

World News

Winter 2017

32nd

CIF International Conference in Kalamata



CIF Hellas cordially thanks all the participants of the 32st CIF International Conference in Kalamata for their energetic and warm participation which gives continuing inspiration for future development of our Organization.

The Council of International Fellowship Magazine

From the Editor's Corner

Dear CIF members and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a very happy Christmas and enjoy your families and friends. May this New Year bring only happiness, health, peace and prosperity to the whole world.

Regardless of a lot of obstacles and problems, 2017 was a good year. All in all it was productive and successful. The conference in Kalamata, Greece overpassed all our expectations and open new doors to the scientific part of our association along with good networking, fellowship and a lot that has been accomplished by the different countries and members of CIF. Our CIF family is growing slowly but steadily and it is now the time to find ways to attract more young professionals not only in social work, but in all other health sciences. This will open new doors and strengthen our work.

Peace projects are moving along smoothly, slowly but again steadily, and hopefully soon we will have the conference on Peace in Italy.

This edition of World News (WN) is one of the richest editions we've published up to now, with new and very interesting articles from all over the world. The content of this WN is so rich in information and in sharing experiences, bridging bridges and showing how CIF networking is moving along in the right way.

Recently I was in the States with ERASMUS+ faculty exchange program, in Boise-Idaho. I stayed at my colleague and friend's house. Beth Gury who works at Meriden University, Boise, is a Clinical Speech Pathologist Supervising Students with main interest adults. I do the same thing at the European University Cyprus, teaching and directing the Speech, Language, Hearing Clinic of the Speech and Language Pathology Program, and I am a Clinical Supervisor mainly working with children. With Beth we



by Maria Christopoulou,
Editor, World News

had two main classes to Counselling and Speech Pathology Students both on undergraduate and graduate levels on International Exchanges and the benefits of this. The classes both onsite and online (Cyprus and US at the same time) were interesting and students showed great interest in learning about ERASMUS exchanges but mainly they had the chance to hear about CIF and all the exchange programs we do every year as well as about the exchanges done with Rotary Clubs. We showed them short films regarding our associations, both CIF and Rotary, and had a lot of questions on both programs.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I address this editorial to you all once more. My experience as the editor of the World

News for CIF International always excites me as it opens up my horizons regarding the multicultural status, and gives me a lot of joy to be always learning more and more about people around me with my main concern to SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

CIF fellowship has expanded worldwide, and the connectivity among its members and friends is unbelievable. Now especially,

with the new technologies and internet, things are so much simpler and so easy and boundaries are unseen. We are all so close and at the same time so far away. We can do things together even being apart. It is amazing how things evolve and how life moves on and changes constantly making us wiser and more efficient.

META-KINISIS is what we should all do and make it part of our life! Only if we think positive, out of the box, we will continue growing and make the difference. All and each one of us is important and can make a difference to bring only happiness, love, and smile to all people on earth.

Maria Christopoulou, CIF Cyprus
World News Editor

“
We can do things together even being apart. It is amazing how things evolve and how life moves on and changes constantly making us wiser and more efficient.
”

CIF International President's Message

Mireille Boucher,
President CIF International



Thank you for this beautiful Conference!

Thanks to everyone for your actions around Meta-Kinesis. Do we find the answer to our questions on this topic? Everyone can say it!

Thank you for this beautiful reunion.

Thank you for these beautiful encounters. We were a lot from all continents.

A very big thank you to our friends from CIF Hellas. You succeed!!!

Thank you for trusting me over the next two years to continue working with the Executive Committee (EC) team and its new members: **Astrid** from Germany, **Demet** from Turkey, **Margit** from Estonia. I believe this new team will serve CIF International with seriousness, passion and will continue the work undertaken by the previous teams.

We want to make you live the CIF, continue its development, create ties, bridges of friendship and solidarity around the world. The CIF projects of the future CIF 2028 and the Peace Project continue to develop our actions in this world that is undergoing

major upheavals, both climatic and conflicting.

We will work with you and for you. It is important to find the same words on the same items even if our mother languages are different, so find the right words understood by all for the same objectives of peace and international understanding.

International programs are the basis of CIF's continued development: for the first time this year 2017 a program with CIF Morocco, and in 2018 CIF Spain will be the novelty.

For the first time a participant from Algeria came to the conference, now the challenge is the creation of CIF Algeria. Other former participants are working on the creation of new national branches, especially in Jordan.

Our colleague from Palestine was participating: his goals of continuing his investment in the Peace Project is also a beautiful project for the future.

We will support all these actions and others I can't make the list. We promote peace and understanding among all peoples with

our thoughts towards the pioneers of our association in the spirit of Henry Ollendorff.

Gabi from Austria, **Michael** from the United States, **Rabia** from Turkey left the committee due to important commitments in their private lives. They served CIF with heart and seriousness, we

formed a good solidarity team and we worked with confidence. Thanks to them for their commitment!

And let's bet this new team will continue in the same spirit. Now we are all at work and again thanks for all your actions.

CIF French touch: Amitiés and see you soon.

CIF International secretary summarizes the **Kalamata BD meeting minutes**

In Kalamata before the Conference, a Board of Directors (BD) meeting was held on 16-18 September 2017.

Communication

During the BD meeting in Utrecht 2016, it was agreed that a follow-up workshop on communication would be given. The meeting started with that subject.

Merja Niemela prepared the workshop.

In Utrecht, the outcome of the discussion was:

- Many tools are used in communication, both in writing and during face to face discussions. Language is important. Clear and timely communication is needed and expected. National Branches (NBs) need time to disseminate information. How to activate members, when they do not answer, is a big issue.
- More networking in modern means, info between different countries, over-relying on digital communication, multicultural organisation.

The target of the workshop in Kalamata was awareness of good communication. Small groups were formed which discussed the elements of good communication.

Questions to support the discussion were:

What are the elements of good communication?

How do we communicate – how different /alike we are in the group – good practices?

Home work was also given for the days of the meeting: Observe GOOD COMMUNICATION during the BD meeting and write down the elements on Post-it.

In this way, good communication was a subject during the whole meeting.

On Monday morning, As a follow-up on Fridays' workshop, communication was again on the agenda.

Good practices that came out are:

- Attitudes, respect, awareness, acceptance
- Listen
- Clearness
- Be present
- Patience, time
- Re-check
- Know each other, know the audience
- Body language, nonverbal communication
- patience
- Involve every member.

Comments:

Face to face contact is usually good, digital communication is more difficult, as you cannot see the body language, hear no tone of voice. English is for many people not their native language. Speaking clearly and slowly is important in that respect.

Preparation for meetings is also important for both, organizers and

participants.

Decided to put communication for (maximum) 30 minutes on the agenda of the next BD meeting as one of the first items. Talk about political and economic developments of the countries in relation to organizing the PEP.

Tanzania

Mireille Boucher (president) presented the last communication with Tanzania; they proposed again to reimburse the money. The plan they submitted is a strategic plan to reorganize the NB. Mireille answered Tanzania that CIF International would first like to get the money back.

- Tanzania requested to be reinstated as a Branch. This was discussed. Agreed was, that Branches who have had participants from Tanzania will give those names to the EC. CIF Finland for instance, had three different participants from Tanzania till now. The names that come up will be checked against the names of the Tanzanian committee. Those names will be given to **Ignus**, so he can try to work on establishing CIF Tanzania with CIF participants instead of outsiders. It is important that trust is established

CIP USA

Strategic Planning Process

CIPUSA has been participating in a strategic planning process for the past two years. The purpose of the strategic planning process is to examine who we are and what we do and through this we hope to create an exchange program model that can provide financial stability.

Building Bridges Program

A direct result of the strategic planning process was the development of a pilot program called – Building Bridges Program. We have conducted our first Building Bridges Program with our new affiliate office in Arizona in August. The program is for six weeks and we had a total of four participants sign up, but only three were able to come. The focus of this program was social work. Participants applied from CIF Taiwan, CIF Israel, CIF Cameroon, and one from Indonesia.

Statutes

The court in Bonn requested three changes, as the wording was not in compliance with German law. **Gabi Kronberger** explained which and why changes were requested. The changes are not that big: Describe in more detail how membership can be terminated, how members will be invited to the General Assembly and representation of the Executive Committee (EC). All changes were accepted by both the BD and the General Assembly (GA).

Professional Exchange Programs (PEP)

Some points from the Final Evaluation Report (FER) 2016 based on the information from Branches:

In 2016, 19 PEPs were organized.

Taiwan had its first PEP. Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia had a joint PEP. Russia had its first standalone program (they did with Finland in the past).

CIF Morocco had its first program in 2017.

In May 2018 Spain will have its first program in Madrid.

Difficulties and suggestions were briefly discussed, for more information see the FER report.

Taiwan brought up the possibility of an online application via the website. This will be discussed later during the PEP meeting and probably the BD meeting in 2018. In Russia the information provided may be subject to privacy laws.

The possibility to send unemployed professionals was brought up by CIF Hellas. A discussion followed, it was decided that every Branch can submit applications from unemployed candidates, Branches make their own decision in accepting or not. There are no restrictions for the unemployed candidates to apply, but they should have two years of experience in the past.

Some facts:

- In 2015, 15 PEPs were organized by 16 NBs and CIP USA
- In 2016, 19 PEPs were organized by 19 NBs and CIP USA
- In 2017, 15 PEPs:
 - 12 have been completed
 - CIF Nepal, CIF Netherlands and CIF Japan have their PEP in autumn

In the participant database, 2440 participants are registered from 88 countries.

Public Relations

The PR Committee has not been active in the past year, as most work was done. Update:

Website – The CIF International website has not changed

Banner – was on hold until the logo issue is resolved

Toolkit – is made by Anne and was on hold until the logo issue is resolved

Flyers - all branches offering a programme generally provide flyers

Promotional ideas - Information cards were created, just waiting for the new logo. The video clips were successfully completed

These products can now all be finalised, as the logo is known. For the video clips, the person who manufactured these will be asked to change them. There will be some cost involved to do that.

Considering the website, a renewal was discussed. The logo as decided on has to be on the website.

Logo Presentation

Logo – A logo team was formed in 2016 in Utrecht. This team completed the task; the PR Committee was not involved any more.

Two years ago there was a proposal for a new logo. In the 2016 Utrecht BD meeting, another round of voting was initiated, as it was not clear who wanted to use it and who not. The outcome of this new round of voting was a majority against the logo. The BD decided that a new logo team should work on alternative proposals. They presented new possible logos, which were sent to the NB's to be voted upon. The four most popular logos were presented to the BD in Kalamata and voted upon. The result was: the old Logo was the most popular. This then will be the logo to be used by CIF International and all the Branches.

As it was decided that all will use the exact same logo, this means that Branches who have altered this logo with a map or name etc., will have to change that logo to the one agreed upon. Under the logo, it will be possible to put the name of the Branch.

The high resolution format and the font for additional text will be sent to all NBs and contact persons.

Peace Projects

Two peace projects were held, in Israel and Finland. Both Branches reported back, these were sent out to the BD members.

A summary of the peace projects is available in the Annual report 2016 and in the *CIF World News*.

For future peace projects, donations are welcome. When it is known how much money is available, calls for proposals can be sent out.

Future of CIF

Elisabeth Fischbacher (CIF Switzerland) presented this new project. Main goals are: where is CIF going in the next 10 years and how will PEPs and conferences be affected, where are we in ten years' time and how will we get there?

The CIF process could be something similar to CIP USA's future planning process.

By the end of this year, draft of analysis of what CIF needs will be available. All Branches will be asked to complete an analysis and to bring in new ideas about the future of CIF International. In January-February 2018 this draft should be completed and a number of ideas will be brought to CIF International: What and how should be our future?

Where will CIF International go in the next ten years? What products and by which means (money, people) will CIF International get there? This is not only about PR but also about our PEPs.

To accomplish this project, a new committee (working group) will be formed: 'CIF 2028'. There will be **Lisa Purdy** (CIP USA) and **Mieke Weeda** (CIF Netherlands) as members in the committee, **Elisabeth** (CIF Switzerland) likes to be the convener. In addition, the committee has a member from the EC (**Margit Randaru**) and two more young persons from the Branches.

On a flipchart, a time plan was presented:

Sept/October 2017-The committee starts working.

Dec 2017-They send the analysis to the NBs, to be discussed in the NBs.

March 2018- Deadline for the answers from NBs

April 2018- CIF 2028 Group organizes a workshop

August 2018- The results are discussed at the BD meeting 2018 in Vienna

Timeline and e-mails will be sent to branches in September 2017.

EC and BD meeting in 2020

Proposals were sent in from India and Morocco. They were voted upon and the conclusion was that the EC and BD meetings of 2020 will be held in Marrakech – date to be determined.

Conference 2019 in France

Mireille Boucher (president of CIF France) presented the proposal from CIF France with a video clip.

The next Conference will be held in 2019 in France **Saint Malo, France**

Saint Malo is situated in Brittany in the west of France along the sea. It's an ancient city with character.

The price will be on the same basis as the Greek conference in Kalamata.

The theme will be about social workers in a world of merchant market, solidarity and ecology. This will be worked out more.

Date: Last week of June, first week of July 2019 – to be determined.

Elections for the EC

Gabi Kronberger, Rabia Ozbas Durak and Michael Cronin decided not to go for re-election. All the candidates that were nominated presented themselves the evening before the elections.

The new statutes waive the rule of only four years in the same EC position, and retain the eight total years served limit without a break. The BD determined that the new statutes be applied to all nominees in the 2017 election.

Jane Ollendorff, convener of the Election Committee, thanked the whole EC for their work during the past years, then especially the leaving EC members: Rabia Ozbas-Durak, Gabi Kronberger and Michael Cronin.

She then presented the new EC:

Mireille Boucher (France)	President
David Scheele (Netherlands)	Vice President
Astrid Sehmer (Germany)	Treasurer
Demet Gulaldi (Turkey)	Secretary
Merja Niemela (Finland)	Member at Large
Margit Randaru (Estonia)	Member at Large

Jane Ollendorff called for members on the 2019 election committee and asked the BD to consider names and approach people who will be interested.

Peace Projects Coordinator reports success in 2017

In 2017, Peace Projects were held in **Israel** and **Finland** with the support of the CIF International Peace Project (PP) fund. Both projects were successful and were reported in Kalamata, September 2017.

Israel:

The objective of the project in Israel was to expose their Professional Exchange Program (PEP) participants in diverse fields of social work and education to the Arab-Jewish conflict in Israel, the impact of the political, social and cultural situation on two million Arabs as well as Jews who are Israeli citizens living and working together. The activities were two workshops, collaboration with a well-established Arabic-Jewish social workers' organization to recruit new members for CIF, visits to agencies and institutions in cities and towns – both Arab and Jewish – with mixed populations, host living with Arabic and Jewish families to experience different cultures. Participants were exposed to every aspect of day-to-day life.

The Peace Project exposed CIF participants to the different problems and confrontations social workers encounter working in a society with diverse cultures within a tense political environment. The project enabled many cultural and social discussions on a personal and professional level. All participants pointed out significance of their exposure to the complexity of the conflict and to its

outcome dilemmas. Only the workshops were partly successful. In the future the planning needs more effort.

Finland:

CIF Finland's plan was to implement the peace project 2017 to run throughout the PEP, and find grant participants directly from EU nearby countries in unstable circumstances/direct-conflicts/post-conflict situations. Information was sent to Balkan countries which Finland had estimated to be in post-conflict situation to bring personal experience from recovery of civil war, thus enriching the theme in its essence.

The peace theme was implemented during the three and half week PEP. The group's concrete feedback was to have a whole single day with the peace theme instead of scattering it all along the program. Another clear suggestion was to have an office space with access to a personal computer and internet where they could discuss, exchange and reflect on ideas learned from the daily program with each other. Both the grant participants expressed their eagerness to go on working in strengthening CIF networks in Balkan countries by supporting the existing Contact Persons (CPs) in Serbia and Croatia, and becoming a CP (Kosovo).

CIF Finland's plan is to continue implementing the peace issue as a part of coming PEPs.

CIF 2028: A new strategic planning committee formed

By **Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen** (CIF Switzerland) for the Committee CIF 2028

The Board of Directors (BD) meeting 2017 of CIF International has decided to form a committee "CIF 2028." Its task is to analyze strengths as well as problems and to work out strategies for future development of CIF.

CIF International was founded in 1960 and during the

next 60 years developed 32 National Branches (NBs) and a structure of seven Contact Persons (CPs) in different countries.

CIF International is the body to develop and coordinate national structures and activities, to set common standards for Professional Exchange Programs (PEP), host family living and so on.

National Branches assemble alumni from programs all over the world; two-thirds of them offer regularly PEPs between ten days and up to four weeks.

CIF International, National Branches and Contact Persons are well organized, have the same goals, structures and tasks.

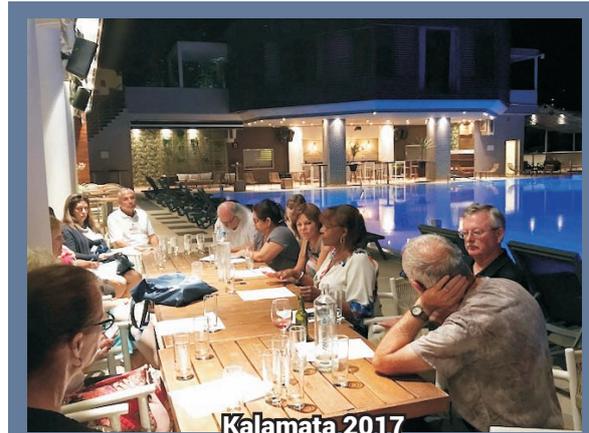
Their most important asset is the enormous investment of volunteers; there are no employees. This is at the same

time one of the difficulties in some National Branches; it brings them to their limits to organize a PEP, to find the necessary host families, and the organizations for agency visits. At the same time there are often not enough participants for very different reasons; the investment of organizers as well as participants are very high and its recognition by the employer is too often none.

Due to very limited resources, cooperation with other organizations are not systemized, even available finances are not sought. A number of interested professionals cannot participate due to lack of funding for travel expenses.

These and other problems need to be analyzed and new ways to be found.

The committee consists of **Elisabeth Fischbacher** (Committee Convener, President CIF Switzerland), **Margit Randaru** (Delegate of CIF International Executive Committee), **Ya-Chuan Hsu** (Member of CIF Taiwan and CIF Switzerland), **Lisa Purdy** (Director of CIPUSA) and **Mieke Weeda** (Director of CIF Netherlands).



Kalamata 2017

CIF USA branch meets by pool

The committee will work in close cooperation with the National Branches and Contact Persons and plan to discuss proposals at the CIF International Board of Directors meeting 2018.

CIF Morocco to host the EC and BD in 2020

By Aziz El Boudiri, president CIF Morocco

CIF Morocco is very pleased to announce that during the 2017 BD Meeting held in Kalamata, Greece, CIF Morocco was elected to host the Executive Committee (EC) & Board of Directors (BD) meeting of CIF International in 2020.

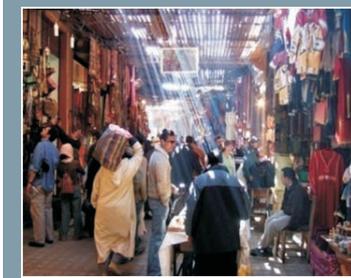
We appreciate very much the trust that BD members put in CIF Morocco and its president.

We will be more than happy seeing all the CIF/CIP branch representatives and all the EC members in MARRAKECH in 2020!

From the bottom of our heart, you are all welcome on behalf of CIF Morocco active members, CIF associate friends and the two young sisters Maroua and Safa from Europe who already put the event in their agenda and will be waiting for you in Marrakech.



CIF Maroc - CIF Morocco



The newly elected EC meets in the center of France

Mireille Boucher, newly elected president of CIF International, organized the first Executive Committee (EC) meeting at her home in the center of France on 21st October, shortly after the Kalamata Conference.

It's hard work, but we were very pleased to prepare for the two next years together for CIF International. With many topics to prepare, we shall meet again next August in Vienna. In the meantime, we shall continue to communicate with the National Branches and with you.

It's a pleasure to serve CIF International as we continue to develop CIF International programs and branches, continuing our mission of peace and respect through cultural understanding.

Mireille, David, Demet, Astrid, Margit, Merja



Pictured from left to right : Mireille Boucher, Astrid Sehmer, Demet Gulaldi, Merja Niemela, Margit Randaru, David Scheele

Kalamata Conference began with words of Welcome!



Meta-Kinesis

Dear friends,

CIF Hellas, and I personally, welcome you to Greece, the land of PHILOXENIA, where a foreigner (a *xenos*) is by definition a guest and a friend. CIF Hellas is honoured to organize for the second time the biennial CIF International Conference. The first was in 1999 in Vraona.

Many thanks to all: CIF members, friends and young volunteers who helped, so that we can finally have this conference. Our deep gratitude to the authorities of sun-kissed Kalamata and the Regional Unit of Messinia who embraced and supported the project from the beginning.

We hope that the Greek light, the Greek sea, the Greek spirit and the local flavors and tastes, abundant in the hosting city of Kalamata, will create an environment of METAKINESIS in our hearts and minds towards a common LOGOS on the human values we all dream for this world.

We will very much appreciate your active participation in the conference program. The world needs dreamers as much as it needs doers, but above all the world needs dreamers like us who create synergies and networks to make their dreams come true.

KALOS ORISATE-KALΩΣΟΡΙΣΑΤΕ

Elisavet Bakagianni, CIF Hellas President



Kalamata 2017 - Ninette, Veta, Maria



Welcome words from CIF International President –
It is a pleasure to be in Kalamata for the 32nd CIF International Conference.
Thanks to CIF Hellas for organizing this beautiful moment for our association.

This event of meeting and sharing is important for each of us. Our association lives and contributes to a better understanding between the peoples and the different countries in this difficult world. We want to contribute to friendship, to peace. We continue the actions begun in the last Century by **Henry B. Ollendorff**.

Let's continue building and let's make it a great success! And we find ourselves again to reflect on the theme of the conference: **META-KINESIS** Key Concept for Personal and Global Stabilization (*Kinesis: motion or change in Aristotelian Philosophy*).

Welcome everyone. Looking forward to seeing you again.

Mireille Boucher, President, CIF International

32nd Council of International Fellowship International Conference 2017
 META-KINESIS – A Key Concept for Personal and Global Stabilization
 (Kinesis: Motion or Change in Aristotelian Philosophy)

Conference Summary – Closing Remarks

Kalamata, Friday, 22nd September 2017

We in CIF Hellas, are still wondering how is it possible to sum up such an intense conference of 224 participants from 28 different countries that consisted of 15 speeches-presentations, 10 workshops and time for informal discussions and interactions almost round the clock!

As we all know, our chosen and approved by our General Assembly in 2015 Conference Theme is **META-KINESIS** – A Key Concept for Personal and Global Stabilization. **META-KINESIS**, i.e. movement towards change of position physically, intellectually, emotionally, that might occur forced or by choice.

Although we have acknowledged that every word might have a variation of diversified understanding from person to person, depending on our socialization, culture, education, experiences, etc. the word – the concept of **META-KINESIS** concludes and refers to some very significant notions, aspects, abilities, capacities, skills to move forward, such as: adjustability, flexibility, knowing of our self, discipline, patience, ability to express ourselves, self-confidence, openness, assertiveness, ability to listen, and for sure we can add more. Moreover, **META-KINESIS** is a process, a constant movement, a fluctuation, however without abandoning ethics and values, i.e. thinking – examining – acting – evaluating – rethinking - re-examining – concluding – acting! A NON-STOP process!

Long ago, we in CIF have acknowledged that evolving societies around the globe, with extreme rapid and drastic technological changes, with economic uncertainties and crisis, social changes, corporate stress levels, political upheavals, various conflicts including family conflicts, create fault lines in families and societies that get reflected in behavioural attitudes of individuals and groups.

It is left to the Social Workers and to some extent to related field professionals, and reform systems, to nurture the effects of the fault lines. As Professor **Kostas Gouliamos** told us, “Stimulating critical thinking, cosmic perspectives, as well as positive and rational change at all levels of the Life-World apparatus, requires certain mindsets and ways of thinking and more important, emotional intelligence.”

We believe this week of living and reflecting thinking together, in the CIF spirit of trust, sharing, listening, learning from one another, allowed us both individually and as CIF National Branches, as well as newly elected EC Members, to leave Kalamata being recharged, being empowered, being reassured that we are not alone, to leave Kalamata enriched and well armed in order to go on enthusiastically, in consistency and undertaking again full responsibility.

We take back home with us, new friendships, new knowledge, new ideas, and moreover a rich collection of concrete suggestions that have been systematically put together through our participation to the “World Cafe” process, that **Smaro Tsagaraki** and **Athina Psylia** organised and facilitated. We leave Kalamata as members of a particular group of dreamers with vision, who are ready to go on creating synergies, alliances and networks to make our dreams, aims and goals come true.

Let us promise ourselves and each other that we will continue to develop through META-KINESIS our talents and behaviour, so that in this V.U.C.A. world as **Dr. Venetia Koussia** put it, a world of Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity being now better prepared, we shall navigate to our next conference by putting a semicolon to our discussion, by moving to structured, individual as well as collective, joined action!



Lamprini-Ninetta Zoi (MSW),
2003-2007 CIF International President

Greetings expressed from co-host:

the Greek national professional social work association – S.K.L.E.

On behalf of the board of our professional national association, I feel great enthusiasm and pride to welcome you all at this international conference which, in collaboration with the CIF Hellas, we co-host this year in Kalamata, Greece. The aim of this conference is to talk about and think over the term “**Meta-kinesis**” in all levels.

It is common knowledge in global societies that people are either forced or choose to move from one point to another, from danger to safety, from the usual environment to the unknown. Social workers all over the world are invited to join in and accompany the “**movers**,” as we, among other specialties, recognize, respect and promote the right of people to move safely to the life they choose, to experience the boundaries of their self and their professional identity and to look deep into the relationships they acknowledge as important for themselves.

Therefore, “**Meta-kinesis**” is not all about the process of transition, the “travel” as we call it metaphorically. It's really about life itself.

Fillio Athanasiou,

President of the Hellenic Association of Social Workers (S.K.L.E)

The synod of butterflies showed us: "Small causes can have larger effects"

A Symbolic Welcome Game of Imagination for Dreamers of a Better World

Imagination, the power of thought to dream and act for a better world, invited the two hundred CIF participants into a symbolic welcome game – the **synod of butterflies** – where butterflies from all over the earth meet to know each other, and share their ideas and dreams for a better world.



The word **synod** comes from the Greek **σύννοδος (sýnodos)** meaning "assembly" or "ecumenical meeting" to decide an issue. In the Greek mythology, a butterfly is the soul of love. According to the internationally popular metaphor of the **butterfly effect theory** small causes can have larger effects.

The author Sophia Madouvalou, who had the idea of the simulated symbolic game, believes that it is the butterfly's duty to save the earth, since as souls of love they are free from hate and prejudice.

In the conference room 200 souls of love, the most beautiful and colorful CIF inhabitants of the earth touched their wings to strengthen their common dream to move towards a better world through **META-KINESIS** of ideas, values and thoughts. The participants were given a cutout butterfly where they wrote their name, the name of their country, the word butterfly in their language and a wish, a thought or a dream, which would make the world better. Each participant



introduced himself to the others, read his or her thought about the earth and stuck the butterfly on a symbolic construction of the earth.

The whole week of the conference, the earth looked so colorful and happy with her different and beautiful inhabitants from all over the world. Here they are: Petaluda (Greece), Kelebek (Turkey), Smetterling (Germany), Butterfly



By Sophia Madouvalou
Author, Educational Technologist

(USA), Papillon (France), Borboleta (Brazil / Portuguesa), Farfalla (Italy), Putali (Nepal), Pumarina (Spain), Javil (Sweden), Sommerfugl (Norway), Butterfly (Australia), Smetterling (Austria), Vlinder (Netherlands), Vlinder (Holland), Titali (India), Babouska бабочка (Russia), Mariposa (Mexico), Perhonen (Finland), Chó (Japan). A few butterflies are missing because they did not write the name of the word butterfly in their language.

The simulated reality of the synod of butterflies created a paradox among the participants. They all wondered whether they were humans who dreamed that they are butterflies or if they were butterflies who dream that they are humans.

Several weeks after the conference, Sophia Madouvalou still dreams that the flapping of the wings in the **synod** of

butterflies may have a future effect in the direction of the earth.

CIF spirit grafted on first time conference participants

By Ioanna Karamitri, MSc, PhD,
Hospital and Welfare Administration,
CIF Hellas member and Aggeliki Malapetsa,
President of the Kalamata Committee
of Greek Social Worker's Association,
both members of the Organizing Committee of 32nd CIF Conference

When a couple of years ago, the board of CIF Hellas asked the question, "How about having the CIF Conference 2017 in Kalamata?" we were excited and a little scared with the idea. After more than a year of Skype and personal meetings with **Catherine Psarouli**, coordinator of the Organizing Committee, the big day had come!

More than two hundred people from 28 countries around the world arrived. The sun in Kalamata was shining, and the blue sea was calling the participants like the sirens called Odysseus, but the sessions and the workshops were extremely interesting and CIF members joint in with enthusiasm. The topic of the Conference was **META KINESIS**: a key concept for Personal and Global Stabilization. Kinesis defines in Aristotelian Philosophy the motion or change. Meta-kinesis is a movement from a previous state to a new one – either physically or intellectually. It



represents the dynamic change of modern world, the movement of populations, and the effort of people to cultivate themselves or to transform their state to a better one. All these and many more subjects were discussed, to help social scientists be up-to-date and share their experiences.

The conference opened and ended with dinner and musical events, where we hope that our friends felt the Greek Philoxenia. The fourth day of the conference participants chose to visit one of nine different agencies which deliver social services and made a guided tour in the city of Kalamata. The Market of the Nations and World Café were other occasions to open up, find old friends and build new relationships.

For us who had never been in a CIF Conference before, now the CIF spirit grafted on us and we are looking forward to attending the next conference. We took the CIF Friendship Cup from CIF Sweden and we'll hand it over to CIF France. See all of you CIF friends again in 2019!

CIP participants from Jordan attend the CIF International Conference

Mr. Bassam Haddad, CIF contact person for Jordan who joined CIP as a participant in Columbus Ohio in 1971, and Mr. Fawaz Sharayha, 1977 CIP participant in the USA, pictured below at the CIF International Conference in Kalamata, Greece. Mr. Haddad and Mr. Sharayha, both social workers from Jordan, are active members in CIF International. They are working to establish a national branch for CIF Jordan.



Algerian participant experiences the CIF force



A few words on one page seem insufficient to share and relate the CIF experience, and still less my participation in this 32nd Conference. For me, CIF can't be written any more, it is lived on a daily basis and is shared "without moderation" ... this conference made it possible to shed light on the concept (meta-kinesis) by sharing knowledge and experience of a panel of experts on the subject, workshops on rich and varied themes (World Café, One Agency in a Challenged World, Dialogue, ...).

A world in constant change, where several social classes, several

regions, religions and traditions coexist, the question arises of how to maintain and ensure stability and dialogue?

I came across the CIF PEP by chance in 2007, but by passion in 2017. This first participation had for me shared and diametrically opposed feelings between fear (of what is not known) and curiosity (what we will discover.) A scary adventure can be the diversity of languages, traditions, cultures, horizons ... But then how do they "get along?" That's when CIF magic operates. A recipe that is transmitted from participant to participant since 1956 throughout the world by virtual bridges, but solid links. Participants from all walks of life, from all nationalities, but with the common vocabulary, that of "CIF," where a word often comes back, that of "sharing" ... sharing what? Sharing ideas, meals, experience, time, passions, ... Learning to listen to others in order to understand them better and appreciate them better. Beyond a simple international institution, a "made in world" family that opens its doors and hearts to all good wills, accepting the differences that sometimes make the specificities and force, through universal messages (images, of paintings) of peace (peace project), respect and tolerance. CIF has also been built and helped some rebuild ... reaching out to help raise and elevate the values of humanity.

The conference ends and my writing also, I thank all the friends and family of CIF international and especially the CIF France for its support during this participation, welcome and sharing, but also help in the steps of the creation of the branch Algeria and who we wish will allow us to share our know-how and knowing to be (In Vienna or St Malo?)

I will end by saying, "We are not much alike, but we share enormously and ultimately we will gain much more to combine our efforts and share. "I share, you share, he shares and we win!"

ALGERIA

By Hocine Hamoudi,
Algeria contact person



"Until we meet again..."
Hocine Hamoudi and Maria Christopoulou

Workshop leader shares her concept and highlights

'The planet earth is a beautiful place to live and let others live -The Imperatives'

The CIF Greece annual conference-2017 team gave me an opportunity to conduct a workshop on the topic. I am more than pleased to share the concept and the workshop highlights. Personally I gained confidence,



indeed made everlasting new friendships.

THE CONCEPT – my thoughts

The networked, techno advanced seamless Globe is evolving and as usual rewriting priorities. Nations in the prevailing challenge of climate change, civil wars, leadership crisis, economic slowdowns and terrorism are grappling with ways to first gain immunity from such evils within the geographical boundaries. Global leaderships and systemic structures are struggling to strike a balance, between national wellbeing vs global wellbeing. Moods are self-first then there's.

At such crossroads, history and human intellect / behavior, gives us the wisdom that in isolation any form of prosperity and wellbeing is a vacuum and the irony is today we have to make efforts to come to terms with this fact.

Nature in its manifestation on earth is universal in its



NATIONS IN ACTION FOR THINGS TO HAPPEN



I also wish to congratulate and thank the CIF Greece team for an excellent CIF Conference with the unique flavor of Greece love.

properties with distinct identity of geographical location. It reaches out for the wellbeing of all and is ever evolving for the planet to be a beautiful place for human existence. It gives with open arms to all, with no discrimination. Ironically when we mess around with it, we hardly realize that we are in for a catastrophe because nature in its innate properties gives – what it receives is bound to come back to us.

So is the case with Nurture, in civilizations, the basic principles of human values, dignity, mutual respect, basic needs, are universal in nature. They may manifest in a cultural context and national identity but across the globe they are same. We undoubtedly accept so we continuously evolve to build a civilized globe to coexist. Messing around on universal civilized principles of living invites destruction.

Each one on the planet can make a difference that's the potential of people power. Whereas some of us can impact, influence and channelize energies. The MAGIC LIES in the hands of the thoughtful community of the globe, we raise the bar of involvement, engagement sensitivity, make conscious efforts, and uphold humanity in the civilized world, **BECAUSE IT IS IMPERATIVE.**

The outcome was collective conversations and exploring potentials as a CIF forum and in our personal space possibilities, pen down and present to the board the thought process. So the journey moves on – connect collaborate and create beauty.



INDIA

By Sangita Mehrotra
(secretary of CIF India
sangitamehrotra@gmail.com)



GLIMPSE OF COLLECTIVE CREATIVITY
THE CHILD WITHIN US AT BEST



Morocco participates in the Kalamata Conference



The sunset beauty of Kalamata

It was such a successful and wonderful conference with distinguished professionals lecturers and different social topics, workshops and meetings with different nice people from differences cultures, but with one main and common concept: META-KINESSES.

During this international event, CIF Morocco was pleased to bring items originally from the country such as Argan oil (Argan is a tree that you can only find in Essaouira Morocco and nowhere else in the world) Spices called "Ras Al Hanout" and many other different items made by hand. We sold 70 percent of the items and feel pleased to participate at the CIF Market of Nations to raise the money to help the

MOROCCO

By Aziz El Boudiri,
president CIF Morocco

CIF objectives.

A new executive committee was elected on its head Mireille Boucher who was re-elected for the third mandate since the outcome of her last two terms was successful. Congratulations to Mireille and to all members of the New EC 2017-2019

Hoping to see again all the CIF friends from around the world in the CIF coming conference.

The post-tour started from 23rd of September 2017 in different places where we could see the 5000 and 2500 years of history of Greece.



Athens Old Olympic stadium



Athens old monuments



"A CIF BEGINNING" EXPERIENCED BY AN ITALIAN PARTICIPANT

As many other times in my life, I ran into CIF by chance (if we think that chance exists): I was actually trying to get a private fund for a six months project between Greece and Sweden. My plan was to spend three months in each country, studying the asylum seekers' system and the opportunities for refugees.

So, there I was, sending hundreds of emails (no kidding) to different agencies and people, to get information and positive answers to my need of going around and discover the world, when I received an email talking about CIF. At the beginning I thought "Oh no, this is too short, I want to stay away more than a couple of weeks," but then "I want to see everything! I can do both!"

I studied all the PEPs and decided for the one in Austria, because I've always wanted to see Vienna (and Sissi's places, like the ones I've seen in Romy Schneider's movies) and it was just the perfect time while I was waiting for the answer from the other project.

I attended the Austrian PEP last spring and it was just GREAT!! The weather was nice (best spring in many years we've been told), I felt in love with the city (and Sissi of course!) and the CIF people were perfect: they had everything organized, thought about everyone's needs, opened their houses for us and soooooo friendly and lovely!!

I enjoyed the experience so much, that I decided to participate in the Kalamata Conference...to know more about CIF!

I arrived at the Elite Resort quite early and decided to spend some time at the beach. I started to see people around but didn't know which ones were there for the Conference; everyone seemed to be in a group, already knowing other participants and I was not meeting people I knew yet. I started to feel a bit odd and lonely. I asked myself if I did the right thing, coming to a

ITALY

By Anna Caldarone,
CIF Italy

180 people conference, knowing just five of them ...

Then it was 5 pm and everything began: I found my Austrian friends and got introduced to the Italian delegation (I know, it sounds weird, but I didn't know them yet). As the days passed by, I got to know many other people: "What's your name? Where are you from? Which PEP did you go to?" and it was done, you've made a new friend. You had just to sit somewhere, during the sessions, at lunch or at the swimming pool, someone would come to you, no matter

your age, your sleepy face or your messy hair. I've talked to many many people during those five days and had the chance to share the room with two very nice ladies. Where else, an American lady in her seventies, one woman from Puerto Rico in her fifties and a 30 year old Italian would talk about the day from their beds, at midnight?!

I could just feel a family-atmosphere everywhere. Therefore, thanks to all the CIF friends for the wonderful experience and let's hope it's just the beginning!!

Greek Conference described 'like a coming home'

By Shirley Worland
(CIF Australia, living and working in Thailand for past 10 years)
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The CIF Conference in Kalamata, Greece was like a coming home after a long absence for me. From my first experience with CIF in 1999, I have come to think of us as a large international family. The week in Kalamata gave me opportunity to renew old friendships and again experience the warmth and care of our large international family.

Two experiences especially I would like to share, and both began on my first day. But first to give some context, I have participated in two CIF PEPs – first in India in 1999-2000 and second, in Sweden in 2012. The first program was life-changing for me and was the catalyst for the work I do now here in Thailand (too long of a story for this article). The second provided me with added knowledge that I am implementing in my work here in Thailand.

And my first day experiences relate to both those programs. While checking in at the Elite Resort counter, I heard a voice calling my name and I turned around to see a face I have not seen

since the PEP program in India – **Kristina Grebelius** from Sweden. It was a wonderful reunion and over next days, we joyfully reminisced those life changing 10 weeks.

The second experience happened soon after as I met my roommates **Susana Ortiz Soto** and **Maria Andujar** from Spain. Very quickly, **Susana** and I realized we had a precious thing in common –

we both stayed with the same host mother during our Sweden PEP programs – **Lena Petersson**. I also soon met up with another of my Swedish host mothers, Ewa Lindberg; more opportunity for reminiscing.

During the conference, I met many old friends and so much enjoyed my week with my CIF family. Thank you, CIF Hellas, for a wonderful memorable conference.



The World Café reflected many voices, considerations and connections

Meta-kinesis and Continuity: Reflections, Conclusions, Continuum

[How we can stay connected with each other and with our values in times of Meta-kinesis and how we can create links that will embrace endings and beginnings?](#)

This workshop used the methodology of WORLD CAFÉ that enables hosting large group dialogues. There were small group rounds of conversations with questions-topics, namely the main issues that emerged from all the presentations, the workshops, the exchange of ideas and emotions during the conference. At the end, there was time to share insights and other results of the group conversations in plenary.

World Café was a space where the "voices" of the participants were heard on the ideas that evolved during the process of the conference. It was also a place where people met in a constructive but relaxed way and got to know each

other better. The participants were asked to write what they choose after their discussions, helping the facilitators to organize the participants' "voices" and send them to everybody. The participants were invited to participate in group discussions on the issues that follow. For each one of these issues the discussion was around two or three questions. The issues came out of the conversation that the facilitators had in advance with a group of colleagues who shared their observations about the process of the conference and about what themes seemed to be important for the conference



Athena Psillia
Psychologist-translator



Smaro Markou
Social worker,
family therapist,
supervisor and trainer

participants.

Conference participants present in the World Café wrote down some of the ideas that were discussed in the 11 groups and here is a synopsis for information among all CIF

Branches and members, for further reflection and dialogue in every future opportunity.

1. Meta-kinesis I - Question: What new resources do professionals need to cope with meta-kinesis today?

~We need motivation, education, and flexibility for change. We also need passion to fight, advocacy and activism. Speaking of resources we have to remember that money is an important aspect. ~We need awareness to different cultures, to know ourselves and be culturally sensitive. ~Institutions also have to move and create different structures. ~We have to accept change, yet we are not prepared to accept all changes. This creates dilemmas. ~We have to be alert and form effective networks and to think in the context of a permanent "revolution." ~A debate about the meaning of the word meta-kinesis brought out the importance of explaining and discussing the meaning of every word because words have different meanings and in order to understand each other we have to ask.

2. Meta-kinesis II - Questions: What are your personal stories? What helped you cope with it?

~We translated the word meta-kinesis into French, Indian and Spanish language. Our stories showed that meta-kinesis means to move and gain knowledge, learning by doing, we have to act, to organize our action; we have to take an active attitude, enter to action, to fight.

~We have to accept that nothing is forever except the process of change. This is forever. ~We have to accept this challenge. We stay in balance being in a process of moving, finding stability and gaining progress.

3. CIF I - Questions: Where are we now? Where do we want to go?

~CIF is a world-wide expanded organization, a 'rendez-vous' of people from different countries, although now is difficult to get a leave from the workplace. ~About the future, CIF programs should be connected with Universities and the training through the CIF programs should be accredited academically. Statistics should be developed.

~There should be more CIF visibility, publicity, prizes (Nobel). ~Share experience between young participants and the more experienced (workshops, reflections).

~Spread information about CIF to places that are far away, even Siberia! ~Introduce E-Forum communication (not instead of the physical meetings). ~Stay aware of the sensitive local issues (political, etc.) ~Proposals in order to get young members: Spread more information and more public relations. Find what could interest young people, like: Sustainable society; Environmental stability; Communication vs. Management; Human involvement person to person, not case management; Volunteer experience in CIF programs to be consider as working experience.

4. CIF II - Question: How CIF has been useful to you, professionally and personally?

~From the beginning with CIP there were opportunities

for professional and personal development, cultural and professional training, a 'lunch break', networking, openness, feeling a citizen of the world, friendship, exchange of experience. ~CIF has opened doors and given opportunities to all the participants; that's why the answers were enthusiastic and people expressed very warm comments.

5. Social Work - Question: What are the challenges and the perspectives you face in your country?

~There is lack of coordination between services. We have no space for our complaints. ~Bureaucracy creates distance between people and with clients. ~There is lack of vision and of good leadership. There is great gap between politics, laws and money to spend on. ~There is lack of time; we have to work in conditions of pressure. Our work is multitasking. ~There are borders in the same country. ~Right-wing policies view social work as charity. ~Social workers don't stay long in the profession and that makes the staff in social services not qualified enough. ~There are no job placements for social workers in governmental jobs. ~There is not respect for social workers, we paid less. ~Social services need reorganization every two years and turnover of social workers. ~Children's rights have to be developed from a multicultural perspective. ~Communication with clients needs translators. ~We have to be creative when we meet the families we are working with. ~We have to take back our place in the streets with people. ~We are often in dilemmas about who needs our help, which kids need protection. ~We need new methods for prevention.

6. Volunteers - Questions: What are the challenges you face as a volunteer? What are the challenges you face as a professional who works with volunteers?

~Volunteers are cooperating with professionals sometimes in a complementary way, sometimes in conflict. Boundaries issues often appear. ~Professionals are overloaded with paper work, volunteers feel at ease with case work. ~Volunteers need supervision. ~They can be sometimes at health risk in dangerous conditions. ~There are certain concerns regarding volunteer work: confidentiality, degree of responsibility, replacement of professionals due to financial restrictions, risk of losing status and value of social work profession. ~There is a need to have an international volunteer status that will support international activities, studies abroad and possibilities of having a leave from your work.

7. Politics - Questions: To what direction citizens and societies go? What is your experience?

~More groups left out of societies, more individual direction, more conservative societies. ~Extremism, marginalization. ~Hate between groups, lack of security and confusion. ~Powerful people lead society; people are very influenced and confused.

~Technology is restricting the need for human capital. ~Rise of nationalism and populism. Larger gap between rich and poor. ~Organized crime builds up using the war and the

1. Meta-kinesis I	2. Meta-kinesis II
3. CIF I	4. CIF II
5. Social Work	6. Volunteers
7. Politics	8. Politics and our work
9. Dialogue	10. Mind and Body
11. Aging and/or recovering	

national disasters. ~Distraction of the environment. Fake news, misinformation. ~Education dropouts. ~More and more, social services are becoming private. ~We should start the change from ourselves. ~More social workers into politics. ~CIF should take a stance; make a statement resolution to the world. ~FEELINGS, DREAMS AND HOPES ARE POWER.

8. Politics and our work - Questions: How political changes in your country reflect on your work? Can you suggest any coping strategies?

~Custody law changed in the last year and this has a big influence in women's and children's life because they have experienced domestic violence. We try to serve them with poor law information. ~Make life difficult for families due to reduction of services.

~In India there is a new policy allowing 2 percent from corporate which is good, but Indian politicians do not respect social work and try to control it.

~Coping strategies: I learn to be less reactive in the beginning and give time to implement the policy and see the results; Social work is political work. I use empowerment to help people believe that can be part of change; Give kids a chance to grow together from the beginning; this is the opportunity to melt nations.

9. Dialogue - Question: In your work how do you establish a connection to the client's reality?

~Self-respect, respect for the client, respect from the clients, open hearted, smile, eye contact, create a safe and sacred space. The importance to say my name and the client's name (spell and pronounce correctly).~When we feel relaxed and have patience the relationship "fits." ~Every person speaks subjectively and this creates problems in dialogue. ~Try to find out the needs of the clients. ~We can be curious, open and motivated. ~Be aware of the non-verbal communication. Our gestures should be welcoming and warm. ~We need sometimes cultural mediators. ~We ask questions that show our unique interest about our client's thoughts. ~We use our sense of humor, the spirit of Socrates and our ability to share. ~We can differentiate the private from the public mode of communication.

10. Mind and body - Questions: Where is my body when I work? How do I feel? What do I do about it?

~I often have the need to define the physical boundaries with clients keeping at the same time eye contact and smile. ~Young professional women may have uncomfortable feelings working with male refugees. ~I have the need for self-care and for time to recover from work. ~I also have the need during the work to give a break to my mind and my body.

11. Aging and/or recovery - Question: How do you find new meaning in Life?

~Time helps to cope with grief, traveling, activities and be connected with people.

~To think on meta-kinesis and move on believing in ourselves, in our strengths, our personal power. To have self-esteem. ~We have to go through difficulties in our life in order to find new meaning. ~Retirement is a new stage in life. I enjoy the freedom of retirement, the older I get the more peaceful I am. ~I feel satisfied, I am happy not to have the responsibility to take care of difficult teenagers; I have time to do gardening work which I love. ~Aging and

recovery are part of a natural process, accept it and live a happy life. No one can avoid it, so accept it. ~Since there is no hope to reverse the process, I am feeling comfortable within my body, I feel good without duty only what I choose, giving away what is "collected." ~Openness for learning new things helps in keeping me young. ~A new learning also is to get to know my feelings. Family is not a big issue anymore, that's another new thing to deal with. ~Retirement for young women brings up different issues: how to live life without a job creates changes in your social conducts, new friendships, new people in your life and maybe more laughter. ~I have tried "retirement" on a one and half year sabbatical leave, so I am sure I can find nice and fun things to do but will it be enough for 30 years? ~I learn from others to stay active, be confident that life comes in waves and I learn how to manage good and bad moments. ~I enjoy good times by being alive, taking care of my body, putting cream to feel it soft, enjoying friendship and strengthening my soul.

~I want to go again to Paris to see the Eiffel Tour, the painters and my friends. ~Sometimes I feel that there are two souls in my breast. I hate to become old, the chance not to have opportunities like young people have. Other times I realize that there is a season for all things and then I can see that life can be rich in the golden years. ~My life is a good life, I can be very happy, I have many friends, we help each other, and I am in a lot of discussion groups. ~I have lived a long rewarding life, today I am happy with my family and my grand children but I have increasing feelings towards a world of turmoil and endangered peace.

Feedback on the process of World Café- closure

~It was interesting, but it was small pieces: how can the pieces come together?

~I found similarities and differences with others and felt completion. ~It was my first and unique experience of world café? and I need time to digest thoughts and feelings.

~Entering the workshop, I made a decision to relate and participate: it is not a given in the workshop, nor in our work. ~Any plans from the coordinators to put the small pieces together? What is to be done with all this work? ~I talked to a lot of people I didn't know. ~It took a lot of energy to understand the word meta-kinesis. Meta-kinesis is relevant to our work: movement/ stopping. ~It was very rewarding for the (Greek) organizers: we had time to speak with people we didn't know. We didn't know the word meta-kinesis is not known. ~I found out that we need to talk more to understand each other: i.e. the meaning of the word meta-kinesis. ~I was surprised at how vulnerable people showed and how personal they were. I feel appreciation. ~Time ran fast and I enjoyed the conversation. ~The workshop was a good example of good use of organization resources. ~Reflections on how we understand each other and give space to each other. ~The workshop was about having a collective experience: the questions for the world café were also generated collectively by a group of colleagues, the night before the workshop. ~A proposal: send a summary of the process to everyone vs. send the whole material. ~I have great respect for the work of social workers.

More information on world café method:

<http://www.theworldcafe.com/key-concepts-resources/world-cafe-method/>

Meta-Kinesis: As experienced through my Greek journey

I have returned home to Phoenix, Arizona USA following a month of travel through Greece, including attending the CIF 32nd International Conference in Kalamata. I am keenly aware that the recounting and telling of a journey is part of the change inducing, transformative, "meta-kinesis," process of travel. I wrote much of this article while in Greece, a most beautiful country of land and sea.



As I share this journey, my time in Greece is quickly coming to a close. I am spending these final days in the serene countryside of Nemea. It has been a voyage of discovery for me! It began when I first read of the CIF Conference. Having initially hosted a delegate from Kyrgyzstan, and having participated in a PEP to Nepal in Nov/Dec of 2016 and very much enjoying that truly life transformative experience – I wanted more!

Participation in international exchange programs had long been an enriching part of my life and that of my family. Upon my return from Nepal, I became more involved CIF and decided an appropriate next step would be to attend the conference. While thinking about my interest in Greece; its culture, history and wanting to get to know the people I began to imagine further possibilities! I spoke with then CIF USA President, Carolyn Sutton, about my idea of extending my stay, based on the willingness of CIF Hellas members/family/friends to host me in the spirit, vision and mission of CIF. Carolyn suggested that I write to CIF Hellas president, Elisavet Bakagianni. Veta received my request graciously. In time Veta wrote back with the welcomed news, that in fact there were several individuals / families who expressed interest in welcoming me into their homes and lives. I was very aware that my journey, our journeys in life are never entirely made alone. There are always many helping hands along the way making it a collaborative effort. Never underestimate what a difference we each make in one another's lives! I realized, together with the help and cooperation of others, my bold dream was taking shape! I was ecstatic!

I understood there was a certain amount of risk in this venture. I had never been to Greece; I did not understand a single word of Greek! I would be traveling alone. I did not know the people or circumstances I would be staying with. There would be struggles and challenges and frustrations. There was risk...calculated risk!!! My fears were held at bay by my deep belief in "I will be able to manage" and "I believe in the goodness of people" fueled by my interest in Greek culture, history and the desire to better know and understand the people of this beautiful country!

I was ready to jump into this adventure with both feet!! I expressed my acceptance and appreciation to the invitations of my host families. I made reservations for five days in Athens, for my first CIF International Conference and selected a post-conference tour to the famously beautiful island of Santorini. I was going to Greece and I would be staying for a month, giving myself the opportunity



to experience various regions and peoples of Athens, Kalamata, Santorini, Thessaloniki and Nemea!! I was so excited and so grateful for the people who were willing to help my dream become a reality! Next, was deciding what I would need to make this change or transformation of living for a month in Greece. I looked forward to reuniting with the handful of CIF members I already knew. I looked forward to the conference presentations and broad perspective discussions with people from all around the world, as this was my first ever international conference.

Finally, the early morning came for me to begin my journey and it was time for me to close my door to my familiar life and step into the new, surprising, challenging experiences of travel. I discovered that travel requires a heightened awareness; I needed to pay attention to so much. I found that I didn't take so much for granted and that possibilities seemed limitless! My way of moving through this experience of travel was "to say yes" to as much as I was able. There was a quote from N. Kazantzakis in the conference program which says, "Love responsibility. Say: it is my duty and mine alone to save the Earth. If it is not saved, then I alone am to blame." I found this quote to offer support to my idea of being responsible for living life well and fully. Engagement in travel has shown to me how our Earth, its workings and all its inhabitants are interconnected, that we are each responsible for our individual part in Earth's collective change and sustainability.

Through travel, I experience transformation, meta-kinesis, accepting the risks and knowing that some of my thoughts and expectations will not be true but willing to be opened to the discoveries of truths revealed. I now better understand what a deep and rich history the Greeks have contributed to world civilization, right down to its impact on my individual life in Phoenix. I was in awe; spending hours and hours, everywhere I went in magnificent museums that have been built and filled with artifacts, teaching all who enter of the long and highly developed Greek history and culture. The ideals of lasting strength, beauty, community accomplishment and intellectual contribution were apparent to me as I traveled through Greek cities and countryside and enjoyed conversations and made new friends with the people of this magnificent land. While staying with the generous people who opened their homes and lives to me, I was able to have meaningful discussions and observe family and individual life, rhythms and ways of being. Several

times I noticed friends/families in Greece participated in quite a lot of group discussion as part of a decision making process. I wondered if my southwestern USA, slightly "rugged individualist" perspective might be surprising to someone visiting and observing me in my home and community. Several Greek individuals assured me not to be alarmed when voices were raised in these discussions! They told me, loud and emotional is simply a way of communication in Greece! We enjoyed a good laugh

USA

By Monica
Krise (CIF USA)

together about this! It was heartening for me to see and feel the same familiar expressions of love and friendship known the world over. I believe I now carry a little of these observed qualities and others too, back home with me in the person I have become through my travels and experiences in Greece!

Now that I am home, I am sharing with my friends and family the many wonderful memories and photos! I was lucky enough to bring back a few Greek spices which will

bring extra flavors to dishes I enjoyed and will try to reproduce here at home. My Christmas gifts this year will be Greek or at least Greek influenced! This is my way of sharing my wonderfully transformative journey to Greece, a voyage of discovery! It is keeping alive the communication with new friends made during the conference and post-conference and all the other days filled with life changing and life lasting experiences providing me with lasting joy! Yassas!!!

Kalamata offers a social worker three gifts: **Perspective, Humility and Gratitude**

When I learned that I had been awarded a scholarship to attend the CIF International Conference in Kalamata, my heart leapt in my chest. Being new to CIF, and having never attended an exchange before, I wasn't sure what to expect. My thoughts raced: "Now maybe I can get some answers! Maybe someone can tell me a concrete way I can help my co-workers and clients cope with the division seems to be overtaking my country." Excited, I packed my bag and boarded the plane with my mentor, Louise. On the first day of the conference, as we dove into the meaning of meta-kinesis, I realized that I would be gaining much more than a specific "tip" or "skill" from this conference to bring back. Over the next week, I would gain perspective, humility and gratitude – and these gifts will change my work back in my home country.

First, I gained perspective on the struggles I face in the U.S.A. and how these compare to what social workers in other countries navigate daily. As I listened to the director of the Kalamata Municipality discuss their deep budget cuts and introduce their five social workers who must help meet the needs of 70,000 residents, I was taken aback. I could not imagine operating with such few resources; and these social workers were still smiling! Later on, I attended a presentation by Brazilian social workers who visit homeless clients in a small, modest "traveling clinic" bus. They explained patiently that there is a far greater demand than they can serve, but there may not be funding for a second bus and/or staff for years to come. So, they focus on the positive difference they make every day and cherish their interactions with their clients. I slowly began to realize what I had probably known deep down all along; the U.S. is a rich country and has access to more resources than many other countries combined.

Next, I gained humility. I realized that the longer I spend practicing as a social worker in my own country, the more I become entrenched in the way people within my familiar system of practice work. For example, insurance companies and managed care, as well as many powerful professional organizations in the U.S.A. frequently focus on the benefits of highly researched, Western-driven therapeutic protocols such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. While CBT is highly effective for many people, I was reminded at the conference that it is not the only option. I met international social workers who practice woodworking with troubled youth; jewelry making with domestic violence victims; and psycho-drama. I realized through this conference that I always have more to learn about the different treatment modalities that may bring unique healing to unique populations.

Finally, I gained gratitude. As I watched the presentation of the Hellenic Red Cross about their aid to asylum-seekers washing up on Greece's shores, I was moved with gratitude for the way many countries poorer than my own are stepping up in international times of crisis. This gratitude also gave me a renewed sense of purpose to advocate for the promotion of more human rights work in my own country.

As I settle down back at my job in a psychiatric clinic, I am approaching each new day with these three gifts: perspective, humility and gratitude. And they are changing my practice more than any tool or skill could! Thank you, CIF and thank you to the beautiful social workers who opened their hearts and lives to me while we were in Kalamata! **See you on an exchange in the near future!**

Conference described as exceptional and uplifting!

CIF was a totally new term to me at the beginning of the year. I told my friend Tone, of CIF Norway, that I planned to move to Greece and she told me that there was a conference in Kalamata! I did some research and was completely captured by the theme 'Meta-kinesis' – Movement! That's what I was doing! It had to be! So after a little more digging, I decided to register for this conference.

I got to Kalamata a little early and met up with Tone and her partner beside the pool. She then proceeded to introduce me to her long-time CIF friends. This is when I discovered that they were all Social Workers – and I was not! No matter, I was welcomed and instantly felt at home in a truly international group of people.

I enjoyed *The Synod of Butterflies – Love Has No Borders*, hosted by Sofia and was deeply touched by Gulçun's contribution. The keynote lecture, plenary sessions and workshops were all pertinent and stimulating. Dr. Gouliamos' lecture resonated with my 'critical theory' perspective, and

Christiane's workshop left me wanting to spend days discussing 'Dialogue' as a tool for inclusion. The agency visit left me in tears as I was shown how much volunteer work is being done by the Red Cross in Kalamata. Meal times afforded conversation with new people each time.

At the end of the conference, I left for what turned out to be an excellent post-conference tour through the Peloponnese. We visited archaeological sites – ancient Messini, Mycenae, Epidaurus, and islands – Hydra and Spetses.

Congratulations to CIF Hellas for an exceptional conference – well-organized, interesting and up-lifting. I came away feeling very hopeful with people like these working for our collective benefit.

THANK YOU!

USA

By Gretchen
Vanderlinden-Wang (USA)

TRINIDAD/TOBAGO

By Jacqueline
Armstrong (Jaki)

Daughter of 1968 CIP participant brings her mother to Kalamata

By Barbara VanDyke (USA)

My mother, Edith VanDyke-Edinboro now living in the USA, and I had a very enriching, inspiring and enjoyable time at the Conference. She was elated over the connections she made with former participants of CIP. She is a 1968 participant from Guyana, South America among participants from the 50's. The warmth and hospitality of the CIF Greece branch and the people of Kalamata will stay with us forever. I was so moved by the work that CIF continues to do that I have applied to be a member and have also decided to apply for a fellowship program in 2018.

The stimulation I received from the conference was truly transcending. I look forward to attending the next conference in 2019 that will be held in France.



Edith and Barbara VanDyke



Edith VanDyke meeting Kalamata Conference participants

CIF Finland describes Peace Project 2017

During the autumn 2016 after Utrecht BD meeting and a grant of 620 €, we targeted our PEP '17 information to Balkan countries which we had estimated to be in post-conflict situation to bring personal experience from recovery of civil war, thus enriching the theme in its essence.

This became possible by establishing contact with the former Contact Person: Ms. Olivera Cirkovic in Serbia and with close working relation with Criminal Sanctions Agency in Finland where we knew their Kosovo project coordinator Ms. Tiina Vogt-Airaksinen. The participants from Kosovo and Serbia international travel was covered by a sum of 506 euros. CIF Finland covered the costs during the program.

The CIF Finland PEP 2017 took place from **May 5 to June 1** with seven participants: Adem Shala (Kosovo), Gennaro Del Prete (Italy), Josefa Trujillo Torres (Spain), Rita Kessing (Germany), Nancy Sprynczynatyk (USA), Wen-Hsien Su (Taiwan) and Zoran Ostojić (Serbia)

The peace theme was implemented during the three and half week program which the group evaluated by writing the following article:

CIF - Promoting Peace

The CIF program is a critical tool and a mechanism to promote peace. There are several elements which contribute. First, the international group of delegates allows the breakdown of stereotypes as we mix and meet each other as people. Further, we exchange knowledge about our countries and can appreciate that we all share the mutual desire for peace. From that point we can develop empathy and understanding. In addition, through dialogue, learning programs and our group exchange we have the opportunity to observe, ask and practice patience. We promote grace and give latitude. We understand subtleties in language and permit, rather than judge too quickly.

Next, the CIF element of housing delegates with host families is essential as it further promotes peace. By sharing life within a Finnish home, one gains a better look at cultural and societal perspectives. Each delegate has the opportunity to see real life struggles and coping strategies.



Their daily life reflects that many common issues, when reduced down, are similar in all countries and peoples. Moreover, spending their living and recreational time with families allows a different type of learning - experiential and emotional based rather than only cognitive learning. As such, greater bonds are built and long-lasting bridges developed.

For the future of CIF, two additional suggestions are offered to promote peace. First, allow time after each learning program for the delegation to discuss exchange and reflect on ideas learned. Better assimilation of information and group cohesion will be gained; for example, allowing an hour together in a private conference room.

Second, do not underestimate the value of fun as it is the opportunity to dialogue, casually and more freely, to share experience and gain friendship. Perhaps have the picnic during the first week, and consider an evaluation retreat over two days.

And finally, we are open to come to your summer cottage for two weeks in the spring or summertime for sauna, + swimming (of course, and a BBQ) - all in the line to promote peace and evaluate your Finland CIF program progress! :)

Sincerely, The best CIF group (2017)



Algerian participant describes PEP experience in France

Before any training, any program or just any new encounter, we have apprehensions, worries and even expectations. On the day of departure Oran – Paris, certainly the joy was present, but questions are imposed on us such as "How would the reception? ", " How are they the CIF? ", " Is it a good idea to live in a family during the program? "

I met, on the first day, **Madame Boucher**, the president of CIF France: a person I had the pleasure of knowing on a scrabble site, but the reality is quite different, a charism in the true sense of the word.

The other participants came, along with the CIF members, and the meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere as if everyone had known each other for a long time. The program that was developed to us was simply very rich since we had the pleasure of meeting the great French sociologist **Michel Chauvière** who presented on social security in France, as well as Annie and Karin who introduced us to France and prevention actions.

We were six participants from Finland, Morocco, Tunisia (two) and Algeria.

A visit to Paris pleased all participants. Obviously, since it is the most visited city in the world.

And each participant joined the city where he had to carry out his program. As for me, I had to go to the couple Boucher, Mireille and Michel, in Saint-Florent sur Cher.

A busy schedule was waiting for me, which meant that Dabia, the head of the Local Mission of Saint-Florent-sur-Cher, did a remarkable job in developing such a program, namely contacts with associations and others, within the framework integration of young people in difficulty or job search and prevention of addiction.

The idea of being welcomed into a family was very beneficial especially when you know that I met the son, Julien, his wife, Ingrid and their little prince, Camille. I was even visiting Mireille's aunt, hospitalized, Ginette, whom I called with pleasure Maman Ginette, I played scrabbles with Colette, mother-in-law of Mireille. Nice meetings, nice friendships and I leave with all this. Care for formal and informal time was simply exemplary.

I attended the festivities of May 8, 1945 next to the Mayor of Saint-Florent that I had the opportunity to see several times because he was always present to facilitate the task for CIF France. During these festivities, I met the president of the association of French veterans in Algeria, me, Algerian, son of a farmer condemned to death during the French colonization; and to say that this same 8 of May,

1945 is a painful anniversary, since 45,000 Algerians were killed in three days in Setif, Guelma and Kheratta, in eastern Algeria.

This is simply the magic of associative work that succeeds in dissipating the black past, hatred and turning the page to live together: Deconstructing for better building.

These are the everyday Peace Projects dear to CIF.

Nice experience, nice local meetings and of course with the international group that I shared nice days in Saint Florent sur Cher for evaluation.

Now to work with the former participants of my country to continue this great adventure by creating CIF Algeria.



FRANCE

By Mohammed Mammad,
Oran Algérie,
participant 2017 CIF France



PEP CIF France 2017: participants, CIF members, host-families



PEP France – participants and CIF France leaders

CIF France reports on ReSport project

European Sports Network for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities

By Mireille Boucher (for CIF France)

CIF FRANCE is involved in this European **ERAMUS+** project with seven other countries: Slovenia (coordinator from Maribor), Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Turkey, and United Kingdom.

The project "**ReSport**" promotes voluntary activities in sport, social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity through increased participation in and equal access to sport for all.

The partnership's goal is to encourage cooperation of target groups in the area of sport and physical activity and to support implementation of the EU principles of good governance in sport, the EU strategy for social inclusion and equal opportunities, the EU guidelines for physical activity and other EU documents.

For France we have to:

- Transfer of good practices among social workers and workers in long-term therapy in France.

- (1 seminar), together with the orientation hike "EU EQUAL ReSport orientation day."

- Transfer of the results of testing of new "ReSport" activities among institutions in France.

- Help in sharing/dissemination of the promotional film and e-learning platform.

We shall transfer to European and to our National Branches all over the world the results of this work. We began to work in Slovenia in March 2017 and we participated as experts at a summer camp in Roma in October with disabled people. Sport is one way for efficient rehabilitation and this project with eight partners opens and encourages intercultural dialogue.



Peace Now: A Personal and Professional View of an Israeli Visit

In the summer of 2016, I had the pleasure of hosting **Jane and Frank Ollendorff** as guests in my Toledo OH home. I'm a host with Airbnb. As we got acquainted, Jane and Frank told me about CIF/CIP and **Henry Ollendorff's** role in its creation. I've been a frequent traveler abroad and at-home host to foreign students and international visitors. I am a tutor of individuals for whom English is not a first language, an editor of world language curricula for elementary aged students, a former journalist and social services grant writer. While I am not a social worker, the work about which I'm passionate deals with helping expats and immigrants feel comfortable in America, and teaching Americans to embrace other cultures. This involves language acquisition together with help navigating US bureaucracies. Families also need help finding faith communities, physicians, playgroups, grocery stores and friends. Much of the time, I am their first responder.

I asked the Ollendorffs, "Is there any way I can become part of your organization?" Jane directed me to the website, and when I viewed the listing of CIF PEPs, a peace program that involved visiting Israeli Arab and Israeli Jewish agencies caught my eye. One of the curricula I edit is for Arabic learners; the city of Toledo has an enormous Middle Eastern population; we are one of the main entry points for Syrian refugees; you won't find better hummus anywhere. And I'm a Jew. Not an observant one. The kind who used to keep a sign in her yard that said "Erase the Hate," a campaign sponsored by a collaboration of Toledo area religious, educational and community organizations. For the most part, Toledo is a community where religious tolerance works.

I applied for the program, interviewed by phone with CIFUSA president, **Carolyn Sutton**, and in February of 2017, I received an acceptance letter from **Edna Bar-On**, the Israeli CIF president. I learned that I would be traveling with three other participants, **Agneta Bjorkland** from Sweden, **Salima Senders** from the Netherlands and **Bhavna Mehta** from India. Agneta was most involved in programs for the elderly and child protection; Salima's areas of interest included youth and refugee/immigrant welfare, and Bhavna, a social work professor in her home state of Gujarat, wanted to learn more about how Israeli agencies handled survivors of violence.



Meeting Druze in the Golan Heights

Our Israeli hosts and presenters—**Edna, NiliDror, Ruti Flesh, Miriam Bar-Giora, Muhammad Diab, OfraLichentrit, Gila Atal, YaronZiv, HadasZeev, Judith Shlaski, Baruch Shalev, Ilana Engel, Naomi Shacham, Hana and Uzi Elisha** and others whom I apologize for forgetting the names of—who were generous of time and knowledge-sharing.

In Jerusalem where we spent our first days, we were given an introduction to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Services, visited a home for individuals with developmental disabilities, participated in Independence Day dancing, toured Yad Vashem and the Israel Museum rotunda housing the Dead Sea Scrolls. Our visit coincided with the 50 year anniversary of the 1967 "Six Day War," an event that continues to provoke delight and disappointment, dependent on one's take of the outcome: the establishment of Israel's current borders

From Jerusalem we travelled northwest to the Arab city of Tamra where we were more-than-graciously hosted by Muhammad Diab, the director of several wonderfully-run group homes for individuals with mental disabilities. With Muhammad we visited Nazareth, Tamra, Haifa, and Akko, including centers dedicated to domestic violence, substance abuse and incarceration rehabilitation. We spent a day on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and a morning visiting a Druze couple near the Syrian border. Arab Israel—about 20 percent of the country's population, is mostly off limits to Western visitors, so the opportunity to spend time with Muhammad, his family and his colleagues, was particularly welcomed by all of us.

We next bussed south to Tel Aviv where we toured old Jaffa, took a drive down historic Dizengoff Street, then were delivered to our individual hosts—in Jerusalem we bunked together in a hostel; in Tamra, Muhammad's sons were whisked (happily!) to their grandparents' house so we could have their bedrooms; but in Tel Aviv, Agneta, Salima, Bhavna and I were assigned different host families. My hosts Hana and Uzi Elisha, and their still-at-home kids Mayan and Ben live in the town of Rosh Ha'Ayim near Tel Aviv. For me, it was a perfect match. Hana and Uzi run a private agency headquartered on the Einat Kibbutz, also the home of Hana's parents, Holocaust survivors who spent an afternoon sharing their stories with us. The kibbutz tour was a Tel-Aviv area activity in which I participated, though I missed several others since Hana, knowing of my interest in education, arranged for me to spend time with students and instructors at Begin High School, where Ben is an 11th grader. As it turned out, the national 11th grade English language competency exam was being given one of the days I was with the Elishas, so not only did I give an impromptu review lesson to a room full of 17-year-olds, but I also participated in the testing.

Interestingly, some of the most illuminating elements of the PEP came from events I and the others missed. Not only did our visit coincide with Independence Day, but it similarly coincided with Remembrance Day, the day on which Israelis recall their war dead. Historically, this event is pro-Jewish,

USA

By Barbara Goodman (USA) –
with input from Bhavna Mehta (India)
and Agneta Bjorkland (Sweden)

which in the politics of the Middle east, means anti-Arab. However, as this was a peace program, we were connected with an organization called Ossim Shalom, a “bipartisan” attempt to connect Arab and Jewish social workers in a non-politicized space.

We spent the early evening of Remembrance Day (Jewish celebrations begin at sunset) at a private event center in East Jerusalem...traditionally a part of the city Jews keep their distance from, and, in fact, several of our Jewish hosts were cautious about traveling there. Mahmoud Jamal Al Refai, an Ossim Shalom founder and chairperson, poured mint tea, offered falafel in pita bread, and together with co-founder Baruch Shalev and other CIF members, we meditated, explored inspirational figures in our personal histories, and discussed programs to move peace forward. Afterward, we boarded a minibus and proceeded to Tel Aviv to attend a rally commemorating the lives of soldiers killed on both sides of the battlefield, but it turned out that Israeli officials banned the joint remembrances and protestors had overtaken the venue objecting to Arab participation. We were refused entry, but also had a close encounter with the reality that impedes regional peace even among the most earnest players.

It would be naïve to explore social services in Israel without awareness of the wall that separates its Jewish and Arab inhabitant – or the wall that separates segments within the Jewish community—roughly speaking, of the 80 percent of Israel that is Jewish, 20 percent of residents adhere to Orthodox faith, 20 percent endorse Zionist nationalism, and another 40 percent defines itself as more-or-less secular. For this reason, it was enlightening to have exchanges with individuals from differing backgrounds. Israel is a fraught country: not only are it's Jews and Arabs skeptical of each other, but there's distrust among Jewish contingents. As an American, Israel reminded me of my own divided country; as a Jew, Israel made me proud of its accomplishments, but ambivalent about its fraught politics and policies.

Because of my background, I came to Israel with a better-than-basic base – I can read the alphabet (though I don't know what the words mean;) I loosely follow regional politics; I've read Holocaust and contemporary Israeli literature. That said, almost every conversation with every agency host or presenter revealed an ah-ha moment of understanding. Many of these were disturbing: abuse is growing in the Orthodox community; “traditional” values are gaining over secularism; the socialist founding spirit of



Visit to Kibbutz Einat meeting with Hana's father

Israel has morphed into privatization; even at the secular Rosh Ha'ayim high school, instructors fail to question the division between Jews and Arabs.

But others were inspiring: more Arab women are attending university; organizations like Ossim Shalom are slowly gaining ground; there may never be a lasting peace—it works in the government's favor to keep groups at each other's throats, was a sentiment I heard more than once—but individuals are reaching out in small but meaningful ways, and taking responsibility for their own communities.

I speak for each of my colleagues in expressing our delight at spending time with the Diab family; not only was Mohammad a fabulous host, but his responses to our not-always-discreet inquiries about living in an often-hostile society were thoughtful and generous. My personal takeaway was a connection with his sister Rania, an elementary school English teacher who I hope to connect with an elementary school Arabic classroom in the States.

My original flight was cancelled at the last minute and it took two frustrating days, dozens of phone calls and four flights to complete what should have been a 13-hour trip. When I finally arrived in Jerusalem, the group gave me a round of welcoming hugs and applause. From that introduction, I discovered a cohort of like-minded, big-hearted individuals. I want to thank everyone who made this program the exceptional experience it was: it opened my eyes, expanded my world, increased my knowledge and well – the hummus was equally as good as any we have in Toledo.

CIF Italia plans experimental program with IASSW: *Alliances working for CIF '2028'*

Inspired by the theme of the CIF Conference 2017 in Greece, META-KINESIS as “the change of position in a system where one's movement steers the movement of the other in order to maintain stability,” CIF Italia wanted to take concrete, new action in this direction, trying to establish significant alliances on a larger scale with the Social Work academic world. Thus, we presented a proposal in collaboration with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW, <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/>) that we feel can be beneficial for the future of CIF.

The experiment is to invite and select a Master degree student with some practical/work experience in the field, from any University around the World that might be

interested, to our 2018 Professional Exchange Program in Italy, through the alliance with IASSW.

CIF Italia has already had a direct experience with Social Work students in the 1990s, offering a more academic oriented program recognized by the Schools of Social Work of Michigan State University and Florida International University in the USA.

The program we are suggesting and would like to discuss and elaborate with whoever shows interest to develop it, will not have a strict academic format, but more similar to a practicum, as the master degree student can go through our exchange program along with the other social work/human services professionals selected from different countries.

Interested Universities could consider offering the selected student possible credits connected to their practicum or similar, which would allow them not only to widen their perspectives on the Social Work and Social Welfare System of the Country, but also exchanging experiences and knowledge with the participants from different nations.

Another important aspect of the Program, of course, is host family living, which allows to get more true to life moments that help to process the information received more realistically, while building significant new relationships, an aspect that the students in the past put on the forefront.

The cost of all CIF Exchange Programs is minimal and should not represent a major obstacle for students, if the University cannot offer financial support.

The selection of the student would be done with the university interested and the CIF representative of that country. Other arrangements would have to be decided if there is no CIF Branch or Contact person in the country of the University. **This could also help to initiate and extend the establishing of formal alliances by CIF International and possibly generate more cooperation and action that we may not even consider or imagine at the moment.**

This is just an initial input that has been discussed at the



workshop specifically presented at the Conference in Greece. We hope to be able to talk about the results of the experiment once experienced, possibly and auspiciously encouraging other Branches to follow in the future.

A particular recognition must go to CIF Hellas that co-supported both financially and ideally with CIF Italia and other generous far-sighted individuals, the participation of prof. **Annamaria Campanini**, President of IASSW (who seemed to blend right in with the CIF Spirit), to the Conference 2017, which proved to be very promising and fruitful. In the circumstances Prof. Campanini also suggested to our Board of Directors **CIF International affiliation to IASSW, in the hope that we will accept such proposal and soon formalize this significant alliance.** In the meantime, I have personally become individual member of IASSW, in order to facilitate the implementation of this experiment we hope to launch at our PEP 2018 in

Italy.

Another important process has been initiated in Greece in regards to the future of CIF, under the name of 'CIF 2028.' Building alliances and thinking/acting out of the box can be a concrete way to interpret, activate and move on this project, aiming for future growth and enhancement of our beloved CIF.

CIF NEPAL ended their 2017 PEP with a ceremony!



CIF Nepal held a Certificate and Farewell ceremony at the conclusion of their 2017 PEP.

Pictured here, the participants were from Finland (2), USA (2) and SCOTLAND in CIF/NEPAL PEP 2017.

With best regards,
Krishna, CIF Nepal

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CIF Morocco reports a successful first professional exchange program in 2017

Since the establishment and recognition of the branch of CIF Morocco in 2015, the planning was to start our first PEP in 2017, although the lack of finances an issue and the very limited number of members available. In spite of everything, we managed very well to make it a successful PEP and this is also thanks to the wonderful participants from Germany, France and Sweden who have become friends of CIF Morocco and CIF International following all the news about it.

Our first Exchange program consisted of an introduction to the social, economic and political system in the kingdom of Morocco. Three of the five topics developed, were much appreciated and found to be very interesting and helpful to get to know the Moroccan society, a land of tradition and modernization:

1. CIF Morocco, CIF international and CIPUSA
2. Women's New Constitution "Moudawana" in Moroccan society (social and political situation)
3. Values and social change in Morocco

CIF Morocco succeeded in passing the calendar and closing days of the PEP:



1- At the National Center for the disabled



2- In a traditional Moroccan restaurant that serves only seafood.



3- In a popular restaurant with roast meat and steamed meat specialty, salads and Moroccan tea.



4- at the headquarters of the National Foundation Mohamed V for solidarity.



5- At the modern international language center



6- At the center where a former CIF participant ANIS works:



7- Good-bye At the railway station & airport

Serbian professional describes *positive career impact* from CIP/CIF

The best way that someone might thank CIF and share everything learned to others as a CIF participant is to become an active part of the CIF family. Exactly that happend to me. And, I am very proud of that and happy, too.

I was a CIPUSA Cleveland participant in 1998 – now it seems to me longtime ago. I had a great opportunity to be trained in the field of eldercare by the best ones for eight weeks. I got practical experience at Golden Age Center and had a chance to visit a number of institutions (Metro Health Hospital, Western Reserve Geriatric Education Center, Mandel School of Applied Science CWRU, Heather Hill, etc.), same as training workshops and conference. After my training program in Cleveland I set up a private practice called BeoMed (family medicine, www.beomed.rs) that still exists in Serbia as a unique family practice with special care for elderly, home care, and Alzheimer and dementia.

As I got not only knowledge, but that which is more important for me: courage to start up new things, friends

By Dr Olivera M. Cirkovic, with best regards from Belgrade,
(CIF Serbia contact person) www.map.org.rs or www.facebook.com/MAP29072015/

and mentors that I might consult anytime. Because I really wanted to transfer this knowledge, experience and vision, in April 2010, I founded and set up the organization Medical Advanced Projects (MAP – www.map.org.rs). MAP especially wants to encourage and support the academic development of our members, same as all health and non-healthcare professionals in Serbia, because we believe that in this way we will be in a better position to provide to the patients the best possible



healthcare and protection, social care. Most programs and projects we created here use knowledge, material and experience I received through training programs in Cleveland. I also got a chance in July 2007 to give a lecture at the 27th CIF Conference, "Training Builds Bridges for a Changing World," held in Cleveland.

In a meantime, I graduated from the Gestalt Studio Belgrade and Gestalt Training Institute Malta. I had my first contact with Gestalt therapy during my training in Cleveland and right now I am in a Master's education in Gestalt Training Institute Malta. This specific field of my work gives me the opportunity to create a number of different training and educational programs. Also, I had completely new perspective to work with my patients based

on a holistic approach. Based on this work I wrote a book, "Looking for cure and I am finding myself." It will be published near the end of 2017.

This year as Serbian contact person I came back to the CIF family. Thank you all for that opportunity. Thank you for all my colleagues who will have a chance to experience the same or similar programs as I did once upon a time. My colleague, a social worker, spent his internship program in Finland in May this year. I hope most of the others will continue this training abroad during 2018. Also I plan to organize a training program in autumn 2018 with the specific field of work-support to persons with carcinoma. I believe that for a number of your friends and colleagues this will be an interesting theme.

CIF Spain 'travelled the world' at Kalamata Conference

Three members of CIF Spain had the pleasure of attending the 32nd CIF Conference from 18 to 22 September in Kalamata, Greece. Kalamata is a beautiful place and people who live there are friendly and hospitable.

The hosts of CIF Hellas did a brilliant job at the organizational level, and both the scientific and cultural program were very interesting. They made us all feel comfortable and supported.

CIF Spain had the opportunity to announce the first Professional Exchange Program to begin in 2018.

When we finished the trip and returned home, we thought we had travelled the world in only one week! More than 180 people from 23 different nationalities were able to meet and share this wonderful experience thanks to CIF.



CIF Spain meets USA!



CIF Spain with friends from Russia and Estonia



CIF Spain with friends from Argentina



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We're on the Web!

www.cifinternational.com

German professor finds the 2016 CIF New Zealand programme an example of Lively Internationality: a quality characteristic of social work

International conferences are a classic forum not only in politics and business, but far more in the field of science in order to establish fundamental definitions and agreements. In social work, the conferences of IFSW (International Federation of Social Work) and of IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social Work) have been of interest¹ since the 30s of the last century. For teaching and science in social work, the developments of definitions since the 1980s have resulted to the fact, among other things, not only that the self-confidence of the subject has strengthened and has become a force unto itself, but much more that a global self-perception of science and profession has become apparent. Especially with respect to the struggle for the object area of the subject, the clear offer of definitions was helpful to survive the very frequent colonisation attempts by the so-called reference sciences.¹¹ In "Forum sozial 2 / 2014" Mrs Gabriele Stark-Angermeier demonstrated clearly that since the IFSW delegates meeting in Salvador 2008 the aspect of "indigenous knowledge" has been added to the struggle for definitions. Thus, the last sentence of the presently valid definition (*see:*) reads as follows: "Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and **indigenous knowledge**, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing."

In the course of my long service as a lecturer in social work, it happened rarely that a definition caught my attention; after all, what was indicated by the concept of "indigenous knowledge?" Did this apply for cultures only, in which there were "indigenous people?" How does this concept get into a globally valid definition for scientific use pending practical application actively? Which force and movement is concealed behind the concept? The note by Mrs Stark-Angermeier, that the influence of the Australian social workers had inspired the inclusion, evoked curiosity.

The youth welfare literature indicates that the family conference approach originating in Australia and New Zealand reached Germany in the 1990s, and was understood and implemented here in particular as a network-oriented diagnostic model. The New Zealand Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act of 1st November 1989 and the help plans of the FGC were translated by Frank Früchtel and Wolfgang Budde in http://www.familienrat-fgc.de/ges_grund_neuseeland.html, and presented to a wider professional audience for the first time in Berlin in

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June 2006 within the framework of the 3rd Specialist-Policy Discourse / Berlin Youth Welfare Service. During the discourse the family conference was mentioned as a network-oriented help plan process. Family groups are motivated and activated to recognise "their competences and resources" and to introduce an own help network. In this way, they turn into real actors in the help plan. They can share their experiences, habits and wishes directly and

unfiltered, and can work out solutions themselves. The families are no longer objects of help, but experience that they themselves and their environment have strengths which they can provide to improve the situation. Feelings of powerlessness and helplessness, which frequently are an important part of the problem, can be replaced by a more positive self-awareness in this way. By means of the family conference, clients in help procedures turn into citizens again who take their lives into their own



CIF group with NZ attendant Sue

hands again (see above). It is hoped that families' need for help is understood anew in this way.

In essence, a family conference is about giving an active role in special life situations to persons, who are related to another – either as a family, a chosen family or in another form of togetherness. This means for persons and their social network that they have the chance of discovering their own resources and to render them available to the community and/or for one another. This new and further view provided the youth welfare service with important stimuli to understand itself network-oriented and sociospatial.

With this understanding of the family conference process, I replied to the call for tender which invited the exchange of expertise with the Council of International Fellowship (CIF) for New Zealand. In the meantime, C.I.F.¹¹¹ has become a worldwide association for the exchange of specialists in social fields in the widest sense; in the call for tender I saw the opportunity of getting an insight into processes of social work, teaching and theory development, of talking to New Zealand colleagues about their work, and of getting to know them locally in attendance in parts. In addition, there was also the chance of living together with a local partner in his family for some weeks.

The journey to "down under" was not only very long, but from a global point of view led "to the other end of the world". After all, there is no other spot in the world that is

further away from Germany. And, in addition, there has been an absolute "hype" about New Zealand with young Germans for many years, and indeed more or less permanently you will meet young Germans on the islands who travel around for a year with a "Work and Travel" visa. Frequently they are out and about as so-called "woofers" (working on organic farms).

Our CIF group consisted of two women from Finland, one from Sweden, one from Estonia, one from Nepal, and me the only male person and from Germany. As a retired professor, I pulled the average age up quite a bit.

The project gave me the opportunity of getting know the study on the Bachelor of Social Work level in Auckland and New Plymouth as well as a wide range of social-work fields of action. The studies of social work, sometimes also referred to as "social practice," take place on a university level as well as on a non-university level in so-called Unitec institutes which call themselves Polytechnics. They are comparable with German technical colleges, but not identical. I was able visit the Unitec University in Auckland and New Plymouth, and the Social Work Department in Dunedin City. The biggest difference to our known education, also in contrast to the US versions, is the massive emphasis of the indigenous approach.

In this respect, the orientation is of special importance during assessment. The coverage of the living conditions is oriented very much to a background of the Maori culture, even when there are only a few links to the Maori culture. This is explained on the grounds that the consideration is based on the special living environments of the islands. Moreover, under the perspective of a life together, a kind of "dominant Maori culture" is accepted. Thus, "being Maori" depends less on the real ethnic inheritance, but rather on the individual and collective consciousness of being Maori. On account of the very different immigrations, the culture and lifestyle in New Zealand in total is a culture of immigration, whereby the Maoris are granted the privilege of the "first group."^{iv} In the historic understanding of the relationship between the different ethnic groups, the historic Treaty of Waitangi (1840) plays a central role, in which the rights and obligations of the groups amongst each other were regulated.^v

The acceptance of Maori tradition as a basis for the methodical orientation in social work has effect right into the special forms of youth welfare, such as in "outward-bound education," in which deviant young people experience in camps (marae) the attachment to family in a specific landscape. The experience of imparted landscape (pitiga) gained by generations shall not be passed on in an individual sense of security but in the roots of the group and tribe. The family tradition is integrated and obligated in the help process.

These principals are transmitted to community work as well. The intensive community development embeds in the immigration culture in the communal development process; the socio-political anchoring is considered as common task. The service range of the so-called independent institutions is compared by means of an EDP-assisted process and is put up for discussion during the community meetings (marae). In the process competition should be avoided and cooperation shall be encouraged.

The four-week CIF programme gave us the opportunity of living with colleagues and their families for twelve days each in two locations. The open friendly naturalness with which we were welcomed and hosted did

not only make us very thankful and touched but also permitted us to experience at the other end of the world that social work is considered a very significant social investment. The social development in a so-called post-modern world is definitely very similar to ours; however the relaxed manner and the emphasis that social work is what supports and shapes the social consensus, astonishes frequently.

In Europe, New Zealand is known to us often enough only from "Lord of the Rings" where the strange "Hobbit" permits a quaint naturalness to appear. The breath-taking nature and the friendly calm of the "Kiwi" have made the "excursion" to the social work of "Down Under" enchanted and precious.

For this reason, a very cordial "Thank you" at this point, and respect that even during the severe earthquake at the beginning of November we were told with a smile: "It's the usual shakin'."



The assessment process is explained by two female Maori welfare workers.

ⁱ The global IFSW was newly established in 1959 in Munich as successor organisation of "International Permanent Secretariat of Social Workers", which was founded in 1932 in the USA (see: Constitution of the international Federation of Social Workers; source: <http://ifsw.org/what-we-do/governance/constitution-and-by-laws/>).

ⁱⁱ One remark in this respect: Since 2013 the author has been retired from professorship, and thus is rather more an "outside" observer; however, it seems (subjectively) that in revisions of present study concepts the so-called reference sciences have been gaining more influence in the setup of curricula. The acceptance of social work as an academic field of science does appear to be obvious by any means.

ⁱⁱⁱ From German-language "Wikipedia": The origin goes back to 1954 when the US Secretary of State sent Henry B. Ollendorff to Germany within the framework of the re-education programme in order to run course for youth leaders and social workers. The Youth Ministry in Bonn supported him. In 1956, the said together with the Fulbright Commission gave the travelling scholarship to the German participants for study contract in the USA. At a later point into time the programme was extended to other countries. The Cleveland International Program (as from 1965 Council of International Programs for Youth and Social Workers Federation with its headquarters in Cleveland (Ohio) was born.

In 1958, the German federal government invited for the first time American social workers to Germany. In 1960, the Cleveland International Fellowship (CIF) was founded in Hamburg, which at a later point in time was changed to the Council of International Fellowship. The association was registered at the District Court of Bonn.

^{iv} The settlement history of New Zealand is straight forward. It has been defined that the first boats (Maori: waka) from the Polynesian sea area arrived in the 13th century. The European immigrations took place as from the 17th century (Abel Tasman is considered the discoverer in 1642, who however has never put foot on the islands James Cook made the first topographical and nautical maps of the islands and with him the colonisation started by the British Empire. Thus, New Zealand has no "aboriginal people" (as opposed to Australia), i.e. they are all immigrants.

^v The Treaty of Waitangi (1840) is an agreement between the British Crown and Maori chieftains. The document introduced the British law in New Zealand, and at the same time gave the Maori the authority and determination over their land and their culture. Up to this day, this Treaty is accepted the constituent document of New Zealand, and is considered as historic example of a mediative process, in which the interests of the individual groups and tribes are described and legally drawn up. The Treaty has been written and valid in English and Maori language. There are still interpretation problems due to different interpretations of legal concepts. As not all Maori tribes have agreed to the Treaty, political arguments about the justice of the Treaty occur again and again.

CIF Spain Explains: 'Why a Spanish PEP?'

As many of you know CIF Spain presented in Kalamata the exchange program (PEP) that will take place in Spain next May. Some of the questions from conference attendees were related to the program language, that is: Spanish.

By Susana, Vanesa and Carmen

We have designed a PEP where the participants will have the opportunity to obtain an in-depth knowledge of the agencies and institutions of their field Choice, and that could only be possible if they are independent users of Spanish language. Participants can share experiences and ask freely without the need of a translator.

More than 500 million people speak Spanish as a first or second language, on the lists of languages by number of native speakers, Spanish is qualified in the second place, so we thought that the language criteria would be not a problem. Even more, we are convinced that we are opening CIF to Central and South America, giving them the opportunity to participating in an exchange program in Europe.

For those people who are learning Spanish, it is also a challenge, since from now on we have two PEPs in Spanish (Argentina and Spain) so double opportunities to improve it.

Bienvenidos y bienvenidas!

Tea ceremony and much more Japan IPEP 2017

JAPAN

by Michi Sakamoto,
President of CIF Japan

The Second IPEP in Japan began on October 6, 2017 and concludes on October 21. Four participants from four countries are participating in the program this year. Photo from the right: Nattie (Thailand), Jaana (Estonia), Conny (the Netherlands) and Fred (U.S.A.), Michi and Takashi at the Tea Ceremony (on tatami mat).



IPEP Certificates



Tea Ceremony - October 6



Farewell party - October 20

IN MEMORIAM –*from Dagmar Demme
October 2017*

Our special memories, thoughts and kind regards go to the families of CIF members who passed away this year.

Carl-Henrik Guste (CIF Sweden)

Our oldest member Carl-Henrik Guste passed away in August two weeks before his 97th birthday. Carl-Henrik Guste was a youth leader and social worker. In 1960 he participated in the CIP program in Chicago. At that time he was a scout leader and had taken the initiative to build a scout camp on the island Vässarö. This island hosts thousands of scouts every year.

Later on Carl-Henrik taught youth leaders in the Swedish education system and became the head of the school.

At the reunion of CIP alumnis in Hamburg 1960 he was one of the founders of CIF and was elected the first CIF president. Throughout his life he supported and encouraged the ideals on which Henry Ollendorff built CIP and CIF. Carl-Henrik was also one of the founders of the Swedish branch. Ever since then he has been an active member with great leadership skills.

Carl-Henrik made many friends through CIF and his home has always been welcoming CIF members from all over the world. For us old and new CIF–Sweden members he enriched our meetings and discussions with his open and positive attitude. He was always looking forward, meeting new friends. We all who knew him are thankful for having known him. His spirit and talent to look forward live in our memories. We will keep the memory of Carl-Henrik deep in our hearts.

CIF-Sweden

**Daisaku Maeda (CIF Japan)**

(died 29 November 2016)

Prof. Daisaku Maeda, former president of CIF Japan, participated in the Cleveland program (CIP/USA) in 1962. He was the first participant from our country. The Japanese national branch was founded in 1986. He was involved in the activities of the organization as the president from 1986 until 2007. In his professional life he devoted himself to improving social services, well-being of the elderly as well as the education of students and young researchers.

Toshi Takeuchi (CIF Japan)

(died 19 August 2016)

Toshi was a dedicated member of CIF since his participation in the Indianapolis program (CIP/USA) in 1994. He held the office of the President of CIF Japan from 2007 to 2016. Toshi's efforts made it possible to register our group as a legal organization in 2011. It is our cherished memory that he worked hard, successfully leading the first IPEP in Japan in 2015. He also managed a home for the elderly and devoted himself to educating students at Kyoto Notre Dame University.

CIF Japan extends deep gratitude and thanks to the CIF family for their lasting friendship with the above two members.

**Ulrike Ness (Neß) (CIF Germany)**

(27.1.1934 – 22. März 2017)

Ulrike belonged to the oldies of CIP and was participant in 1959 in the Cleveland program and engaged in many different activities as girl scout. As a social worker she worked also in development programs in Africa. With all her experiences she later spent her professional life in Berlin in the field of psychiatric social work.

In CIF we knew her not only as a good friend, but especially also as a most concerned caring person for those of us in need. Many long-lasting friendships with her American host-families and visits back and forth kept her active in the CIF community. Out of this CIF-friendship group we celebrated after her funeral in Berlin – a meaningful time to share memories of Ulrike together with Anita Gerdes in her old age home. I miss very much one of my best friends!





International Professional Exchange Programs (PEP) 2017-2018



for professionals of social work, social welfare and human services

COUNTRY	DURATION	DATES	DEADLINE	LANGUAGE	PROGRAM FEE	No. OF PARTICIPANTS
Argentina	3 weeks	Sept 7 th - 30 th 2018	Feb 15 th 2018	Spanish	€ 400	4 – 6
Australia	3 weeks	Next Program Autumn 2018	Feb 1 st 2018	English	AUD\$ 500	4 – 6
Austria	2,5 weeks	Apr 10 th - 27 th 2018	Dec 1 st 2017	English	No fee	6
Estonia	2 weeks	June 11 th - 24 th 2018	Jan 1 st 2018	English	€ 300	3 – 5
France	3 weeks	Sep 19 th - Oct 13 th 2018	Apr 15 th 2018	French	€ 250	3 – 6
Finland	3,5 weeks	May 4 th - 28 th 2018	Dec 1 st 2017	English	No fee	6 – 7
Germany	2,5 weeks	June 1 st - 17 th 2018	Dec 1 st 2017	English, German if possible	€ 350	4
Greece	2 weeks	May 7 th - 19 th 2018	Jan 30 th 2018	English	€ 300	5
India	3 weeks	Jan 15 th - Feb 3 rd 2018	Dec 31 st 2018	English	€ 325	2 – 10
Israel	2 weeks	Apr 27 th - May 11 th 2018	Dec 31 st 2017	English	€ 350	2 – 3
Italy-Slovenia	3,5 weeks	Sept 27 th - Oct 14 th 2018 + 1 week Slovenia	March 15 th 2018	English	€ 250 (Italy) € 100 (Slovenia)	4
Japan		Next Program 2019 or 2020		English		
Kenya		No Program at the moment		English, Swahili if possible		
Morocco	2 weeks	March 23 rd - Apr 6 th 2018	Jan 15 th 2018	French and English, Arabic if possible	€ 350	2 – 4
Netherlands	2 weeks	Next Program Autumn 2018	May 23 rd 2018	English	€ 350	6 – 10
Nepal	3 weeks	Next Program Autumn 2018	Aug 15 th 2018	English	€ 500	3 – 5
New Zealand	4 weeks	Next Program Autumn 2018	March 30 th 2018	English	NZ\$ 500	4 – 6
Norway	3 weeks	Next Program Autumn 2018	May 1 st 2018	English	No fee	4
Russia	10 days	May 25 th – June 4 th 2018	Dec 1 st 2017	English, Russian if possible	€ 300	2 – 4
Scotland (UK)	4 weeks	May 5 th – June 2 nd 2018	Dec 1 st 2017	English	£ 300	4 – 6
Spain	2 weeks	May 11 th -27 th 2018	Dec 1 st 2017	Spanish	€ 350	4
Sweden	4 weeks	Apr 6 th - May 5 th 2018	Nov 1 st 2017	English	No fee	4 – 6
Switzerland	2,5 weeks	May 23 rd - June 8 th 2018	Dec 1 st 2017	English	CHF 400	4 – 6
Taiwan	2 weeks	March 10 th - 24 th 2018	Oct 31 st 2017	English	€ 300	3 – 5
Turkey	3 weeks	April 28 th - May 18 th 2018	Feb 1 st 2018	English	€ 350	4
USA www.cipusa.org	4-6 weeks	March or August	Open	English	US\$ 1,000 – US\$ 1,500	Open

All programs provide participants with housing – usually **host families living** - during the program and **local travel**.

There may be changes, for more information and latest update visit our website: www.cifinternational.com

11.12.2017

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October 2017

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KALAMATA 2017



CIPUSA Beginnings



Closing Dance



Closing Dinner

France to host 33rd CIF International Conference in 2019

CIF FRANCE is happy and proud to announce that the Board of Directors (BD), at their meeting in Kalamata, accepted the proposal of organizing the next conference in Saint Malo, France from the 1st to the 6th of July 2019.

The topic will be Market economy and social policies: new ways to be found in social work

Some information about the place:

Saint Malo is a harbor in the west of France (50,000 inhabitants), located in Brittany an attractive region for tourists from all over the world, at 400 km from Paris.

Getting there:

To reach Saint Malo, you can use the TGV (high speed train) in 2h 15min from Paris or low-cost buses, and also there is Dinard Airport, 10km from Saint Malo, with domestic and European flights.

Accommodation:

Provided by a youth hostel close to the beach, with rooms for 2, 3 or 4. Each room has it's own toilet and bathroom. Single rooms can be provided on request.

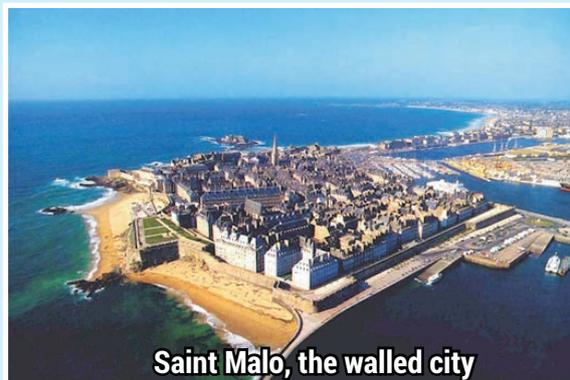
Sights:

A trip to the famous Mont Saint Michel will be organised during the conference, we could not imagine not to visit this marvel located within an hour from us!

Post tours: After the conference you will have the choice between three different post tours -

- The Loire Valley with its chateaux and vineyards
- A trip around Brittany, Normandy and the D-Day beaches
- Normandy and the D-Day beaches.

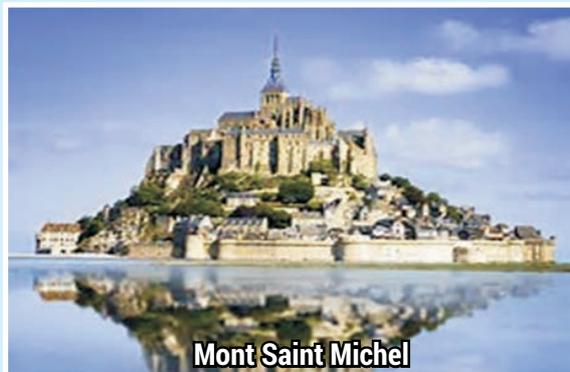
A great challenge is waiting for us, and we look forward to seeing you again in Saint Malo!



Saint Malo, the walled city



A double room in the youth hostel



Mont Saint Michel

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