



WORLD NEWS

AUGUST 2006



EC 2005-2007 MEET IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

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the COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP magazine



**2007
COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
CONFERENCE - CLEVELAND, USA**



Participants of the Community leadership program in USA
(article on page 04)



FOREWORD

By the CIF World News editor

The 50th Birthday in the life of any individual is always a cause for celebration. It is an even greater occasion in the life of any institution. As the CIPUSA and many of the chapters of CIF move to celebrate their 50th anniversaries, it is a time to reflect on the history and development of CIF as an institution, a time to salute its founder Henry Ollendorff, a time to pledge ourselves once again to the vision of the founding fathers, a time to re-evaluate the changing relevance of social workers in a flat world. It's also time to redefine our future goals as the individual becomes lonelier, ironically in a world where urbanization is increasing, means of communications are getting better and the opportunity to connect with others is on the rise. So why is the individual getting lonelier? A breakdown of the family? A breakdown of relationships? Ageing populations with loss of partners? And what are the social work challenges arising from this malady?

Let us draw strength from our history. As they say History teaches, the present preaches and the future... Reaches... to where we want... if we have learnt from our history and acted in the present.

So on behalf of the EC let me congratulate all the CIF Chapters that have completed 50 years or are nearing that milestone. Let's pop champagne to all those seniors who have seen the CIP and CIF through those tumultuous years. It is now for us, many of whom have been associated with CIF/CIP for 25 years or more and for other younger members to work on strategies that will ensure that the CIF's relevance to its members and the world it reaches out to, keeps it going meaningfully for the next 50 years. In this context I am happy that we will soon be discussing a strategy paper being prepared by Dorothy Faller (who herself has been associated with CIPUSA and CIF for decades) and chalk out a road map that will ensure CIF growing beyond its existing network, beyond its meetings, conferences and exchange programs and becomes truly a catalyzing and crystallizing agency that helps unleash potential of its members to reach out to the world around it to make that part of the world less lonely, more joyful and more meaningful!

Best wishes,
Zarin Gupta
Vice-President, CIF International



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by **Lambrini-Ninetta D. Zoi**
President, CIF International

Dear CIF Colleagues and Friends,

Another academic year approaches its end and I am thinking CIF is in constant action as when an activity or a project is finished we are starting working for the next one. Moreover as a world organization we do not have all at the same time spring, summer, winter or fall breaks and holidays, so CIF and CIPUSA activities are really developing non-stop, don't you feel the same? A lot of our 2006 Exchange Programs are completed, so there are new Members in our Directory, I welcome them all to the CIF "world family"! CIF Branches are finalizing the evaluation of this year's Exchange Program and planning their 2007 one!

I had the great pleasure to meet the participants at CIF Austria Exchange Program and to attend their weekly meeting while I was in Vienna on other business in March 2006. What an enthusiastic group: Ms. Selma Gasi from Bosnia/Herzegovina, Ms. Aida Jamangulova from Kyrgyzstan, and Mr. Valter Parve from Estonia.

I also met Mrs. Lisbet Sander from Sweden - the only participant CIF Hellas had this year, at the farewell party in Athens end of May 2006. She was also very appreciative of the CIF experience. All of them told me that their participation was a very positive and beneficial experience both professionally and personally. Although our Guidelines for the core CIF Exchange Program speak of minimum four participants, Branches lacking adequate numbers of eligible candidates decided not to cancel their Programs and experiment somehow alternative CIF Programs; the participants I met were by all means very pleased with these decisions.

Since October 2005 CIF France together with CIF Hellas are cooperating with Maribor University in Slovenia on a pilot project in the Framework of the 2nd phase 2000-2006 of the European Leonardo da Vinci Program*: "Parents training most powerful supporters and guiders of persons with disabilities". At the moment they are preparing for the third working Meeting of the project partners to be held in Athens at the end of June 2006.

In February 2006 I went to Chicago, Illinois to attend the 52nd Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, where together

with Mrs. Dorothy Faller former Secretary General CIPUSA and Executive Director Cleveland International Program, who also helps voluntarily the CIF Board of Directors with our Strategic Planning Process, we presented the CIPUSA-CIF Experience: "Successful Group Work with Mixed International Groups – Focusing on multicultural international group adjustments as contrasted with single culture adjustment". I felt very proud when I had been told that they were able to accept only about 30% of all submitted presentation abstracts and ours was included! This was a huge educational event with about 3.000 participants and it was lovely meeting Munira Merchant CIF USA and former CIF International EC Member and Natalie and Sheldon Siegel both CIF USA Members, Sheldon former CIP President. I also met many other CIP alumni, as well as Social Work Faculty Members from different USA Universities.

The elected CIF International EC in Bonn July 2005 had our first meeting in Turkey courtesy of the outgoing Vice President Nüket Atalay and CIF Turkey. Now we are at the preparations for the Board of Directors Meeting 2006 to be held prior to 40th CIF France Anniversary in Paris 28-29 September 2006. CIF France and our Exchange Programs Coordinator Nadine Rogue are very busy taking care of all it takes to host us there.

So, we look forward to meeting as many as possible in Paris soon!

Last but not least CIPUSA is working on our next – 27th CIF Conference "Training Builds Bridges for a Changing World: Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities, Transforming Yourself" commemorated to the 50th CIP Anniversary to be held in Cleveland in July 2007.

Please do not forget to start planning your trip to Cleveland early! We in the EC look forward to joining you in this upcoming significant CIF International Conference.

Lambrini-Ninetta D. Zoi
President, CIF International

* The Leonardo da Vinci programme aims to implement a European Community vocational training policy by contributing "... to the promotion of a Europe of knowledge by developing a European area of cooperation in the field of education and vocational training ..." and by supporting "... Member States' policies on lifelong learning and the building up of the knowledge and skills and competence likely to foster active citizenship and employability". (Art. 1.3. of the Council decision establishing the Leonardo da Vinci programme).



NINETTA ZOI (3rd from left) WITH CIF PARTICIPANTS IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

by **Nuket Atalay**
President, YORET Foundation

Cooperative Project between CIPUSA, CIF-TURKEY and YORET Foundation

During the Board Meeting in Riga, Latvia, Lisa Purdy announced the Community Leadership Program that CIPUSA was planning. The program's aim is to develop high level, short term professional exchanges between communities around the world. This would be a special program supported by the State Government and it would add a new dimension to our international organization. Programs between branches would be developed on specific issues that were of concern to communities and their leaders.

YORET the Foundation for Advancement of Counseling in Education along with CIF Turkey applied to this program in the area of Child development and was selected as a partner by CIPUSA. We hoped to create a "peer-based exchange program" to gain reciprocal learning experiences. I would like to submit details of this program.

During the first phase of the program, CIPUSA selected eight commu-

nity leaders who were interested in visiting Turkey to learn about the social and educational system, youth services provided by counselors, visit schools, universities, community agencies, mental health centers and orphanages. They saw how the NGOs cooperated with governmental programs and tried to bring new methodology toward solving social problems.. The program lasted for 9 days and the group of Americans who visited Istanbul had a typical CIF exchange program experience with orientation, professional activities (lectures and agency visits), evaluation, home visiting, touristic and cultural programs. They had the time to interact with professionals, to understand how the system operates and learn what is missing.

On the second phase of the program, YORET and CIF Turkey selected the eight professionals to attend a four week program in Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio. These eight people came from different parts of Turkey. They were leaders in their communities. One was a social worker and a previous CIF Sweden program participant. One was a faculty of Education member from the central part of the country, another a high ranking government official from a Counseling and Research Center in a town by the Black Sea. A counselor who was the director of School for Special Needs and a psychologist working at an NGO were also included. The others were mainly school counselors. This was a heterogeneous group with varying expectations. They all wanted to learn more about the US culture, the social and educational systems, and services provided for children and youth. They were interested in finding out about the common problems of youth violence and ways to intervene. The program in the USA was prepared by the CIPUSA office and their Columbus affiliate, together with the professionals who were our guests on the first phase of the project. The Turkish professionals listened to lectures at Case Western Reserve University, visited many agencies. They were able to ask for visits to areas of special interests. The program was flexible and a wonderful learning experience for all.

The members of the group came together at the end of the program to give their reports and evaluations. We would like to share with the readers of the World News some of the comments of the Turkish professionals at the program. These comments are sometimes meaningful comparisons of the two culture. They can make us think and laugh...

- "Americans are very friendly people. They say 'thank you' and 'excuse me' very often."
- "There is a very strong social service network in the cities we visited, and social workers are really doing important work."
- "Social workers are expected to respond within 24 hours. What a pressure! Yet people expect to receive services and they can sue if that fails!!"

- “The foster family system compensates for the need children have for families. It is amazing to see that a foster family can apply for the responsibility, can be evaluated, trained and given a child within four weeks. People even get paid for being foster parents.”
- “It is great to see judges in Family court with so much understanding of children’s needs. They must have taken courses in psychology!”
- “It as such a good idea to hold classes in detention centers and keep the children away from school”
- “We in Turkey are expected to do the work of a social worker, psychologist and counselor all in one person...”
- “In Turkey people will apply for adoption and wait for years to get a child, but people do not value the services of a foster family. On the other hand we do not have that many children who need care away from their families.
- “America is so surprising! Every State has different laws.”
- “What a wonderful idea to plan a program for elderly while they can help with taking care of children. Everybody wins.”
- “Voluntary activities are so well accepted and widespread. We saw Americans of all ages helping institutions, helping other people, doing work that makes them feel useful.”
We now want to do more in our own community.

[Photograph Inside Cover - CIPUSA Community leadership program participants in USA]

GUNVOR BRETTSCHEIDER

Ex-President of CIF Finland

“The idea (of CIF) is simple and functioning” expressed the keynote speaker, the general secretary of ICSW in Finland, Leif Rönneberg in the 40th Anniversary of CIF in Finland in November 2004. “Exchanging experiences gives qualifications to manage at work and develop it. CIF has rewardingly extended this form of professional help to international relationships. Its working contributes to understand the differences between people and tolerance.”




 TRAINING BUILDS BRIDGES FOR A CHANGING WORLD

27th CIF CONFERENCE

July 23 to July 27, 2007

Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities, Transforming Yourself
27th CIF CONFERENCE - CLEVELAND, OHIO, USA

July 19 - 20

Thursday - Friday

CIF Executive Committee Meeting

July 21 - 22

Saturday - Sunday

CIF Board of Directors Meeting

July 23 - 27

Monday - Friday

CIF Conference

CONFERENCE THEME



The 27th CIF Conference will mark the beginning of a new era for both CIF and CIPUSA. For the past 50 years the CIF and CIPUSA programs have made a lasting impact on the lives we encountered as participants of the programs, the communities we later served when we returned home, and of course the greatest personal impression was left on ourselves as we experienced a new world around us. CIF and CIPUSA programs have transformed people, communities and individuals for 50 years.

The 2007 conference theme is a combination of the CIF/CIPUSA philosophy as well as Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) mission and embraces what CIF and CIPUSA do best: make a difference in the world. The simple idea of Henry Ollendorff's dream of promoting peace through understanding has touched over 10,000 participants from 147 countries. These alumni have returned home to make

differences in their own countries emphasizing the value of our programs and the tremendous accomplishments that are possible when people think and work together on a global and intercultural basis.

For the 2007 conference we chose the theme of Training Builds Bridges for a Changing World: Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities, Transforming Yourself. We want to highlight that our programs provide professional development and through training we have made a collective impact on lives, communities and ourselves. We would like to target the idea of transformation in the area of youth development, the elderly, and personal growth in yourself and the workplace. The conference will take a holistic approach to the idea of transformation since it encompasses our three focus areas. In general programs and workshops will reflect the concepts of teamwork, collaboration, recognizing opportunities, mediation, all of which can be applied to any social issue.

I. Transforming Lives. Participants of CIF and CIPUSA have transformed the lives of the people they met while on their programs through the people encountered at training sites and their host families. Through the simple interactions of everyday life our participants opened the eyes of host families, training site colleagues, and new friends made in a new country. We apply this theme to our younger generation. As participants interact with young people they transform youthful impressions of the great diversity of our world. We are able to impact their lives by influencing them through education, mentoring, and encouragement. We will provide a number of workshops on youth development and skills needed to work with our younger generation.

II. Transforming Communities. Participants of CIF and CIPUSA have returned home to transform the communities they live in. What they learned abroad can often be applied in their own home countries. We apply this theme to our older generation as our communities will soon be transformed with a growth in population of senior citizens who are living longer, abundant with knowledge and skills, and not living with their families as was done traditionally. We will provide a number of workshops incorporating the elderly into our daily lives and new concepts of caring and providing for the elderly.

III. Transforming Yourself. The most significant transformation taking place as a result of CIF/CIPUSA programs is at the personal level. Each person evolves into someone new upon completion of the program. We want to offer participants training in the areas of life skills and NGO management. Some participants have risen to higher positions in their home countries tak-

ing on new responsibilities. We will provide a number of workshops on life skills and non-profit management skills such as budgeting, grant writing, board management, etc.

During the past few years both CIF and CIPUSA have undergone changes in programs, methods and ideas, embracing our traditions and values while adapting them to the new and ever changing world around us. As we undergo change we build new bridges as an organization. This conference is a reflection of the changes taking place with new areas of learning along with the traditional programs. The goal of all CIF/CIPUSA conferences and programs is to provide our alumni with the skills they need to transform the individuals, families, organizations, and communities they encounter.

We welcome all of you to attend the 27th CIF Conference in Cleveland, Ohio! We welcome you home with our arms and hearts wide open. It will be a conference that you won't want to miss!!

CONFERENCE PROGRAM & EXCURSION TRIPS



The conference program will be included in full detail for the next World News. Excursion trips will also be listed at that time for those interested in visiting the U.S. after the conference is over.

Some highlights of the 2007 CIF conference in Cleveland:

CIPUSA Affiliate offices reconnecting with alumni

Host family reunions

Agency Visits

Square Dancing

And much, much more!

CONFERENCE SITE



Case Western Reserve University and the Mandel School of Applied Social Services (MSASS) will be the conference site of the 27th CIF conference. It is an appropriate site since it has a long history with our program as so many of our alumni have attended the university's school of social work's continuing education courses while training in Cleveland.

Case Western Reserve University is located in University Circle, a 550-acre, park-like concentration of approximately 50 cultural, medical, educational, religious, and social service institutions located at the eastern edge

of the city center. University Circle attracts visitors from throughout the region and the world to its concerts, theater performances, athletic events, art shows, public lectures, exhibits, and restaurants. Housing, shopping, and recreational facilities are all located in the area. Case Western Reserve University is located 15 minutes from the heart of downtown Cleveland. For more information on Case Western Reserve University please visit www.case.edu/visit/.

Consistently ranked among the nation's foremost graduate schools of social work in the U.S., the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) has always understood the history and dynamics of social work. Since its founding in 1916 as one of the nation's first university-affiliated schools of social work, MSASS has been an innovator in professional education. The mission of MSASS is to provide and integrate professional social work education, research, and service to promote social justice and empowerment in communities through social work practice locally, nationally, and internationally. For more information on MSASS please visit <http://msass.case.edu/about/>.



TRAVELING TO CLEVELAND

Arriving to Cleveland by plane:

If you are planning to fly to the conference you should fly into Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) located in Cleveland, Ohio. The airport is located about 20 minutes from Downtown Cleveland and approximately 30 minutes from Case Western Reserve University. You have three options for travel to the conference site:

Option One:

CIPUSA volunteers will meet you at the airport to take you to the conference site. CIPUSA volunteers will be waiting for you at the baggage claim area with CIF – CIPUSA signs. If you would like this option please complete the arrival form and return it to the CIPUSA office by email: cifconference@cipusa.org or by fax at +1 (216) 566 1490.

Option Two:

For the adventurers of the group you may take the RTA (Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority) also known as the "Rapid" train that is located in the basement of the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Take the Rapid Transit red line train eastbound to the University Circle station, which is just south of campus. A free University Circle shuttle bus connects the station with all areas of the campus, and the 821 Community Circulator

provides transportation to nearby neighborhoods.

From Monday through Saturday the Red Line operates every 15 minutes from 3:39 a.m. until 1:01 a.m. On Sunday, the rapid operates from 4:32 a.m. until 12:24 a.m. Riding the rapid only costs \$1.50 each way. For more information on the RTA please visit www.riderta.com/pd_airport.asp and for information on the University Circle shuttle bus please visit: <http://greenie.case.edu/>.

Option Three:

Taxi's are also available at the airport. Although taxi's are rare in Cleveland they are plentiful at the airport. They are fairly safe to travel in and will cost you approximately \$50 - \$60 to Case Western Reserve University.

Arriving to the Conference Site by Car:

Please visit the following website link for directions to the Case Western Reserve University Campus www.case.edu/visit/map/dir.html if you plan to arrive by car.

CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATIONS

In 2005 Case Western Reserve University opened its newest housing facility on campus. The Village at 115 is a 750 room housing complex with suites that can accommodate 4, 6, or 8 people.

Each suite has its own living room, kitchen, bathrooms (some up to four), and bedrooms. Each conference attendee will have their own private bedroom and share a bathroom with either one or two conference attendees from the suite.

Rooms in The Village at 115 offer double beds and air conditioning, and each unit includes a full kitchen and private bath and shower that will be shared with others in the suite. There are no individual private bathrooms attached to a room. Typically there will be two attendees sharing a private bathroom. Guest housing also provides guests with many other benefits including the convenience and security of being close to classrooms, libraries, laboratories, administrative offices, and other campus facilities. Additional services include:

- a convenient check-in / checkout procedure
- campus and local telephone service
- cooking facilities (microwaves, stove, refrigerator)
- coin operated laundry machines
- vending machines (soda, snacks)

- convenient access to Cleveland and University Circle public transportation
- an email kiosk is available in the Village 115 lobby

CIPUSA will also be offering at a lower cost traditional dormitory housing where attendees will either have a single room or share a double room with another attendee guest. The bathroom is a shared bathroom with others located on the same floor.

All rooms are comfortably outfitted with beds, dressers, desks, chairs, and phones, as well as linens, blankets, towels, hangers, and soap. For more information on the housing facilities please visit:

<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/living/facilities/villageat115/>.

All meals will be provided by Case Western Reserve University's caterer in a nearby cafeteria. Coffee and tea breaks will be provided between conference sessions. We will also have a formal banquet at the end of the conference. There are a variety of local stores on and off the university campus to purchase snacks or other items you might need during your stay in Cleveland.



GENERAL INFORMATION ON CLEVELAND

Cleveland in the summer is beautiful and hot. Typical daytime temperatures will range from 80 degrees to 90 degrees with evenings between mid 70 degrees to early 80 degrees. In the evening a sweater or light jacket will be sufficient. For more detailed information about weather in Cleveland please visit www.case.edu/visit/weather.html.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND COSTS

The conference fees will include full room and board from dinner on Monday, July 23 until breakfast on Saturday, July 28. The meals will include breakfast, lunch, coffee in the afternoon and dinner. The 2007 CIF Conference cost will be:

- Private single room with shared bath with one suite mate and meals (private bedrooms have a double bed which can be shared by couples)
\$650 per person
- Traditional style dormitory single room with bath down the hall to be shared by entire floor and meals
\$600 per person

- Traditional style dormitory double room with bath down the hall to be shared by entire floor and meals
\$575 per person

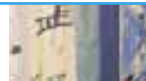
Daily Rate:

- For those CIF members who have already arranged their lodging elsewhere the conference fee with lunch and dinner for the week
\$450 per person
- For non CIF members the daily conference rate with breakfast, lunch and dinner is \$85
- Additional Days with meals (before and after the conference)

Private rooms	\$85
Single Dormitory room	\$65
Shared Dormitory room	\$55

Payments for the conference can be made by a bank wire transfer or by credit card. Information for payment is on the registration form.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION



Registering for the 2007 CIF conference can be done online at the CIPUSA website at www.cipusa.org or you can complete the registration form and return it to us by email to cifconference@cipusa.org. If you do not have access to the internet you may fax us your registration to ATTENTION: Mary Lynn Jackowicz at +1 (216) 579-0212.

Or, you may mail the registration form to:

Mary Lynn Jackowicz
Jones Day
901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
USA

Registration Deadline for the 2007 CIF Conference is due on March 31, 2007.

CIF - CIPUSA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS 2007¹

PROGRAM DATE / DETAILS

COUNTRY	DURATION	DATES	DEADLINE ²	LANGUAGE	REG.FEE ³	SUPPORT BY ⁴	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
Austria, ^{5.1} Czech Republic	3 weeks + 1 week	Together: April 20 May 20	Dec 1	English	Together: 250	Dom. travel	4 to 5
Aotearoa New Zealand Australia	6 weeks	Aug-Sept	March 1	English	To be Decided	Dom. travel	8
Finland	5 weeks	April 20 May 26	Dec 1	English	No fee	Dom. travel + allowance	7 to 8
France	5.5 weeks	May 20 June 28	Dec 1	French	No fee ⁶	Dom. travel + allowance	12 to 15
Germany AGJ ⁷	8 weeks	Sept-Nov	March 1	German	No fee	Allowance	20 to 22
Greece	4 weeks	May 2 May 27	Dec 1	English Greek if possible	400	Dom. travel	5
India	6 weeks	Nov-Dec	May 1	English	450	Par. Dom. travel	7 to 12
Israel	3 weeks	April 28 May 19	Dec 1	English	\$300	Partial dom. travel	2
Lithuania Latvia Estonia	4 weeks	May 13-22 May 23-Jun 1 June 2-12	Dec 1	English	250	Dom. travel	Upto 7

Norway	4 weeks	April-May	Dec 1	English	No fee	Dom. travel	7 to 8
Scotland	6 weeks	May-June	Dec 1	English	No fee	Partial dom. travel	10
Sweden	5 weeks	April 12 May 15	Dec 1	English	No fee	Dom. travel	6 to 8
Turkey	4 weeks	May 4 June 1	Dec 1	English	300	Dom. travel	4 to 6
CIPUSA	4 months (up to 18 months is optional)	Aug-Dec or Jan-May (18 month program can be any time)	Dec 1 June 1	English	\$800 - \$1250	Dom. travel	Open

- 1 - Dates/Details are subject to change from year to year.
- 2 - Deadline is for applications from people living in countries without a national branch. In countries with national branches the deadline may be earlier.
- 3 - In addition to the registration fees, applications fees can be charge by countries with national branches that send the application to a program.
- 4 - All exchange programs provide participants with housing - usually host families living during the program. Either an allowance (pocket money) is provided and/or domestic travel cost in the country during the exchange programme.
- 5.1 - Hungary and Czech Republic have a joint exchange program with Austria every second year. In 2007 Austria and Czech Republic have a joint exchange program. Therefore there is no program in Hungary in 2007.
- 6 - From countries where there is a support from the French embassy.
- 7 - The German program is funded by the German government but planned and implemented by an alliance of welfare organisation/institutions - AGJ.
 - No programs are organized by CIF in Italy, Slovenia, Jamaica and the Netherlands in 2007.
 - For more information, please visit our web site, www.cifinternational.com for access to the national branches and their website when available



A FINNISH PERSPECTIVE

by **Susanne Holmström**
CIF Finland

The Experience of CIF in a Finnish Perspective During Five Decades

A social worker's perspective of CIP during five decades from a Finnish point of view was the main theme of Susanne Holmström's thesis, which was accepted at the University of Helsinki in March 2006 as part of a Master's degree in Social Work

Having participated in CIP/Philadelphia in 1990-91 I wanted to know more about what Finnish social workers before me had learned from the CIP programs. The final analysis is based upon a survey / questionnaire which I sent to 98 social workers who had participated from the Programs first years 1957 to 1993 when the certain CIP era was ending. The 85 % answered. The overall impression was that the experience had a huge impact on the participants' professional and personal lives.

The social workers who had participated in CIP have reflected upon their experience of the exchange program from a both professional as well as a personal point of view. Most of the social workers participated when they had already been working as social workers in Finland. Someone called the participation an adventure; others said that the experience contributed to a development of their professional identity, a process that continues through out their lives. Meeting/ being confronted with different cultures, different ways of thinking was described as a process of finding one's own cultural belonging and professional identity. I found it challenging to reflect upon the meaning the participants have given the experience.

The answers where divided into three different groups which was in accordance with the historical development of CIP (Glenn Shive 1993): 1956-1965 The early CIP/ Henry B. Ollendorff and the Cleveland program; 1966-1979 The different affiliates taking form; 1980-1991 Post-Henry B. Ollendorff.

The participants in the pioneers' 1957- 1965 group described their exchange in CIP more in terms of a cultural exchange. They also refer to the new methods of community and group work they had the opportunity to get in touch with. International understanding was however more emphasized,

often the experience was described as a cultural confrontation which you hadn't possibilities to in Finland of the fifties or sixties.

The period 1966 – 1979 can be seen as a period of professional profiling. The program experienced a boom with a high number of participants as social welfare and services developed in Finland. Most of the participants worked within health care, mental-health care or with substance abuse related fields. Those working with child and youth issues and the social workers working with substance abuse seemed to be most professionally orientated. The participants found their stay very rewarding. There was openness in getting in touch with different methods of social work. Back home the participants could use many things they had learned in their work. Many participants expected to come to the original sources of social work – to the US that had seemed to be the leading country in many areas. For some social workers the participation was however, a disappointment and it appears that the level of American social work varied very much.

During the period of 1980 – 1993 new groups of social workers attended the program. You find for example social workers working with issues of unemployment or social benefits in this group. Earlier this group had represented an orientation that hadn't been open to American influence in social work. Structural changes in social welfare and society in Finland opened up new professional interests.

For many social workers the time in the program was important as a sabbatical period. What you draw from the exchange experience depends on many factors. Many participants found that the carrier has indirectly been affected. It had broadened the carrier, deepened the way of how you work and of your life orientation. Many have gained confidence to manage in an international context. The international experience gave building stones for a development of both the professional and personal identity. The essential learning experience of the exchange program during all the different periods seems to be the interaction itself - the interaction between the participants, the interaction the participant has with the hosts and the colleges in the working setting. It helped the participants to gain new perspective on their work and their professional context as well as on their personal cultural identity.

MORE THAN A BRIDGE

by **Tomas Banez**

Lecturer, University of Zaragoza, Spain

Turkey, more than a bridge between continents

I could say that I have always had my most interesting personal and some of my most challenging professional experiences travelling. So, I did not hesitate when Emilia and Gloria, two colleagues and friends from Barcelona, encouraged me to apply for a cultural and professional exchange programme in Turkey, run by the Council of International Fellowship. Knowing that this organisation had programmes in other countries all over the world I decided to choose Turkey because just the mention of this country evoked exotic images, friendly people and a rich cultural and religious background.

My participation in the 2005 Turkish Programme of this organisation gave me a great opportunity to combine my personal and professional interests: travelling and meeting people from different cultural backgrounds and the exchange of ideas and experiences related to social work. The programme aims to promote a personal and professional exchange for social service workers - mainly social workers - from different countries and includes both social and working activities. This means living with Turkish host families, social meetings and events and visits to social service agencies. There were five of us, all social workers, taking part in the 2005 Turkish Programme: Helga from Austria, Mary from New Zealand, Ann Christine from Sweden, Tracey from Scotland and myself from Spain.

Talking about the programme itself; all of us agreed that while the visits to social service agencies had been very interesting, it would have been more useful to visit fewer institutions, which would allow us to observe closely how social workers carry out their professional activities. Host families were really kind and friendly with us, and a good example of Turkish hospitality.

The professional part of the programme gave me an insight into Turkish social policy, social services for different target groups of clients, social work and social work training. Meeting the Social Policy Forum members in the Bosphorus University in Istanbul gave us further knowledge of social policy in Turkey. By visiting social service agencies, social work educational establishments and the Association of Social Workers, we had the opportunity to discover how social services are run and how social workers carry out

their professional activities. Although the aim of this paper is not to analyse in depth the Turkish social policy and social service situation, I would like to share with the readers some of my impressions.

There is not a real social policy or a social service system in Turkey, but not because the country cannot financially support it, but because the majority of politicians – as in other many countries - think that social policy or social services are not necessary in their country. According to their 'neoliberal' approach, economic development will create job opportunities for everybody. For those who cannot work (elderly and disabled people or children) the traditional support network, mainly the extended family, but also the social provision dictated by Islam (the soup kitchens during "Ramazan", the distribution of food to the poor during "Kurban Bayran", etc.) will provide them with the proper care. But unemployment is increasing because of the difficulties of the Turkish economy and the massive arrival of immigrants from the south-east, who were forced to leave their homes because of the long civil war, which lasted almost fifteen years. So only 45% of the workers is able to make provision for pensions and health insurance, and the capacity for support from the extended family is decreasing. To face this situation The Social Policy Forum has requested that the Turkish government implement a real social policy to meet social needs of people and to contribute to the social and political stability of the country.

We were told that the Social Service Directory and the Child Protection Agency depends on the national government and runs social aid and social services. In addition, local authorities deliver social aid too. Social aid aims to cover basic needs of people and to fight effectively against poverty. This aid is delivered to elderly and disabled people who have not paid National Insurance contributions and poor families with children. The amount of money given is very low (about 90 Euros per month), because this social aid was created as a means to support the care from the extended families and politicians think that financial support could discourage people from looking for work. Very often people use this help to cover their health assistance needs or their children's school expenses because health and educational systems do not meet the needs of everyone. According to the expert opinion of the members of the Social Policy Forum a real social aid system in addition to current social assistance measures should include a minimum income for people who are not able to find a job or cannot work.

To try and improve this situation the Turkish Social Work Association recommended that authorities create community centres in low-income areas. Social workers are doing their best to empower women and children (by organising courses on human rights and vocational training), but they spend

most of their time delivering social aid (mainly financial support) to elderly and disabled people who have been unable to pay social security, and to poor families with children. This situation is caused not only by the increasing number of needy applicants but also because of bureaucracy and lack of coordination between local and national authorities. We were also told that the criteria to deliver this social aid should be improved in order to make them more professional and objective (for example, "muhtars" play a very important role delivering social aid in terms of locating families who are in need and certifying the poverty of the applicants for this aid). This improvement would require further training of the social workers involved in the social aid system and for them to take more professional responsibilities in running of this system. According to the opinion of the Turkish Social Work Association social work is a relatively new and undervalued profession in the country. After the earthquake of 1999 social workers were more recognised because of their important role in the delivery of humanitarian help to the victims.

Generally speaking, I could say that there are several contradictions in the social service system. We visited institutions whose professionals carry out interesting and productive projects in family planning, women's rights, rehabilitation of abused children, young drug addicts and torture victims and social integration of disabled people. But also we visited oversized residential care facilities unsuited to the needs of their clients. Most of the children cared for in these facilities came from poor families who could not afford to bring them up. With reference to disabled people, these facilities did not have specialised services and due to the lack of trained staff volunteers were used for meeting only basic needs. But maybe one of my greatest surprises was the small number of Non Governmental Organisations. I have visited countries (Nicaragua for example) in a more difficult situation than Turkey, but where people have organised themselves into associations, which deal with poverty and lack of public services. So this kind of organisations could force the government to implement a real social policy and improve the social service system. As well as a means of creating and running some services or projects. We were told that people are afraid of taking a more visible role in public life because after the last coup d'état in 1980 they have lost several political rights.

Talking about my personal discoveries, I exchanged my experiences and ideas with the other participants, Council of the International Fellowship members and the host families. In addition, I improved my previous knowledge of Turkey and Turkish people. From my experience as a social worker I know how difficult and slow social changes are. Together with many Turkish people, I hope the process of negotiation for European Union Membership

will help Turkey to improve the situation of excluded people and not only improve their laws in a formal way. Now I am aware of the cultural and social diversity of the country and also of the contrasts and contradictions. I hope they will be able to deal with these contradictions and Turkey will become not only a geographical bridge between continents, as it is currently, but also a cultural and religious bridge between Western and Muslim societies. Finally, I hope my positive professional and personal experience will encourage social workers to take part in this international exchange programme.

References:

Bugra, Ayse and Keyder, Caglar, 2003, New poverty and the changing welfare regime in Turkey, Ankara, United Nations Development Programme.



We have recently found the birth certificate for CIF-Sweden – it says 24th September, 1961.

It was during a reunion together with H. B. Ollendorff a Swedish committee of CIF and CIP was elected “in order to develop the ideas of CIF and CIP, prepare the new participants of the program and help them to rise the money they need for the travel to the USA”.

The first committee was:

President: Carl-Henrik Guste

Secretary: Harriet Jakobsson

Educational contacts: Björn Höjer

Financial contacts: Nils Bågenholm

Radio and press contacts: Rolf Örjes

Member at Large: Tord Ericsson

A minor celebration will take place this year but we hope to be celebrating our 50th anniversary with all of you on 24th September 2011!

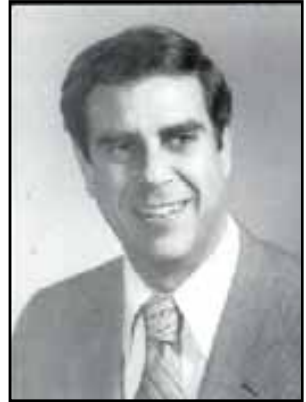
CIF-Sweden Historical Society

Harry L Andersson, Carl-Henrik Guste & Karin Holmqvist

TRIBUTES

RALPH BRODY (Nov 3 1934 - Feb 8 2006)

He lived a meaningful life with a deep desire to make a difference in the world. Ralph's career led him to make enormous contributions in the Cleveland area and around the world. A gifted teacher, manager, planner and humanitarian, he delighted in empowering individuals and organisations to develop themselves. Ralph was a pro-bono consultant to the Cleveland International Program and to the Council of International Programs USA, giving a great deal of support and guidance both to Dorothy Faller and Lisa Purdy and the boards. He and Phyllis always had the CIP and CIPUSA groups over to their home for an informal dinner and for wonderful discussions. Participants in the program have wonderful memories of these events.



UGO STEFANI (July 21 1937 - April 18 2006)

As CIF International and CIF Italia we have lost a dear friend and a generous supporter, Maria Stefani's husband passed away. "I'm sure most of you know Maria who was CIF Italia President for six years including the 2001 CIF Conference period. Ugo, her husband, contributed significantly to the realization of that experience and to the establishment of the first CIF website. We are all going to miss him, but he will live in our memories and by visiting CIF Italia website this memory will be truly alive!" says Mimmo Merola, President, CIF

Italia. For those who would like to send Maria a thought, here are two email addresses: p.stefani@libero.it or mstefani@regione.lazio.it

STEVE HANICH, Cleveland Program accountant for 10 years, died on May 20, 2006, and his daughter **FRANCIE**, who also worked for the Cleveland Program, died on April 11, 2006.

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July 23 – July 27, 2007

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Please complete all the information requested below. You can either attach this form as an email and forward it to cifconference@cipusa.org or fax it to Mary Lynn Jackowicz at (001) 216.579.0212 or mail it to her at the address mentioned above. A confirmation will be provided upon receipt of the registration.

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