices, to make all of their program applications available on-line and to revamp their website.

CIPUSA sends a monthly newsletter in which they always highlight CIF activities. They try to post daily or weekly on their social media platforms. The posts always include any CIF programs or news.

CIPUSA is working with CIF-USA to further integrate their resources. They have been working together to interview potential IPEP participants. CIPUSA is willing to cooperate with CIF International and with any CIF Branch.

## Contact person and branch development

At the end of 2022 CIF International had 14 listed contact persons (CPs). They are in the following countries:

Australia	Lithuania	Serbia
China	Madagascar	Tanzania
Costa Rica	Pakistan	Tunisia
Kosovo	Portugal	Vietnam
Latvia	Romania	

No new contact persons were nominated during the year. The Philippines' contact person role was terminated.

Nine contact persons sent the CP their survey of the year 2022. These were Costa Rica, Kosovo, Madagascar, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Tanzania and Tunisia. CP Vietnam sent also a survey but the electronic link expired. CIF has not received any survey during the past two years from Australia, China or Latvia.

Contact persons described the year 2022 as a quiet year. Nevertheless many have managed to meet in person other members in their countries, or have been able to use social media. Many also have plans for future years. The pandemic still affects some a great deal (such as Tunisia). Other obstacles exist too, mostly in combination with costs and lack of financial support. There is a strong hope to get more members. Some still managed to provide references to IPEP applicants.

## Current situation and future plans

*Social work as a profession is new in many countries.* Many who have backgrounds in the social field including sociology, pedagogy etc. work as social workers. Public universities have started to offer social work education and students can get a diploma in social work (Kosovo).

*Informing about CIF and encouraging new applicants for IPEPs.* Contact persons tell of their task to inform about CIF, which means to be in contact with people in institutions, universities and working places. Some have contacts with universities through studying or working. Activity is going on to enable the expansion of cooperation and the provision of professional opportunities to participate in CIF IPEPs. One specific activity is encouraging Spanish speaking professionals to apply for and to participate in IPEPs.

The big challenge is the involvement of people in programs, considering that some social workers have a lack of knowledge of foreign languages in order to participate in the program. The financial aspect is mentioned by several contact persons. Many are ready for exchanges, but the problem is often about flight costs (Madagascar).

*New ways of connecting nationally.* Most contact persons have managed to be in contact with other members via telephone or social networks. Meetings face-to-face have mostly not been possible. One target for the future is to organize a national meeting. Also their own Facebook account is mentioned as a good means to connect.

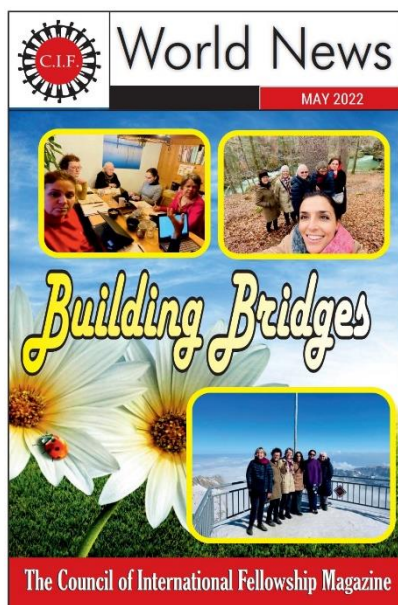
*Programs in their own country.* One plan is to establish training programs, to work on the professional field and at the same time promote knowledge of CIF International. Many contact persons have these kinds of plans. One such is to create a program with the opportunity to engage international CIF experts to provide their experience, through a project that could be funded by the European Commission (Kosovo). Another would establish an online training program for professionals who work with abused children and adolescents; and to establish and organize a five days training program for psychotherapists who work with vulnerable groups (Serbia). This would give a great opportunity to get to know professionals and to provide information on CIF. Two contact persons mentioned an online CIF IPEP as their plan (Pakistan and Romania).

*Co-operation with neighbouring countries.* Establishing a group of CIF active members between neighbouring countries would help in gaining CIF experiences and creating more opportunities. Establishing a network with the countries of the region could help to offer a common program.

*Establishing a National Branch.* Two contact persons are very close to establishing national branches (Costa Rica and Tanzania). Costa Rica is in contact with five previous IPEP participants, of the eight known. In Tanzania the contact person is in contact with nine previous IPEP participants. Five is the minimum number of participants to establish a national branch. Both countries send new applicants to participate in IPEPs and also involve themselves actively in the country.

The CP Portugal is also thinking of establishing a national branch soon, after getting more members committed to IPEPs and involved in the planning.

## World News



World News (WN) is the CIF magazine, produced once a year with the main purposes being to inform, to exchange ideas and create and sustain networks for and with CIF members and the general public globally. World News includes information on the “happenings” of the current year, offers updates about the organization, including information on events, issues, accomplishments, projects, IPEPs and more. World News serves as a means of raising awareness about CIF and its public image, and is used by members and others around the world to assist them understand what CIF does, acknowledge the impact of CIF on societies, and inspire them to become CIF members in their own countries.

WN is published on the CIF website and distributed in digital form to all CIF members.

Maria Christopoulou, World News Editor

## IFSW Award in memory of Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) formally recognises contributions to social work. This is through the Award in Memory of Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol. It is IFSW’s highest level of recognition and is presented at the IFSW General Meeting.

**“The award can be awarded to an individual or organisation that has stimulated the further development of international social work. Candidates can be either an individual or an organization.**

Candidates must, over time, have made an outstanding contribution to the social work profession on an international level and thereby enhanced our visibility.

**The recipient must have shown enterprise and initiative as well as dedication to the profession. The contribution must have transcended international borders and reflected social work values.”**



*Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol*

Nominations are made at the national level, and endorsed by an IFSW national association of social workers (in our case it was the Swiss Association, endorsed by the Argentinian); they are presented to the regional executive for scrutiny before being recommending to the IFSW Executive Committee.”

**The Award was made to CIF International at the IFSW General Meeting in May 2022.**

**Dr Andrew "Andy" Mouravieff-Apostol**, was IFSW’s Secretary-General from 1975 to 1992, and later Honorary President. He communicated with social workers of all countries with warmth, knowledge and diplomacy – always actively supported by his wife Ellen. He was unobtrusive but authoritative in business meetings; and he always generously encouraged social workers within their international

federation and its activities.

Though they had different geographical areas of operation, it’s possible Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol and Henry Ollendorff, founder of CIF/CIP, encountered one another during or before the time Andrew was with IFSW. With more certainty we can say that they were both very well regarded for their international work for social work and exchange, and received many tokens of recognition for this. Their work lives on strongly through their two organisations, IFSW and CIF/CIP.

Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen

## List of committees and working groups

### **ELECTION COMMITTEE**

Ilse Hoffmann-Klee, Convener, CIF Germany

Mieke Weeda, CIF Netherlands

Catherine Psarouli, CIF Hellas

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen, President, CIF Switzerland

Merja Niemelä, Vice-President, CIF Finland

Astrid Sehmer, Treasurer, CIF Germany

Demet Gülaldi, Secretary, CIF Turkey

Silvia Nutter, Member-at-large, CIF Argentina  
Maria José Sanchez Tera, Member-at-large, CIF Spain

#### **FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Astrid Sehmer, Treasurer, CIF Germany  
Gabi Kronberger, CIF Austria  
Lisa Purdy, CIP USA

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM**

Annica Frank, CIF Sweden  
Silvia Nutter (EC), CIF Argentina  
Jocelyn Damaso, CIF Spain  
Marian Perez, CIF Spain  
María José Sánchez Tera (EC), CIF Spain

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA KEY COMMUNICATION TEAM** (as of April 1, 2023)

Gabi Kronberger, CIF Austria, cifaustria@yahoo.com  
Merja Niemelä (EC), CIF Finland, merjamarittaniemela@gmail.com  
Hanna Kirjavainen, CIF Finland, kirjavainen.hanna@gmail.com  
Lisa Purdy, CIP USA, lisa@cipusa.org  
Montserrat Succar Guzman, CP Costa Rica, pepcifcostarica@gmail.com  
María José Sanchez Tera (EC), CIF Spain  
Jocelyn Damaso, CIF Spain, jocelyndamaso@gmail.com  
Silvia Nutter (EC), CIF Argentina, ipep@cifinternational.com

#### **COMMITTEE CIF 2028** (resolved April 30, 2022)

Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen, Convener, CIF Switzerland  
Margit Randaru, CIF Estonia  
Ya Chuan Hsu, CIF Taiwan and CIF Switzerland  
Tina Trygg, CIF Sweden  
Lisa Purdy, CIP USA

#### **WORKING GROUP: FINANCES FOR IPEP PARTICIPANTS**

Patricia Gandara, CIF Argentina  
Jessica Seitz, CIF Germany  
Bahvna Mehta, CIF India  
Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen (EC)  
Silvia Nutter (EC), Convener