




World News

SUMMER 2021

34th CIF Conference **November 5-7 • 2021:**



Best Practices in Times of Crisis
- New Challenges and Opportunities
in the Pandemic Era with a Concentration
on Families and Children.

A virtual conference organized by CIF Cyprus

The Council of International Fellowship Magazine

From the Editor's Corner

Dear CIF members and friends,

When Henry Ollendorff founded CIP, his idea was for a club for like-minded people – like-minded in that they cared about the same things, they valued the same things, they had similar goals and ideas.

But there's nothing in CIP-CIF that says we all have to be the same. In fact, just about everything about CIP - CIF embraces how different we all are. Just look around you: How many countries, languages professions, backgrounds, religions, CIP - CIF stories?

CIP - CIF is big enough for us all. We all have something to give. At every stage of our lives and our careers, it has something for all of us – a way to let us do more, be more, and give more. A way for us to make our lives mean more. Because what CIP -CIF does for all of US.

The years 2020-21 have make us turn that potential, into reality. We've lived things that humans could never imagine and we survived. These last years have marked us tremendously. It's time for us to recognize that the real challenge we face isn't just a pandemic, but an engagement to life. It is a challenge to see our lives in so many different perspectives. Now we really understand the words of Paul Harris, founder of Rotary and other great persons who taught us that "Service Above Self", engaging in innovative tasks, working on enhancing youth, training youth to be the leaders of tomorrow, servicing the needy, thinking out of the box, offering a helping hand to ones they need it, sharing knowledge and experience are gifts of life.

My father, Dr. Christopoulos, who was my inspiration for my professional and vocational life, always said "leading by example" and being "humble" are true attributes of a good person and a good leader. Being honest and a giving person you are able to do so much and have a network with friends and people who care about you. Life is too short to be cruel, inattentive, lose time in doing nothing essential. But mostly, it is a shame not to spend it servicing your family, your friends, your community, the others around you.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a direct impact on



by Maria Christopoulou,
Editor, *World News*

social services users and other vulnerable groups that demanded from social workers and other professionals to adapt practice through innovative interventions. Based on that ,the scope of the 2021 upcoming hybrid virtual Conference is to address these innovative interventions, the best practices which have being enforced by professionals to adapt to the crisis to services for families and children.

Life, Challenges and

Opportunities in COVID-19 era

With the daily life and social behaviors being shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic and humanity's responses to it, critical insights are more important than ever. Crisis has hit hard on all of human development's



constitutive elements: income (recession across countries), health (directly causing a death toll over 500,000 worldwide and indirectly leading potentially to an additional some thousands of child deaths every day from preventable causes) and education (thousands of students have inability to access the internet). The above dimensions do not take under consideration less visible indirect

effects, including increased gender-based violence, poverty and children neglect and other vulnerable populations (migrants; women; older persons; youth; persons with disabilities).

There are, though some dimensions that cite improvement, creativity, states' unprecedented speed reactions and potentials for a better world strategy taking account of practices that aim to a long-term sustainable footing that is different from old approaches.

Social welfare practitioners have had to adapt at pace and respond to the new era at organizational, and institutional levels, involving interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. Good practices and differentiate approaches were adopted in an effort to respond efficiently to their service users' needs to preserve confidence and stability.

It is a time to listen to, reflect on the new conditions and reimagine many aspects of daily practice. Questions about how better, faster and simpler services can be provided under measure performances, digitally enabled platforms, while at the same time they will continue to offer face to face services.

It is a time to listen to, reflect on the new conditions and reimagine many aspects of daily practice. Questions about how better, faster and simpler services can be provided under measure performances, digitally enabled platforms, while at the same time they will continue to offer face to face services. Sustainable development and Environment are having insufficient focus, despite their linkages between socioeconomic and geopolitical sectors.

CIP and then CIF have been an inspiration for me and my path in a lot of leadership positions worldwide. They helped me enrich my own personal self, helped me keep an integrity of character, develop in a way I am proud for myself, as over the many years, I had the chance to see so much, to develop both professionally and personally, to grow but mainly, it gave me the chance to do things for my community and fellow citizens both on a national and on an international level.

Furthermore, it gave me the possibility to share my knowledge and expertise with the youth, the young persons who are now searching to find their way in life and be able to assist to them.

I had the chance to meet excellent people and make friends all over the world opening my horizons since a very young age. I am now in the position to be the inspire and the mentor of youth both professionally and personally and this brings me lots of happiness and contentment.

Now is the time for us to act. Each one of us has a job to do – to get fully engaged in CIF, to lead by example and to inspire others to join us. Now is the time to share and be very creative so we can really help to build a better world. Working together, we will build a stronger CIF – and a better world. Together, we will Engage CIF, Change Lives.

Maria Christopoulou, CIF Cyprus
July 2021

CIF International President's Message

Dear Friends of CIF,

This will be my last editorial after eight years as President of CIF International.

I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me during these years.

These last two years have been complicated for all of us. We had to face new challenges and cancel most of our activities. No program could be completed in 2020. I am thinking in particular of our friends from CIF Morocco for whom everything stopped on the first day of their program in March 2020.

For 2021, online programs provided by CIF Austria, CIF Finland are underway. Face-to-face projects for the end of the year by CIF Israel should take place depending on sanitary conditions.

Our last face-to-face meeting was in Saint Malo, France for the Conference. We had new appointments but they were all cancelled. We wanted to maintain the links, and we provided several online meetings. This is important, but of course we missed the conviviality, the face-to-face exchanges, the informal exchanges. This is also what CIF is all about. We had a little hope to meet with all the National Branches (NBs) this August in Tallinn Estonia, but no!!! Not possible! Some



Mireille Boucher,
President CIF International

countries will not be able to travel to Europe.

We were launched towards a new dynamism with the work of the CIF 2028 team. They have continued and produced documents that we will work on at our next online meeting. First of all, each NB and each contact person will be able to share the fruit of this collective work in their country.

We all have projects and we will continue to build the CIF in the spirit of solidarity, friendship and sharing in the mind shift of CIP and CIF founder, Henry Ollendorff.

Thank you to Jane and Frank who are always at our side.

Since the election in Ankara in 2013, I had the pleasure of working with a supportive and trusting team that has been renewed during these eight years. Thanks to Maria, Michael, Rabia, Gabi, Merja, Demet, Margit, Astrid and of course David who shared this beautiful experience with me. We have had a very warm experience, rich in human relationships. These beautiful teams have worked very

seriously, very solidly. We were able to propose several protocols and guidelines as well as the production of an activity report each year. Thank you to the NBs who provide us the documents that allow us to write this report.

I really want to tell you again how happy I have been to share all these beautiful moments with you. In 1991, I did the first program of CIF Scotland, it was really a great discovery for me. I wanted to participate in this association which, through its programs, had brought me a lot on a professional and personal level. However, I did not think that one day I would be the president of CIF France and CIF International.

It was a great pleasure to see the birth of new national branches: Spain, Morocco, Algeria and Palestine. We continue to grow throughout the world even though some NBs have stopped their activities. The CIF will always be ready to welcome them back.

I really want to tell you again how happy I have been to share all these beautiful moments with you. In 1991, I did the first program of CIF Scotland, it was really a great discovery for me. I wanted to participate in this association which, through its programs, had brought me a lot on a professional and personal level. However, I did not think that one day I would be the president of CIF France and CIF International.

The CIF offers many beautiful moments. It is also what we each bring that makes these experiences unique and shared. Let us continue to have beautiful encounters

throughout the world and build a multitude of bridges of friendship and solidarity. Let us pay tribute, respect to those who have contributed for more than 60 years to make the CIF live throughout the world.

This year 2021, will see a new EC elected and let's hope, as CIF 2028 advocates, to see a rejuvenated team that will represent what the CIF is, a multicultural association that continues to build actions of peace and understanding between the peoples of different continents.

I wish the new team success. Thank you for all, and for giving and doing for CIF.

Thank you for this beautiful experience.

Take care of yourselves.

Best wishes, Amitiés

Mireille BOUCHER, President, CIF International



C.I.F.

The Council of International Fellowship

The Committee CIF 2028 reports on progress May 2021

In 2017, the Board of Directors (BD) meeting of CIF International established the Committee CIF 2028. Its membership today is Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen (CIF Switzerland, convener), YaChuan Hsu (CIF Switzerland and CIF Taiwan), Lisa Purdy (CIPUSA), Margit Randaru (CIF Estonia, Executive Committee) and Tina Trygg (CIF Sweden).

In 2018 the goals of CIF in 2028 were defined. CIF in 2028 is to be

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

The elements of these goals were formulated as that CIF

- o is clearly an international professional exchange organization
- o has all national IPEPs always fully active
- o has close and well-coordinated relationships between CIF International, its national branches (NBs) and CIPUSA, as well as with other organizations at national and international levels
- o is financially secure and technologically competent
- o has clear organizational processes and a strong and growing member base.

This present report honours a commitment given to the CIF BD meeting in November 2020 to further reflect on the long-term issues the Committee is tasked to address.

The international situation has significantly affected CIF activity and still does so. Already the traditional model of CIF has been curtailed as a result of travel restrictions.

The Committee CIF 2028 suggested dealing with this obligation in 2021 in two phases:

- i. to discuss urgent measures with national branches and contact persons
- ii. to discuss future development in the face-to-face BD-Meeting in August 2021 in Tallinn (Ed: this meeting will now occur virtually due to travel restrictions.)

For practical reasons it was not possible to have a wider discussion earlier this year. And it is clear that a virtual, time-limited discussion on the future of CIF needs a different kind of preparation than for a face-to-face discussion. Therefore we concentrate now on analysing what has been done so far, and will come back to future developments later in 2021 and beyond.

What has been done so far?

Quality of IPEPs: From the initial analysis of consultation responses it was evident that several comments were asking for formal educational recognition of IPEPs through credits, and for better recognition of the experience in practice from employers. It also became clear that "better recognition" would in practice require recognition by a Bachelor or Masters academic program or equivalent. This, though, is not what national branches want to aim for or can provide. It would involve too much work in relation to the small number of participants per country, it does not take account of the cultural and the family living aspects of the programs, and it does not value the aspect of voluntary work within the programs.

The response from the Committee's project group, in order to strengthen recognition, was to develop further the existing guidance Manual for IPEPs, including reviewing all the related documents. IPEPs and their processes are therefore much further standardized, but still respond to and include national customs, culture, values and beliefs as important parts of the programs, and therefore differences remain between various IPEPs. All the standard documents concerning IPEPs were adopted in November 2020 by the BD Meeting.

Definition of "closely related fields"(in relation to social work), cooperation between NBs on applications for IPEPs, diversification of IPEPs, and participation in meeting travel costs or fees and other points raised have been discussed, though without specific changes being proposed.

Conferences: It was not, of course, intended, but CIF International is going through an entirely new experience regarding its conferences with a virtual one in November 2021. The theme is: Best Practices in Times of Crisis - New Challenges and Opportunities in the Pandemic, with a Focus on Families and Children. The advantages and disadvantages of this virtual format will be evaluated carefully.

Communication: World News is now available online only, and IPEP flyers are almost all online only. The new CIF website is online. CIP/CIF is on Facebook, we have new media persons and annual reports are available.

Meetings, working groups: Not as a matter of preference, formal meetings now need to be held virtually. Working groups are better balanced intergenerationally, interculturally and in representing diversity.

The Finances of CIF International: Due to reduced expenses for the EC and BD (because of the cancellation of travel) in 2020 and 2021, plus a legacy donation, the financial situation might well be temporarily less stressed than previously. CIF International also now has Guidelines on Fundraising, for use in the future.

The report identifies some tasks which should be done, tries to address developments in relation to the environment, looks at the role of the Committee CIF 2028, and recommends future steps. These steps need to be adapted to the circumstances created by the development of and response to the pandemic. If you would like to read the whole report, please ask for it from fischbacher@cif-switzerland.ch.

Prepared for the Committee CIF 2028 by Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen

Guidelines on Fundraising for CIF

At its Zoom-Meeting of November 15, 2020, the Board of Directors adopted Guidelines on Fundraising.

CIF International and its national branches are private, not for profit, politically and religiously independent organisations. Their purpose is to promote professional, cross-cultural and educational exchange for those working in the field of social services. The organisation has been mainly financed by membership fees and the donations of members.

For the development of CIF International, specific and innovative projects and for supporting the participation of professionals from countries with limited financial means, the Board of Directors meeting felt it important to have Guidelines, addressed to CIF International and all CIF national branches. These have to be consistent with Article 5 of the CIF Statement on Ethical Principles and Standards and they reflect the Code of Conduct requirement to 'conduct the economical and administrative issues openly'. Merja Niemelä (convener), Edna Bar-On, Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen, Lisa Purdy and Mani Thapa developed these Guidelines in

consultation with the CIF membership.

The Guidelines describe general conditions and approaches to fundraising and in relation to sponsorship. Membership fees and IPEP participants' fees are deliberately not covered.

There are two parts: general aspects and key principles, and targets and techniques. A third part gives specific tips and advice for fundraising and, of course, there are the necessary definitions.

Underpinning the whole organisation are two key principles: transparency is to be maintained within CIF bodies and standards, and the independence and neutrality of all CIF bodies are to remain untouched by fundraising.



Producing these Guidelines, the group could not have imagined that CIF activities would soon have to be cut down so seriously. At present CIF does not know how long this limitation will last, and whether it will have to turn to new directions with CIF's activities. These Guidelines will nevertheless focus our organisation at different levels, support efforts to find resources for new projects and help us to be recognized as a reliable, professional organisation which is able to work and use resources efficiently.

On behalf of the working group: Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen

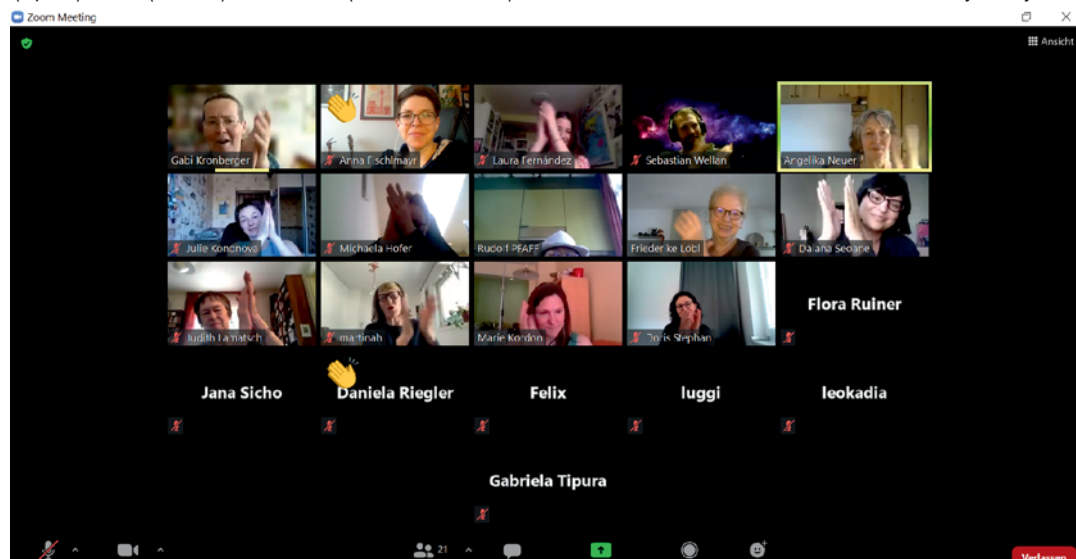
CIF Austria jumps into new perspectives with VIPEP 2021

Introduction (by CIF Austria)

AUSTRIA

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, rather than cancelling our IPEP 2021, CIF Austria decided to launch our very first **Virtual International Professional Exchange Program** (VIPEP) in order to continue this so crucial international exchange in times when national borders and travel restrictions have reduced our personal radius of perception and action.

The VIPEP took place from 15th-20th of April 2021, virtually hosting five participants: Vincent (Tanzania), Daiana (Argentina), Laura (Spain), Julie (Russia) and Rudolf (the Netherlands). The VIPEP was established and conducted by many CIF members



We all really enjoyed being part of this wonderful program and we are definitely now many new experiences richer.



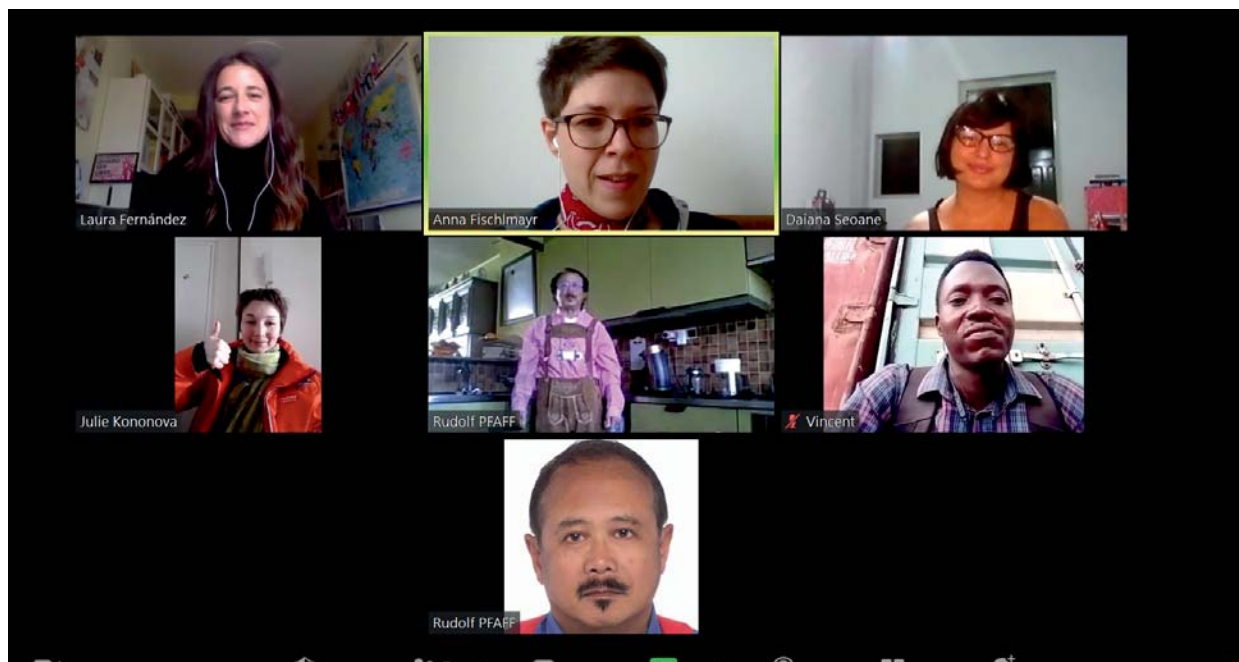
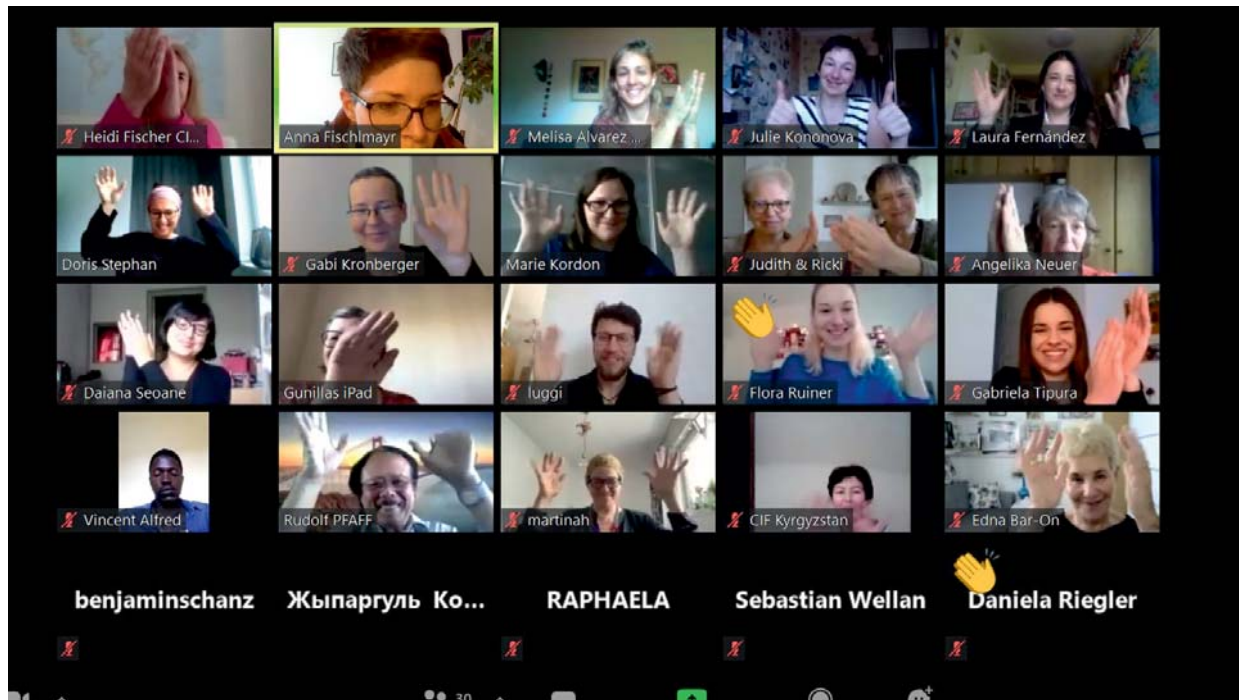
Our very first Virtual International Professional Exchange Program (VIPEP)

in cooperation with students from the Social Work Bachelor Degree Program at the University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien, in Vienna.

Jana, a student, is giving her account of what it was like to create and undertake this virtual exchange as a pilot scheme none of us had much experience in.

“Jumping into new Perspectives”(by Jana Sicho)

In November 2020 a new course called International Exchange CIF started for us students. In the middle of distance learning and probably never having heard of CIF we didn't know what to expect. International exchange in the middle of a pandemic? How would that unfold? In our first course we were warmly greeted by Anna and Doris (members of CIF Austria and lecturers at the University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien), who introduced us to the world of CIF. At this point, a lot of aspects of the VIPEP (Virtual International Professional Exchange Program) were still unclear. All we knew was that we will take part in organizing an international exchange – online. Even though all the students weren't familiar to each other in person, we started creating and collecting ideas working in planning groups. A lot of things, we weren't familiar with either had



The participants, students and members of CIF Austria created a joint motto for the week: "Jumping into new Perspectives,"

to be considered, especially technical aspects, but the spirits were high. And as the planning and the meetings went along, a diverse and thought through few days of the program took shape.

The VIPEP

On the 15th of April the VIPEP finally started and honestly, we were all just as nervous and excited. Nobody knew whether our plans would work out or not. Nobody has done anything like that online before. The first day started with a **Kick-Off Meeting** where everybody got to know each other a little better and the participants got to introduce themselves. We were happy to welcome five very open and curious people from several places around the world and even danced a "Schuhplattler" an Austrian dance, together. The participants, students and members of CIF Austria created a joint motto for the week: "Jumping into new Perspectives," which was very fitting, considering the circumstances. The second part of the program that

included us students was the **Sightseeing Tour**. Therefore, the responsible planning group created some beautiful videos which gave an insight of Vienna's main sights and public housing scheme. On the next day the **Public Event** took place, with a big online audience of over 50 guests (students, CIF members of Austria and different national branches, former participants of IPEPs etc.). In this part of the program we got to discuss and learn about how social work works in the countries of the participants, which was enormously interesting. It opened up a space to think of ways we, soon to be social workers, could widen our perspectives in several topics of social work. The participants provided us with insights into their lives and social work practice and the positive and negative aspects that come with it. The last day of the VIPEP ended online together with an **Evaluation** and a wonderful handing over of the certificates, where in our minds, we were all together celebrating.

Even though, as always when it comes to planning things, we were confronted with some hurdles here and there; we all really enjoyed being part of this wonderful program and we are definitely now many new experiences richer.

Argentina, Costa Rica and Spain propose CIF dissemination campaign Submitted by Susana Garcia Peñaloza, CIF Argentina

As it was set up during the 2020 conference in Saint Malo, France, one of the main challenges that CIF has ahead is to reach new ways to present the organization and consequently involve new members. The promotion campaigns and activities the branches have developed within each country have been quite effective, but, as we all agreed we need new channels of communication to accomplish the CIF goals. In order to this we— in a coordinated activity among CIF Spain, CIF Argentina, and Costa Rica contact person— have prepared a proposal to foster the CIF.

We have noticed an increase of interest in the IPEP by professionals from Spanish speaking countries, and especially in Latin America where there is only one CIF branch—Argentina—and one with contact person, Costa Rica.

The social work in Latin America has a long tradition, in which it stands out—the “reconceptualization movement” developed during the 60s/70s, with a strong influence in community work, movement which crossed borders and is well known in other countries, not only in the region. With this background we wonder why, among so many Spanish speaking countries, there are only two CIF branches and one contact person. Spanish is the official language in more than 20 countries, and the language more people speak after English and Mandarin Chinese.

The fourth and last report of the first decade of the Global Agenda for the Social Work and Social Development 2010-2020, published last year in July, highlights “In the challenging times facing the world today, the expertise of our professions is as relevant to world peace and development as it has ever been”. Professionals in social work and social development have essential expertise in relationship building, a skill desperately needed in our world, which is too often divided by suspicion and hatred.”

This reflection matches with the goal of CIF, “to promote international understanding and world peace through training and exchange of experience for professionals in human services.”

The diversity which sustains the CIF encourages us to create bonds beyond the borders, and taking advantage of what we have in common with some countries, as in this case the language, to grow and enrich as professionals and human beings. CIF is by definition a plurinational entity; and so plurilingual and plurilingualism promotes knowledge and closeness to other cultures.

According to this we propose to organize an international presentation—in this case in Spanish—of the CIF through a digital platform to reach to those countries where it is not well known. We want to introduce the IPEPs to a wider number of professionals, and promote their active participation.

The year 2020 when the IPEPs had to be postponed has also provided us an opportunity to adjust to the new means of communication and promote the role of the social work as a transforming practice committed to the values of equality and social justice.

¹ *A common initiative between the International Association of Schools of Social Work –IASSW-, the International Council of Social Welfare-ICSW-and the International Federation of Social Workers-IFSW- February 2021*

Examples of digital media:

<https://youtu.be/t3N2NmbLC7A>

<https://youtu.be/WiI98F89eUI>

<https://youtu.be/iJhCcq6pMYE>

https://youtu.be/bq62I_5lmJc

CIF Hellas Celebrates the New Year Virtually

On Sunday 31st of January CIF Hellas celebrated the New Year's Traditional Cutting of Vasilopita (New Year Pie) as it does every year. This year due to the pandemic lockdown the event took place virtually!



Thirty-two CIF members joined the event – members, host families and friends of CIF Hellas, representatives from familiar associations as Hellenic Association of Social Workers, past participants of CIF Hellas IPEPs and some representatives of CIF national branches, contact persons (Argentina, Austria, Cyprus, Israel, Russia, Spain, Scotland and UK).

The President of the Greek branch, Catherine Psarouli, opened the event and shared information about the activities of CIF Hellas and the way they were affected by the COVID pandemic.

Pantelis Katzolis, member of CIF Hellas, continued and narrated the custom of "Vasilopita." This is the cutting of a New Year's Day cake which is practiced in Greece and, also in some other areas in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. The cake contains a hidden coin which gives good luck to the one who finds it in the piece which is allocated to him/her. This is usually done at the midnight of New Year's Eve. A coin is hidden in the bread by slipping it into the dough before baking. At midnight, the sign of the cross is etched with a knife across the cake. A piece of cake is sliced for each member of the family and any visitors present at the time, by order of age from eldest to youngest. Slices are also cut for various symbolic people or groups, depending on local and family tradition. They may include the Lord, St. Basil and other saints, the poor, the household. In older times, the coin often was a valuable one, such as a gold sovereign. Nowadays there is often a prearranged gift, money, or something else to be given to the coin recipient. Also, on New Year's Day families cut the vasilopita to bless the house and bring good luck for the New Year. It is common that institutions, associations, social clubs and work places organize events of cutting the Vassilopita as a bonding and "Good Luck" activity. Hence, CIF Hellas practices it every year.

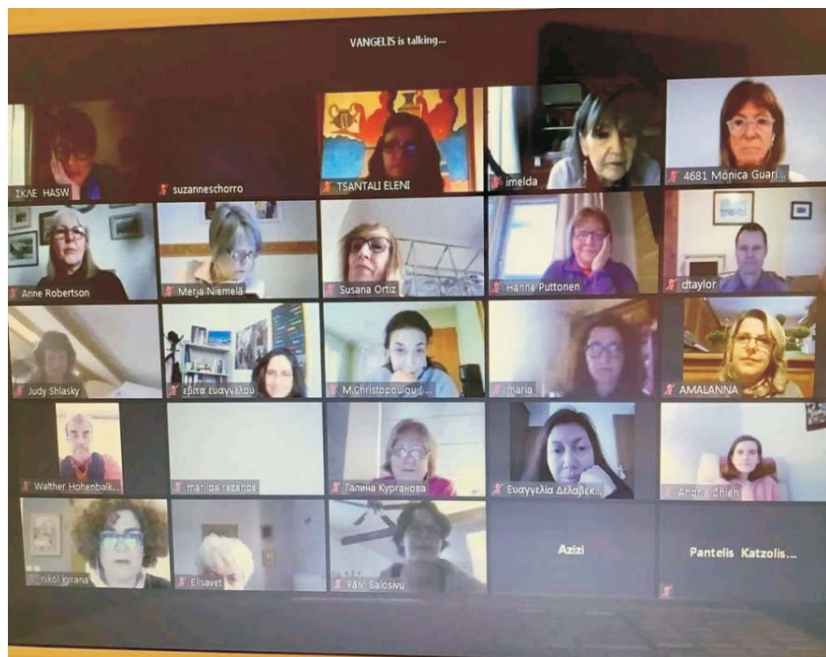
In this digital celebration we opted to do an electronic procedure. All the names of the people who participated in the virtual event were uploaded into an app which worked as roulette. The winner this year was Nikoleta Kyrana, a member of CIF Hellas and participant of the Austrian IPEP in 2019. The gift (instead of the coin) was a beautiful, handmade necklace, designed by a young upcoming artist. Our president, Catherine Psarouli, donated the gift, as she does every year!

CIF Hellas used to celebrate the New Year with a big party every year. It was a way to meet each other and celebrate with lots of food, drink, and fun in a spirit of togetherness and solidarity according to CIF/CIP values. This year, the pandemic prevented us from going to a live party. The new way of internet meetings was the only way to see, speak, with each other. At least we were able to celebrate with friends from different parts of the world and share with them our hopes and expectations for the year to come!

Everybody involved praised the

HELLAS

By Nikoleta Kyrana,
CIF Hellas Board



initiative and expressed their delight to be there. We all wished for a vaccine to finish the pandemic and to save the people from COVID-19. Members of CIF Hellas wished for 2022 to celebrate the New Year with a big party and to continue the IPEP travels as usual.

We want to thank everybody who celebrated with us the Vasilopitas virtual party and we wish with all our heart, “2021 to heal all the wounds that 2020 brought and give us strength to achieve CIF and CIP goals with health, courage and faith.”



The elderly during the coronavirus pandemic:

A research project conducted by CIF Hellas

In September, following a proposal by Eugenia Katoufa (friend of CIF Hellas) we asked the CIF national branches (NBs) and contact persons (CPs) to take part in 'Elderly and Coronavirus' research, asking about the measures that were taken to tackle the situation for the elderly.

Written by **Eugenia Katoufa**
Translated by **Christina Adelfopoulou**

During this pandemic, the thoughts concerning the question, "What do we do for the elderly in this period of time?" changed direction frequently. The conditions that were developed were unexpected, unpredictable and unmanageable, especially since they changed daily. At this stage, therefore, we considered it useful to exchange information with other coworkers from different countries for the management of the problem. We submitted the respective questions and we received some answers from a few NBs of CIF.



The main care for the elderly is obviously always the protection of life, the ensuring of the existence of the necessities of nutrition and the access to healthcare and medicine units. However, this pandemic also included the elderly's loneliness, fear, confusion about the measures to be taken and their worry that they may die alone and helpless.

Some countries – as we were informed by our coworkers that are members of CIF – applied practices that we find useful and we present them to you:

Turkey distributed hygiene kits containing masks, gloves and disinfectant, as well as packages of cooked meals daily. Municipal employees help the elderly with shopping, while there is also a psychological support service for those who live alone at home.

The municipality of Menemeni disinfected the homes of elderly people and frequently conducted tests to control the spread of the virus.

Finland also organized a test for the rapid risk assessment of the coronavirus disease, especially for people with chronic diseases that belong to high-risk groups. At the same time, it distributed leaflets with information for those on how to protect themselves when they go to the grocery store, the pharmacy or to a health center, as well as on the personal hygiene measures they should take, (hand washing, distance of 1-2 meters from other people, avoiding the peak hours and not spending more time in stores than necessary). The brochure reminded them not to cancel appointments with doctors for no reason and not to leave their illnesses unattended, but also not to neglect their interactions with the social services they need. Finland also created "virtual tools" so that those who stay at home can attend a concert, or an art exhibition, church service, gymnastics or a walk in nature.

In **Austria**, citizens were initially banned from visiting or leaving retirement homes. But, they were provided opportunities for discussion with social workers and psychologists. Private networks and neighborhood assistance were mobilized to help with the shopping. Daycare centers for the elderly **were closed for a while**, but then reopened with strict hygiene rules.

An open line in Vienna was available for a wide variety of questions related to daily needs. Elderly people who do not have someone to look after them can call a Stadt-Wien phone for psychological support, or for the prescription of medication. The WohnserviceWien has also set up a neighborhood phone. People over the age of 65 were given a voucher for their taxi transportation. An emergency service was activated for telephone counseling. Psychiatrists, psychologists and other professionals also offered their services through electronic communication. The Vienna Social Fund has published a list of home entertainment options (virtual museum tour, music, etc.) There are many other small-scale initiatives as well. For the elderly who were found during the pandemic in institutions and care units, the procedures were unprecedented.

In **Taiwan**, the services have been mobilized by informing the residents and staff of the institution through small meetings. These meetings are often repeated in order to transmit to them the new information. Social and physical activities are regularly organized, as well as preventive examinations, for example: daily blood pressure measurement, COVID-19 weekly, etc.

In **Denmark**, with the advent of COVID-19, nursing homes closed immediately on 11th of March. Visits of spouses and all relatives were prohibited. Only staff and seniors remained inside the units. When the units opened, the elderly met their

relatives in the garden, wearing masks, in special tents with chairs and tables set up for this purpose. The meetings took place at a distance of two meters. Inside the nursing homes, the elderly gather in very small groups of three-four people to sit in the living room or dining room, but not all together. The same goes for the staff.

For the last three years or so each nursing home has signed a contract with a doctor-physician, who comes regularly and meets with staff to educate them about the illnesses of the elderly and prepare them for what they need to do if the need arises. The elderly have the option of choosing between their own family doctor or a nursing home doctor. In this matter, they are free to choose the doctor they want.

The elderly with a pension have the opportunity to get a place in a nursing home if they want to and if there is no possibility to stay in their home. Staying in a nursing home costs 15,000 Danish (approximately EUR 2,000) per month and the amount is the same everywhere. If a person has a very small pension or no pension at all, then the amount of money is covered by the municipality so that all the elderly have the same access to the provided care.

In all municipalities of Denmark there is a program called 'Help at Home;' according to needs the staff of the program visits the elderly in their homes to provide the assistance. The frequency of the visits depends on the health status of each elderly person according to the evaluation made by the staff of the program. The 'Help at Home' program is basically provided free of charge to all the citizens in order to facilitate their stay at home for as long as their physical condition allows. The program includes a wide range of benefits such as cleaning (in the more affluent municipalities, seniors can have cleaning services more often than in other municipalities. There is also nursing care, pharmaceutical monitoring, psychological support, distribution of meals, etc. The elderly can order electronically from the local supermarket the necessary first-aid items (food, fruit, vegetables, bread, milk etc.) and have those necessities brought to their home. These services are offered not only at this stage of COVID-19 and the pandemic, but on a permanent basis.

As mentioned above, the philosophy and goal of the 'Help at Home' program is: *To do our best to keep the elderly at home as long as possible.* For example, the Municipality of Gentofte has a total population of about 70,000 people and of these only three seniors live with their children. The rest live alone in their homes or have been transferred to nursing homes and other organizations of the municipality. In recent years however, due to the global financial crisis, the government has been trying to cut the social welfare spending. This has had a similar impact on the 'Help at Home' program, which means that the frequency and timing of home visits has been significantly reduced.

In total, the Municipality of Gentofte has 800 care facilities for the elderly, either in the form of nursing homes or independent apartments, of autonomous, semi-autonomous or dependent living, depending on the needs of each individual. These structures are sufficient to meet the needs of the elderly of the municipality. The waiting time to be accepted is not long (about three months on average). People with disabilities and mobility difficulties can access similar municipal structures. Thus, many manage to live independently, with the support of the 'Help at Home' program and the care and support services provided on a 24-hour basis if necessary. These municipal structures consist of apartments to which disabled citizens have wheelchair access. This allows them to move around the apartments on their own with the help of a special elevator installation. Their children often come to visit them but this varies from one part of the country to another.

All elderly citizens are entitled to participate in the 'Help at Home' program if they need it. The elderly citizen completes an application and is then visited by a caregiver to discuss and decide together what kind of package of services will be needed. To be classified as 'elderly' one must be over 70 years of age but the majority of those served are over 80.

This program also offers daily meals. Elderly people pick up meals from a catering service once a week, place them in the freezer and heat them in the microwave. If the elderly person does not have this option, the caregivers of the program warm up and serve the meal and make sure that the elderly person has his daily meal. Each pharmacy has a special service which brings medicines to the homes of elderly citizens for a very small fee. Older couples, who can no longer live in their own home, are accepted either in nursing homes or in other structures such as semi-detached apartments. The Municipality of Gentofte has special apartments for couples. These structures do not oblige the healthy spouse to take care of the patient. What is required is that the healthy spouse does not consume all his/her strength to be exhausted. Instead, the couple must have the energy and strength to do beautiful and enjoyable things together.

Recently, however, due to financial cuts, as the elderly increase, the staff decreases. And that particularly is one of the reasons the staff suffers from exhaustion and lack of energy. In general, despite the benefits offered by municipalities to the elderly, the issue of loneliness exists and is a reality.

Some nursing homes were hit by COVID-19 and a number of seniors left due to other underlying diseases. In a state of great emergency the staff calls 112 and the patient is transported to the hospital. The alternative is for the staff to call the unit doctor and then for the doctor to notify the 'acute team.' This is a team in charge of emergencies, consisting of certified nurses with very good knowledge of the subject.



Additionally, the Municipality of Gentofte has four Open Day Care Centers for the Elderly staffed mainly by

volunteers. The Centers are open to the elderly who are mobile, physically fit and have access to the Center from their home. There is a lending library where they can read books, participate in discussions in the book club, play cards, billiard and organize many other activities. The volunteers collaborate with specific contact people of the Municipality of Gentofte. All costs are covered exclusively by the municipality.



The Municipality of Gentofte also has 'Open Daily Institutions' exclusively for people with serious health problems. These people can go there during the day and work on various programs. If there are mobility problems, they are transported from their home to the Center and back home by the municipality's mini-buses. They are engaged in many activities organized by the Centers, drink their coffee and talk with friends. There is also the possibility to bathe in the Center if they cannot do it at home due to lack of assistance or appropriate equipment. If there is a healthy spouse at home, it is necessary for him / her to have some rest time for himself/herself. So these 'Daily Institutions' are not only for the elderly but also for people with disabilities. They are staffed with professionals of various specialties and there is the possibility of physiotherapy and training of people with mobility disabilities to regain the lost skills.

Lastly, an important goal of the Municipality of Gentofte is the mobilization and active participation of citizens in the issues that concern the municipality in order for them to express their opinion on these issues. In this way, the citizens express themselves individually and collectively in the decision-making, they interact with each other and with the municipal authorities. The citizens are informed about the topics for discussion through the local newspapers, then the interest for participation is expressed and finally the participants are selected!

In **Russia** the majority of the elderly (over 60 years old) reside with their families. Additional quarantine restrictions have been put in place for them. These restrictions vary in different regions of Russia. Everyone over the age of 65 who are still employed in St. Petersburg and Moscow, work separately from others. Pensioners can leave the house to visit the nearest shop. They can also take their pets for a walk on the road or occupy themselves with a work-out or any kind of sports.

In every district of the city there is a social service center, where social workers, psychologists and nurses are employed. Social workers buy food for the elderly. They also help with the cleaning of the house, the writing of letters and so on. Before there was a pandemic, the elderly could be engaged in these centers with handicrafts and gymnastics. These programs are now closed. Many non-governmental open structures for seniors have started operating online using Zoom. Through the internet, they perform creative activities and fitness classes. Closed institutions for the elderly continue to operate. However, if someone gets sick, the whole institution is quarantined. During the summer, it was very difficult to put an elderly person in a closed institution due to the quarantine.

Information on the corona virus infection and the applicable rules can be found at <https://стопкоронавирус.рф>. A guide for the elderly can also be found on the same site. There is other information about the pandemic and the measures taken there as well. TV and radio shows have been aired, talking about the pandemic and the necessary measures for the elderly.

In **Greece**, the pandemic found most municipalities with reduced staff and money due to the economic crisis that lasts more than ten years. However, conscientious employees offered admirable work depending on their capabilities. In the municipality of Kaisariani, the executives of KAPI (Day Care Center for the Elderly) visited every home of an elderly person. In addition to the employees, the social service also activated some members of KAPI to offer support services (phone calls, food distribution, etc.)

In the municipality of Chalandri, an Emergency Center was organized with the 4-digit number 1526 where the lonely and homeless elderly could ask for medicine, food, shopping in the supermarket, nursing services, cleaning or a support visit. The theatrolgist gathered in the summer groups of 3-4 people for the theater group and rehearsed with them in the garden of KAPI. The musician implemented a communication system for three people. Each had the power to communicate with three other people. He/she now teaches choral music by video conference. Not all the elderly members of the choir are willing, but little by little they become jealous and begin to learn to communicate with social media.

In general, the elderly in Greece have a family that takes care of them or is just attentive even occasionally. However, it was observed that during the pandemic the deaths of elderly people increased not from the coronavirus, but from other diseases and even suddenly (cardiac, cerebral, etc.) The death of people who were very active and were taking part in the activities of the KAPI was unexpected. The employees explained that the most active people suffered, because they lost the objects and contacts that kept them in action, giving them energy, color and meaning in their lives. There were many elderly people who died in nursing homes. The owner of such, a 42-year-old doctor, killed himself when he found out that many of their residents had contracted the virus, even though he had taken serious protective measures.

34th CIF Conference November 5-7 2021: Best Practices in Times of Crisis- New Challenges and Opportunities in the pandemic Era with a concentration on families and children.

CIF International has a strong tradition of conferences - held every second year and in many different parts of the world. In March 2021, it became clear that the conference 2021 could not take place in Cyprus but virtually or hybrid.

(prepared by
Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen)

We will miss the trip to Cyprus, the beautiful environment, to hug each other again after all this time. But we will see and hear each other, the conference, workshops, the General Meeting, even a site visit and some cultural entertainment will take place. We will discuss not only about how to deal with clients (addresses is the new expression) in different countries, but also about how to handle our business online.

The 34th conference is organized by Maria Christopoulou and her CIF-CY committee in Cyprus with support from others, including Edna Bar-On from CIF-Israel, Demet Gulaldi from CIF-Turkey and myself from CIF-Switzerland.

The European University Cyprus, where Maria is the Director of the Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic, will take care of all the technical aspects of the conference. They already have a lot of experience with conferences of this kind, so even those new to these methods will feel comfortable with them. In addition, all participants will get access before hand to the webinar "*The Era of Digital Skill*" to prepare themselves. Participation will be free of charge.

You might not be happy to spend your time in front of the computer. How about organizing a face to face event with your CIF national branch around the conference themes or particular parts of it? This will allow many more people than ever, to meet and participate. Conference times are set for afternoons ECT, which enables participants from our Asian branches to participate late in the day, while Americans have early morning times.

The conference will be evaluated very carefully so CIF International learns what are the advantages and possibilities of virtual conferences. While CIF is already used to virtual meetings, this is somewhat different and could be interesting as a guide for other opportunities.

The final program of the 34th CIF conference including the registration process will be published on www.cifinternational.com in July 2021. We are very much looking forward to your participation in this new step in the development of CIF!



Association pour le développement des échanges Internationaux des professionnels du champ social

ECCAY : European project Erasmus+

CIF-FRANCE is a partner of the European project ECCAY Erasmus+ (Empowering and co-constructing Agency of young people at risk of exclusion) since 01/02/2020 for a duration of 2 years.

The Austrian partner BBRZ is the coordinator of this project.

The other partners are professionals from Italy, Romania and Spain. Since more one year the project is only on line because the pandemia.

The ECCAY project aims to promote emancipatory practices to develop the power of action of young people in order to encourage their social inclusion and develop a sense of belonging in the society in which they evolve to become active citizens. These practices are based on a co-construction approach focused on finding solutions rather than solving problems, by soliciting the resources and creativity of the beneficiaries, to enable them to move forward and promote the expected change in their situation.

SFA grew out of the movement triggered by the arrival of brief therapies in the United States. Developed by social workers Steve De Shazer and Insoo Kim Berg in the 1980s, it was originally used to help people overcome their addictions before being successfully extended to other issues. SFA focuses on processes of change rather than explanatory processes. It is characterized by the idea that the emergence of solutions is not linked to the analysis of problems.

The research works on the application of the solution-focused approach (SFA) in the field of youth at risk of social exclusion could be useful to professionals working with youth at risk of exclusion.

We invite you to follow the evolution of this project in English, Spanish, Italian, German and Romanian on

- Web site: -<https://eccay.eu/>

Also on the Facebook page:

Facebook: (16) ECCAYYouth | Facebook

Mireille BOUCHER President CIF France
Sonia Panafieu

Here is the first news letter of the project.

FRANCE

1 NEWSLETTER

What is our mission?

ECCAY
EMPOWERING AND CO-CONSTRUCTING AGENCY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF EXCLUSION

ECCAY provides those working with young people, especially with those at risk of exclusion, with knowledge and innovative tools needed to empower them to develop actions that influence their community and society in a positive way. ECCAY Europe is for all those professionals working with youth, such as for example educators, teachers, professors, coaches, trainers, social workers, social carers, social-health workers, professional workers in the employment area, work-related therapists, psychologists, psychotherapists, management staff in different educational and social organizations, employers, etc.

The ECCAY Project vision builds upon the following set of values:

- Inclusive Innovation
- Cascade Approach
- Action Focus
- Positive Change

"A small change in the right direction can be amplified to great effect" - Mackgaw and Jackson (2007)

ECCAY Europe's website and social media are on air!
Visit <https://eccay.eu> to discover a common space for all those professionals working with youth at risk of social exclusion who want to learn more about innovative tools and methods, in particular, the Solution Focused Approach, to empower youth to change themselves, their community and society in a positive way.

Follow ECCAY Project on social media for updated news on the project!

- @ECCAYYouth on Facebook
- @eccayproject on Instagram

What has been already done? Insights on the IO1. ECCAY Compendium
The project started earlier 2020 and, since then, the partners have been working on carrying out preliminary research on the situation in their countries (Austria, France, Italy, Romania and Spain) on working with young people at risk of social exclusion. This research has involved experts in the field of social work and the consortium managed to implicate 141 respondents and achieved 31 interviews with SFA experts and professionals working with young people at risk of exclusion. These results have been captured in the IO1. ECCAY Compendium, exploring the use of the Solution Focused Approach in the work with youth at risk in the partners' countries. It contains a literature review, insight into the knowledge needs of professionals working with youth and good practices in the field of innovative tools, and the Solution Focused Approach in particular, for empowering youth to become agents of positive change.

But...What is the "Solution Focused Approach" (SFA)?
Within the ECCAY Project, the SFA is an approach which changes the point of view or departure from the problem to the solution. Applying these ideas to the field of work with young people at risk of social exclusion means to exploit their existing personal and contextual resources in order to develop possible steps to achieve the desired aims. Following the development of IO1, the consortium has been able to observe that this methodology is still poorly used in the European countries of the consortium to work with young people. However, it seems that ECCAY has generated high expectations and interest from professionals questioned and they indicate to be motivated to know more about the approach which suggests that these professionals are open to any innovative approach whose implementation could bring as many benefits as shown below:

Plus, the co-construction process could also give these vulnerable youth who often face failure more self-confidence. Just as one of the interviewed experts pointed out during the research, applying SFA with young people at risk of social matter how small, to project themselves into the future by working on the present without dwelling on the past, to offer new perspectives, to change effortlessly and to raise awareness in a light-hearted way".

Some SFA BENEFITS for professional working with young people at risk of social exclusion

- It offers them freedom in the structure of intervention
- It can help them creating a more collaborative context in the relationship with youth and their families
- It highlights results and changes in order to keep young people's and their families' motivation at high level
- It can help them to reduce the distress level while working with youth at risk of exclusion

exclusion would help them "to regain choices and control over their lives, to activate their power to act no matter how small, to project themselves into the future by working on the present without dwelling on the past, to offer new perspectives, to change effortlessly and to raise awareness in a light-hearted way".

ECCAY consortium

- FAB** FAB (Austria) - Lead Partner
- RHIZOMA** Associazione Culturale RHIZOMA-APS (Italy)
- Fundatia Centrum Educational Spektrum** (Romania)
- eolas** EOLAS S.L. (Spain)
- Association pour le développement des échanges internationaux de professionnels du champ social, CIF-France** (France)

If you want to learn more about the ECCAY project do not hesitate to follow our social media channels and contact your national partner of reference!

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication and all its contents reflect the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Erasmus+

THE COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP CYPRUS
is hosting the
34th CIF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE VIRTUALLY
in collaboration with CIF Switzerland, CIF Israel & CIF Turkey
November 5-7, 2021

CONFERENCE THEME

**Best Practices in Times of Crisis -
 New Challenges and Opportunities in the Pandemic Era
 on Families and Children**

The scope of the 2021 Conference is to address the innovative interventions and best practices that have been enforced by professionals to adapt to the crisis to services for families and children.

DAY 1: Friday, November 5, 2021: OPENING SESSION



- 2.00 – 2.30 pm* Opening Remarks/ Welcome addresses by
 President CIF Cyprus: Dr. Maria Christopoulou, Ph.D.
 President: Cyprus Association of Social Workers
 Cyprus Social Welfare Deputy Minister: tbc
 President CIF International: tbc
- 2.30 – 3.15 pm* **Keynote Speech** by *Dr Vassilis Ioakimides*, Professor of Social Work,
 Co-editor of British Journal of Social Work, IFSW Education Commissioner
Rethinking Recovery in Times of Covid 19
- 3.15 - 3.30 pm* **Chat Rooms – Coffee break - Networking**
- 3.30 – 4.45 pm* **Workshop 1: “The solidarity 's response to COVID 19” and what are the lessons we have learned”** by *Dr Olivia Patsalidou*, working with non-governmental sector at the *Pancyprian Volunteering Coordinative Council: Solidarity response and what we have learned in Cyprus*
- Presentations of good practices by *Dr Yaron Ziv*, Senior Psychotherapist, Director Maof centre for Psychotherapy: **Covid19 and its impact on the ultra-orthodox community in Israel: The social support by the community to help people in need** and Associate Professor *Dr Gonca Polat*, Social Work Department, Ankara University:
- 4.05 – 4.30 pm* Break Rooms: The participants will break into small groups to discuss the presentations. The final comments will be presented on *Sunday*.

DAY 2: Saturday, November 6, 2021

- 2.00 – 3.15 pm* **Workshop 2: “Social Support for Children and Their Families in Times of Pandemic”** by *Traudel Spiess Beeler*, social worker, coordinator, coach, and supervisor at the Psychosocial care for families Central Switzerland, Lucerne, Switzerland.
 Presentations of good practices by *Yu-Chiao, Tseng*, protective social worker, government-employed, working with victims of sexual abuse, child-abuse, and domestic violence,

Taiwan and *Silvia Nutter*, social worker and supervisor in child protection systems of the government, Argentina.

2.40 – 3.15 pm*

Break Out Rooms: The participants will break into groups to discuss the presentations. The final comments will be presented on Sunday.

3.15 - 3.30 pm*

Chat Rooms – Coffee break - Networking

3.30 - 4.45 pm*

Workshop 3: “Impact of the Pandemic on Families and people with special needs” by *Dr Muhammad Diab* Director, El Nahda Institution - residential facility and a school for Israeli Arabs with developmental intellectual disabilities and with challenging behavior: ***The theoretical framework of working with families and people with special needs in Israel and in the Arab Israel society***

Presentations of good practices by Professor *Sujata Bhan*, Head of the Department of Special Education at SNDT Women's University in Mumbai (India): **Parent-teacher-partnership** and by *Julie Bakhtova-Kononova* (Russia), Clinical psychologist and cognitive-behavioral psychotherapist. Worked at St. Petersburg State Budgetary Institution of Health and as a clinical psychologist and social worker for vulnerable and defenseless families and children, and as the chief coordinator for reconstruction of the polyclinic on Lean technologies principle: ***Caring for children during the pandemic***”.

4.10 – 4.45 pm*

Break out rooms: The participants will break into groups to discuss the presentations. The final comments will be presented on Sunday.

4.45 – 5.00 pm*

Coffee Break - Networking - National Branch reunion

5.00 - 6.30 pm*

General Assembly of CIF International

A special link will be provided to members of CIF International.

DAY 3: Sunday, November 7, 2021

2.00 – 4.30 pm*

Parallel Discussions/Presentations (Please register for one/two of these)

Themes for Presentations/Discussions



Repairing social bonds through Social Mediation by *Nadia Kornioti*, Research Scholar & Social Mediation trainer, ICLAIM, (Cyprus).



The effects of COVID-19 on the mental health of school-age children with a trauma by *Beth Guzi* (USA).



Youth's climate activism in times of Covid-19: Implications for policy and practice by *Dr Spyros Spyrou* European University, *Eleni Theodorou* European University, *Georgina Christou*, Postdoctoral Research Fellow University of Cyprus (Cyprus).



Save Our Food by *Stavros Parfalis*, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Frederick University (Cyprus).



Make empathy great again: a psychosocial interpretation and reflections of the effects of the pandemic on empathy by *Katerina Koni*, Doctoral candidate in clinical psychology, University of Nicosia (Cyprus).



The impact of the pandemic on the practice dimension of social work: The Case of the USA and Turkey by *Stacy Moreno* School Social Workers & Social Work Faculty, Paradise Valley Community College (Arizona-USA) and *Gülcan Urhan*, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Istinye University (Istanbul-Turkey).

4.30 – 5.30 pm* **Workshop Presentations** (4 group leader presenters)

5.30 – 6.30 pm* **“General Outcomes and Take-Home notes from the Conference”**

Dr Eleni Athanasiou, Lecturer of Social Work, European University Cyprus

Goodbyes and Farewell

Fee Participation is free of charge.
Registration Is needed by all participants.

**Nicosia time*

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES WELCOME!

CIF INTERNATIONAL UPDATE - 2021 EC ELECTION

Nominations remain open until 14 August!

Qualified nominations have been received for all EC positions and there is competition for the two member at large positions! Names, profiles and video speeches from all candidates are now posted on the CIF International website members only page.

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

Note: Nominations will CLOSE on 14 August 2021, 24 hours before the election per CIF Statues and the election will be held virtually at the BD meeting 14 - 15 August 2021.

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 and email capability
5. Active and committed to CIF goals.

Election committee members are available to answer your questions and will consider your communication with us as confidential. Voting will be held anonymously using the Choice Voting application - instructions forthcoming to branch presidents.

ALL CIF INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS AND BRANCH PRESIDENTS-

YOUR ACTION REQUESTED!

Presidents, set a date to meet with your branch members right away (virtually or in person) to discuss EC candidates and how you will vote for your branch at the BD meeting on 15 August!

Give your CIF branch members the password for the 'members only' page [Please ask them to keep the member login confidential].

Members and presidents, written information about the candidates and their video clip presentations have been posted on the 'members only' page of our new website:
www.cifinternational.com.

WEBSITE INSTRUCTIONS - How to find the Election documents and videos once you logon to the Members Only page:

- www.cifinternational.com , click on Member Login in upper right corner of screen,
- Enter confidential login and password (Contact branch president for this information or new webmaster, Annica Frank annicaef@live.se, if you need help)
- Click on Document Center Access
- Click on the folder Presentations EC Candidates (they are all in the same document, beginning with president, scroll down to read.)
- Click on the folder EC Election Candidates Videos (start each video by clicking on arrow in the middle of each photo.

Presidents (or proxy) attend the BD meeting with instructions on EC voting from your members.

- One vote per position per branch - CPs do not vote
- Online voting will be private and anonymous.
- Please attend the "Fairytale" practice voting on line scheduled for noon Europe time on 7th August to noon 8th August, one week before the election, so you will understand the voting procedure. We want to make sure that you are comfortable with how to vote using Choice Voting and that we have your correct email address for the link to vote.

Warm regards from your Election Committee,

Jane Ollendorff, convener - USA jane.franko@charter.net, Ilse Hoffmann-Klee - Germany hoffmann.ilse@gmx.de and Mieke Weeda - Netherlands mieke.weeda@gmail.com

CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR 2021 ELECTION

**CIF INTERNATIONAL – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS
RECEIVED AS OF JULY 27, 2021**

**MEET THE CANDIDATES @
www.cifinternational.com**

DIRECTORY OF CIF NATIONAL BRANCHES

July 2021

Algeria	Mr. Hamoudi Hocine	hocinelesouk@gmail.com	Nepal	Mr. Krishna Acharya	cif.nepal2010@gmail.com
Argentina	Ms. Susana García Peñaloza	cif2010argentina@gmail.com	Netherlands	Mr. David Scheele	info@cifnetherlands.nl
		suguspepa@hotmail.com	New Zealand	Ms. Sue Ross	cifaotearoa@gmail.com
Austria	Ms. Gabi Kronberger	cifaustria@yahoo.com			miskross@hotmail.com
Cameroon	Mr. Harrison Nnoko Ngaaje A.	cifcameroon@gmail.com	Norway	Ms. Linda Pettersen	lindacifnorway@outlook.com
		ajebeennoko1972@yahoo.com	Palestine	Mr. Mohammed Alami	mdalami@gmail.com
Cyprus	Ms. Maria Christopoulou	kdg@cytanet.com.cy	Russia	Ms. Galina Kurganova	cifrussia@mail.ru
Estonia	Ms. Margit Randaru	cifestonia@gmail.com			gkurganova@yandex.ru
		margit.randaru@gmail.com	Scotland (UK)	Ms. Anne Robertson	cifscotland.uk.scio@gmail.com
Finland	Mrs. Tuija Nummela	info@ciffinland.org			annejrobertson@gmail.com
France	Ms. Mireille Boucher	ciffrance@orange.fr	Slovenia	Ms. Tatjana Prašnikar	tatjana.prasnikar@gmail.com
		mirboucher@aol.com	Spain	Ms. Susana Ortiz Soto	spaincif@gmail.com
Germany	Ms. Renate Wisbar de Echeandia	Info@cif-germany.de	Sweden	Ms. Kristina Weinsjö	info@cifsweden.se
		renate.wisbar@cif-germany.de	Switzerland	Ms. Elisabeth Fischbacher	Schroblitgen
Hellas	Ms. Despoina Oikonomou	cifhellas@cifhellas.gr			fischbacher@cif-switzerland.ch
India	Mr. Ratnakar P Khaire	cif_india@yahoo.co.in	Taiwan	Mr. Tung-Ru Jeffrey Shieh	ciftaiwan@gmail.com
		khaire_r@rediffmail.com			trshieh@gmail.com
Israel	Ms. Edna Bar-on	baroned@013.net.il	Turkey	Ms. Demet Gulaldi	cifturkey@cifturkey.org
Italy	Ms. Barbara Bellotto	ciffitalia@ciffitalia.it			cifturkey@yahoo.com
		bebarbar@tin.it			dgulaldi@gmail.com
Japan	Mr. Masamichi Sakamoto	cifjapan08@gmail.com	CIF-USA	Mr. John George	jgeorge16@comcast.net.
Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Aida Iliyazova	cifkl@mail.ru			turin@embarqmail.com
		aailyazova@gmail.com	CIP-USA	Ms. Lisa Purdy	lisa@cipusa.org
Morocco	Mr. Aziz Elboudiri	cifmaroc2014@gmail.com			
		cifmorocco.president@gmail.com			

BD meeting and EC election to be held online 13 -15 August 2021

Dear CIF branch presidents, Dear contact persons,

As Margit announced in a recent email, we can not organize the Board of Directors (BD) August meeting in Tallinn due to health restrictions. A number of countries would not have been able to travel to Europe.

The BD meeting will be held on August 13 to 15, we will try to organize the schedules to allow the majority of countries to be present online. It is not easy, but we will do our best.

The elections of the new Executive Committee (EC) will be done online on Sunday the 15th. It will be very important to respect the confidentiality of the vote. This is a new challenge. Information will be sent to you later.

We look forward to seeing you online for this new meeting and working time. We hope to have real face-to-face meetings in 2022.

Mireille BOUCHER, president CIF International on behalf of the EC team

Contact Persons for Countries without a Branch Office

Australia	Ms. Li Li, LILi0530@msn.com
China	Ms.Cathy Xi Cao, daziquiyiheng@126.com
Costa Rica	Ms. Montserrat Succar Guzman monsugu_10@hotmail.com , pepcifcostarica@gmail.com
Jordan	Mr.Bassam I. Haddad, bhs.jordan@gmail.com
Kosovo	Mr.Adem Shala, ademmd@gmail.com
Latvia	Ms.Vinita Vitola, ciflatvia@gmail.com
Lithuania	Ms.Aldona Moceviciene, almoenator@gmail.com
Madagascar	Mr. Theodoric Rajaonary, theo.doric2525@yahoo.com
Pakistan	Ms. Tajreen Midhat, tmidhat@gmail.com
Philippines	Ms.Juliet Vergara, vergarajuliet@yahoo.com
Portugal	Ms.Fatima Ferreira, mfferriraal@gmail.com
Romania	Ms.Elena Ulmeanu, Ulmeanu_elen@yahoo.com
Serbia	Dr. Olivera M. Cirkovic, olivera.cirkovic@map.org.rs
Tanzania	Mr. Ignus Kalongola, ignuskalongola@yahoo.co.uk
Tunisia	Mr. Lassaad Bousbiaa lassaad.bousbiaa@endarabe.org.tn
Vietnam	Mr. Thang Nguyen, amour01vn2000@gmail.com

CIF International Executive Committee

President:

Mireille BOUCHER

France

president@cifinternational.com

Vice-President:

David SCHEELE

Netherlands

contactpersons@cifinternational.com

Secretary:

Demet GULALDI

Turkey

secretary@cifinternational.com

Treasurer:

Astrid SEHMER

Germany

treasurer@cifinternational.com

Member at Large:

Margit RANDARU

Estonia

ipep@cifinternational.com

Member at Large:

Merja NIEMELÄ

Finland

membetatlarge@cifinternational.com

Website:

www.cifinternational.com

Facebook Group:

CIP/CIF

We're on the Web!
www.cifinternational.com



FACEBOOK USERS

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/>

In this Issue:

Message from the Editor 2

Presidents Message 3

CIF 2028 reports 4

Guidelines on Fundraising 5

Countries Talk 6

National Branches 21

This issue of CIF NEWS was designed and printed in Cyprus
by Gregory Hadjimichalakis, e-mail: hadjimichalakis@yahoo.gr

read