

Newsletter

for People to People Europe

January 1996

The latest from the European People to People world

Elisabeth Stierly, Switzerland, is the PR-officer for PtP Europe. Since last summer she visited many countries and cities in order to try to establish new chapters. This is a translated short version of her report from her and Jules Janssen's visit to Budapest last fall.

It is truly an inspiring appointment to be the PR-officer for PtP Europe. It is a job where you meet people and work without borders. A very special occasion was the *Conference of the Alliance of Democratic Universities* in Budapest, to which representatives from both European and American universities were invited.

Shortly before the conference the President of PTP Europe received an invitation to speak on the subject "People to People Europe". The event coincided with the first signs of the upcoming winter. Jules and I traveled with high expectations to East. We managed to get to Budapest through the beautiful winter landscape.

The first good news after our arrival was that our chapter in Gliwice in Poland, the first one ever, had already safely arrived. They plan already of a European conference in Poland. The conference was probably better represented with academic titles than the Nobel Prize award ceremony! Among others one could find; *Jerzy* and *Tadeusz*, professors in Gliwice and *Rolanda* and *Parashqevi* from Albania.

The barometer fell, but the atmosphere inside rose as the about 100 university representatives from East and West met. They started to build up to

something special between PtP and the "Universities". The chapter in Budapest expressed their hopes that many of the participants of the European conference in Pécs would come to Budapest and get to know the city and the people.

At the conference Jules held a long and entertaining speech. With the charm of the Flying Dutchman, Jules spoke about the world wide PtP Family and how the spirit of PtP brakes the barriers between Nations, people, philosophies and artificial obstacles.

As a result of the conference there will hopefully be a new chapter in Saloniki, northern Greece. Additional promises came from Debrecan, Hungary, Cluj-Napoca, Romania and Tirana, Albania. The chapter in Prague, Czech Republic was chartered on the 8th of November.

After the conference Jules and I went to Pécs, where the chapter president, *Corinne Farid*, explained enthusiastically about the preparations for the conference and how the members eagerly are waiting for homestay guests.

Elisabeth Stierly

European Conference in Pécs 31 May

The 1996 European Conference will be held in Hungarian Pécs. Please reserve the weekend starting 31 of May and the following week. A detailed program and official invitation will come from Pécs to all chapters.

Preliminary program

31 May **Welcome dinner**

1 June **Conference**

true **PtP evening** with visit to a wine yard 25 kilometers from Pécs

2 June **Visit in the town**; church, museums

after lunch there will be a city tour

A post conference trip to Budapest is planned for those who wish to visit the Hungarian capital.



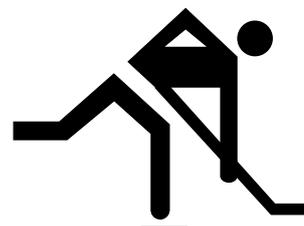
Internship in Stockholm, Sweden

Last summer Roger Hargrave, New Jersey, USA came to Stockholm in order to work within the PtP's internship program. Before he left, he gave the following report.

With the opportunity now presented, I would like to share some of the highlights of my internship in Stockholm, Sweden. I spent nine weeks in the fall of 1995 working first with Torspo International, and later with Allmänna Idrottsklubben. I have a background in business and a strong interest in the sport of ice hockey. Sweden is one of the best hockey countries in Europe, and I had already had knowledge of, or had dealt with, both of the organizations I was placed with. My time spent with Torspo allowed me to experience working with sporting goods on a wholesale level. My previous experience has been in retailing, as well as learning the differences between US business practices and the European approach.

My time spent with the AIK hockey team was even more enjoyable. I was able to experience the daily operations of a professional sports franchise. I worked with the planning, purchasing, and marketing of team souvenirs, arranging arena promotions, and maintaining fan relations. I was also placed in charge of obtaining a player from North America to improve the team. The project went successfully until the

Swedish Ice Hockey Federation ruled that it was too late in the season for teams to add foreign players. However, upon my return to the United States, I will continue to function as a scout for AIK.



I am now preparing to return to the United States with bags full of souvenirs and many wonderful memories. My experience in Stockholm will prove a great advantage as I look for a job back home. I have already received an offer from the New Jersey Devils of The National Hockey League. I look forward to returning to Sweden, and I would like the chance to try out for one of the Swedish hockey teams as a player. I was not able to pursue playing during this visit because of a strike that shut down the league. Until then, I will continue to keep up contact with all the new friends I made during my internship.

Roger Hargrave

Scholarships from local and national chapters

Much of the activities within PtP are aimed for younger people such as travelling to other countries, receiving foreign groups and participating in conferences. In order to do this there is always financial obstacles. For students with limited income, participation in conferences in other countries is quite difficult. There are different ways of getting around or at least to help students in their attempts to travel. Besides travelling cheaply and having accommodation in families or cheaper hostels, the local and national chapters can actively support participation in various programs and conferences.

Financial surplus generated from activities such as homestay hosting or membership fees could be put aside to form the base for a scholarship. Already in

some countries scholarship are given out to students participation in conferences. In Sweden it will be done in terms of an essay competition in high-schools, which theme will correspond to the theme of the conference. The advantages are several.

- The conference and other participants will benefit from additional international participation.
- The essay itself and related preparation will increase the interest for an international topic.
- The students going to the conference will hopefully have a very special experience.
- The interest for PtP will be spread in schools.

Peopel to People International

New officials elected at the Dallas meeting

In the end of October last year, PtP International held boardmeetings in Dallas, Texas, for both the board of Directors and Board of Trustees. At the Directors' meeting new officials were elected. Among others;

President for PtP International: Bill Jarvis, Chairman of the Board of Directors: Sunny Wirth. Member of Board of Directors: Jules Janssen, the Netherlands, Member board of Trustees: Len Holland, England, Edward Ivanian, Russia and Ruth Weber, Switzerland.

At the meeting Olga Ganzen, Estonia, Lars Poignant, Sweden, Peter Tage, Denmark, Peter Whitby, England represented Europe. It was also decided that the next World Wide Conference in Europe (1998) will be held in Chester, England.

Regina Wälti, PtP Switzerland and Member Board of Directors has been assigned to promote the development of chapters in Eastern Europe.

People to People Sports

In the 1970s People to People was split into two parts; PtP International and PtP Sports. PtP Sports has a variety of programs similar to the ones of PtP International, but with focus on sports. Their office is located on Long Island, New York, where a handful of people work. The programs are smaller in number than the ones of PtP International, but still covering many different countries. PtP Sports both leads groups going abroad and hosts clubs coming to the US from for example; Soviet National Football Team, Brazilian National Gymnastics Team and the Chinese National Hockey Team.

For the moment PtP Sports plans its summer trips to Europe. Teams involved include football (soccer), basketball, baseball/softball, volleyball and field hockey. Both boys' and girls' teams will come. For the trips PtP Sports is interested in getting in contact with both teams and attending events.

PtP International and PtP Sports discuss for the moment whether/how to start cooperating in different ways. The aims and means for joint programs and/or activities are still to be decided. Whatever happens we hope that the tours for PtP Sports will continue to be equally as successful as before as they bring sporting youth together all over the world and that we can take part in some of the programs. For addresses see last page.



US Heartland - Invitation to Communication & Culture Program July 6 - July 29, 1996

The US Heartland Communication & Culture Program is designed to provide participants from around the world with an opportunity to expand their use of the English language in both professional and routine activities. An American cultural experience is an important component of the program.

Program features at the 18-day program of extensive instruction in addition to cultural and recreational activities, field trips, tours, and excursions with Americans;

- Participants will be university students, professionals and others
- English-language classes will range from basic to advanced levels
- English for professional purposes including international business.

The standard program fee of US\$1775.00 per participant includes among others the following:

academic component: twenty hours of class room instruction per week, textbooks and materials, access to university language and computer laboratories

cultural component: day-long field trips in North-west Missouri and neighbouring states on weekends

accommodations and meals: university accommodations (double occupancy) in a modern dormitory and full meal plan in university restaurants.

For more information please contact PtP International, Kansas City.

People to People - what is it and how do I become a member?

People to People is a non profit organisation founded in 1956. It consists of chapters in different countries, which all are very independent. They all however try to promote understanding of different cultures and countries through exchange of ideas and experiences directly among people. One of several programs is the international *internship coordination*. As an intern one works without pay for a period of time. The program is thought to complement studies and broaden participants understanding of other countries. Internships are coordinated for Americans

going abroad from Kansas City (Dorel Drinkwine). For the moment there is no coordination for interns going to the US. However, at times PtP International needs help with finding suitable jobs and hosts for interns. Within PtP Europe, there is a possibility to coordinate internships. - If you are interested in doing this please let us know.

For the programs coordinated by *PtP International* the participant pays \$1675. Any chapter receiving an intern and supplying with a suitable job, will receive \$300.

Newsletter for PtP Europe

Any written contribution is highly appreciated. The Newsletter is distributed free of charge to each national chapter and to any one with Internet access. It may be redistributed within the chapters to members and non members.

Editor: Lars Poignant, Skolvägen 6, 121 32 Enskededalen, Sweden
+46 8 648 5412 (home tel. & fax) +46 8 713 43 41 (office)

Internet: Lars_Poignant@mail.amsinc.com

National and Chapter Reports

Belgium - 25 Anniversary

The 25 anniversary of the Belgium chapter was successful. Denise Maurice reports that there were visitors from among other places Chester, England and the US, who could enjoy excursions and dinners in the fine weather.

Estonia - Democracy school

In 1994 the Democracy School was started after a PtP Conference in Tallinn. The conference dealt with development of countries in a democratic environment. The title was *From tolerance to mutual understanding*. At the conference quite a few younger students participated in both the lectures and the workshop.

One of the scheduled activities for the Democracy School is organising a number of meetings with well-known public figures for young people to discuss the problems of democracy, having lectures and workshops on questions concerning ethnical and cultural problems, mass media and art. One of the main purposes is to publish a book including lectures, practical materials and future projects within the framework for the PtP Europe organisation. Another aim of the Democracy School is to create a strong leading membership. We hope that on graduating from the Democracy School, the students will stay interested and will have an opportunity to participate in the following PtP exchange programs; student ambassador, professional counterparts and collegiate ambassador.

In March 1995 120 students participated in a program in Tallinn, Narva and Viljandi. Later on in April a one week course was held on the Danish island Lolland with 40 participants from different countries. We have a good contact with the college on Lolland. In August a group went to Stockholm, Sweden for a one week course.

The lecturers have been both teachers of universities and politicians. The participants have mainly been Estonian and Russian students. The intention is to enhance the program to include more international participation.

For 1996 there are so far two programs planned - one to Moscow and Troitsk in January-February and later on in Switzerland.

*Olga Ganzen, PtP Estonia,
European youth coordinator*

Slovakia

The PtP chapter of Poprad wants to establish direct contact for cooperation with chapters in Europe. Especially they want to promote the "Change Address Contact", which aims to involve 12-15 year olds, who would like to improve

their English by means of pen pals. Contact person: Eva Talanova, Poprad, Slovakia.

"I am pleased to hear about People to People's programs. It seems you don't have gigantic festivals with thousands of students participating, but make friendship one person as a time though smaller group programs. This, to me, is more meaningful."

President Kovacs, Slovak Republic, as he was informed that five PtP chapters have been formed the past three years.

Switzerland

Two groups for Mission for Understanding visited Luzern in October.

Thanks to support from the Bern chapter could Denes Aparacz, a law student from Pécs, Hungary, participate in the PtP Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, USA in October.

Germany

Hans-Dieter Robel lets us know that 18 from Germany had a very good trip to Switzerland, where Ruth Weber took care of them. He also reports from an almost three week long trip in the US. The trip had its ups and downs as they visited Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida. From the situation we might learn that we all need to double check all reservations and that travelling with large groups not always is easy.

Nest year PtP Germany plans trips to Denmark, Switzerland, USA and Japan/Korea.

Mission In Understanding

Last year Missions in Understanding went to different European sites; *Austria, Italy and Switzerland*. In Salzburg, Austria, and Rome, Italy, special chapter development efforts were made. For 1996 Missions in Understanding are planned for *Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Scandinavia*.

In simple terms, a "Mission in Understanding" is a PTPI delegation led by a member of the PTPI Board or Board of Trustees, and the people who are travelling with him/her are all members of PTPI and are either a member of a Chapter or have travelled with an adult delegation previously. The average age group is 50/60, but will range between 40 and 75, and the average size of a delegation is 40. The interests of the delegates are varied; i.e.: bankers, lawyers, teachers, farmers, engineers, etc. Local programs could consist of meeting with representatives from the country and learning about the country itself.

Coming events, 1996 (40th anniversary of PtP International)

31 May: European Conference in Pécs, Hungary 25-28 September: World Conference, California, USA

Addresses and Homestay in Europe

One objective of the Newsletter is to spread the addresses of the contact persons for the various chapters within PtP Europe. The intention is to have the list as complete and up to date as possible. Some people are included in one issue and some in another. In this issue I have tried to include as many homestay coordinators as possible. It is part of the result of the questionnaire that was sent out during the fall. Many have answered and the results have also been sent to the chapter presidents. Unfortunately they only have telephone numbers, but as you notice, most countries are represented with more than one contact person.