

= PEOPLE TO PEOPLE EUROPE =

December, 2001

Message from the President

Dear members of the PTPE family,

The *highlights of our European year 2001* in brief were:

- January: Youth Cartoonists in Angoulême-France
- May: 750 Years Gliwice in Gliwice-Poland
- May: European Conference in Angoulême-France
- June & July: Student Ambassadors USA visiting Europe with homestays in various countries
- July & August: ESL-Camps by BFE in Pulawy-Poland
- September: Board of Directors and Trustees meeting in Aalborg-Denmark
- September: European Executive Council (EEC) meeting in Stockholm-Sweden



International

My sincerest thank you to all the organizers and hard working members who made these events such a success. My appreciation and congratulations to the members of local chapters for their many and less publicized initiatives and events thud showing their commitment to PTP and the promotion of our noble cause. You are our back bone and the core of our wonderful organization. I wish you continued motivation and initiatives for even better things to come in the New Year!

"Youth Activities": Since the term "Youth" is being interpreted in many different ways worldwide we have agreed with Head Quarters in Kansas-City on the terminology

- *Youth (Ys) are 12 - 18 year old members*
- *Young Generation (YGs) are 18 - 35 year old members.*

With the determined goal of Y and/or YG sessions at next year's European Conference 2002 in Stockholm-Sweden and the World Conference 2002 in KC-USA, Y and YG initiatives have been launched in the USA, Asia and Europe! Anybody interested in the European YG-Forum should **contact Cornelia Siegenthaler**, Bern-Switzerland at cornelia.siegenthaler@gmx.ch soonest possible for further information. We envision a sizeable participation by YGs from as many countries as possible in May 2002 in Stockholm-Sweden. This will be the first all European platform to discuss and develop such ideas, initiatives and projects in group sessions and work shops as well as fun adventures.

Another main PTPE project for 2002 is the *new PTPE HomePage* in very close cooperation with HQ in KC-USA who are updating the PTPI WebSite. I encourage all chapters to either install their own Home-Page and assure the link to the PTPI and PTPE Pages or possibly use the main pages. In any case, please contact Lars Poignant for further information.

I trust that all chapters will have **paid the marginal dues 2001** by the end of this year. If not yet paid, please contact our treasurer Reto Limacher at reto.limacher@bluewin.ch immediately for most suitable arrangements. Unfortunately, but by mandate of the last Annual Meeting, the EEC will have to **exclude** all chapters and their members with unpaid annual dues **from all PTP funding** as of the 1st January 2002! Therefore, please do not start the New Year with old debts.

I and on behalf of the European Executive Committee (EEC) do wish you all a **Joyful Festive Season and a very Happy New Year**. May your dreams come through and many of your wishes be fulfilled!

Your PTPE President
Ernst Honegger

Newsletter for PTP Europe

Any written contribution is highly appreciated. The Newsletter is distributed to each national chapter. It may be redistributed within the chapters to members and non-members.

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People to People Updates

Roman Conference - October 20-21

In October an all Romanian meeting was held in Roman. 38 participants joined for the two-day event, which was organised by Sorina Danciu and the Roman chapter. Good support was given from Lenuta Chiriac and Jennifer Rachels. During the weekend PTP programs and organisation were discussed. In addition new members joined from Sibiu, Suceava and Vaslui, where we possibly will see new chapters in the near future.

The specific aim to initiate PTP programs was fulfilled by the idea to introduce a "Romanian Tour" next summer for abroad friends of the members and conference participants. The organising committee had included nice social parts during the weekend ensuring the participants to have fun as well.

Women Trafficking - Modern Slavery - Chapter help needed!

The Romanian organisation EFRCW (Ecumenical Forum of Romanian Christian Women) works among other things to inform, assist and prevent Women Trafficking. The efforts to assist women not losing their rights when leaving their country is needed as borders have opened and many seek new opportunities abroad. The Ecumenical Forum, mainly working through volunteers visit cities and schools throughout the country.

The contact person, Esmeranda Enache, works full time for various social programs. PTP Chapters may assist these efforts by contacting Esmeranda. The Forum needs among other things books (preferably in English): Information on different countries, religions, mentality and minority work. Esmeranda can be reached either through the PTP Bucharest chapter or directly: efrcwsb@maronet.ro (Tel/fax: +40 1 2124868).

PTP School and Classroom Program

People to People International Headquarters is very pleased to announce the revitalisation of its School and Classroom Program. This program connects elementary, middle, and secondary classrooms with similar-age classrooms in other countries. Students interact through projects (e.g. correspondence, art creations, essays) exchanged via the postal service and the Internet. Each project has a theme that guides students in a thoughtful evaluation of their culture, activities, environment, and its challenges and concerns. Projects must aim to better students' understanding of another culture and help them form friendships with their peers in other countries.

Please share the School and Classroom Program with educators and schools in your area. Additional information and registration forms may be found at PTPI's web site, www.ptpi.org. If you have questions or wish to participate in this rewarding program, please contact Stacey Chance, Director of the School and Classroom Program, at classroom@ptpi.org.

Pen Pal - European Pals

Following President G.W. Bush's announcement of the Friendship Through Education Consortium, PTPI has received a significant amount of pen pal requests - mostly from U.S. citizens. The PTPI Pen Pal Program is currently searching for pen pals from the following European countries: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. If you have friends who would like to participate individually or have contacts with universities, clubs, or civic, or church organizations in the countries mentioned above, please inform Renin Gilmore, Pen Pal Co-ordinator, at penpal@ptpi.org. Many thanks, in advance, for your assistance.

Homepage - Chatlist - Internet - Communication - Public Relations

Chatlist - ptpe@uci.agh.edu.pl

PTP Europe Internet Chat list is again available for members to use. The list is open for any member to share information about PTP Programs, discuss ideas and to inform about other related events. You need to subscribe to the list in order to use it. To subscribe you simply send a message to ptpe-request@uci.agh.edu.pl with "subscribe" in the subject line. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Command:	To:	Subject:
Subscribe	ptpe-request@uci.agh.edu.pl	subscribe
Unsubscribe	ptpe-request@uci.agh.edu.pl	unsubscribe
Post a message	ptpe@uci.agh.edu.pl	
Get a list of subscribers	listar@uci.agh.edu.pl	who ptpe
Get a list of commands	listar@uci.agh.edu.pl	commands

European Homepage - www.ptpe.org

The old PTP Europe homepage is outdated and will be replaced with a new domain and server. We would like to thank Justyna Dziuwa, who has been helpful during the years she was working at the Computer Centre of the Silesian Technical University in Gliwice.

PTP European Board has expressed its interest to use internet services to support communication within the organisation. PR officer Katerina Vernitskaja will lead this effort. The council will receive support from both PTPI, where an updated homepage is being worked on. In the meantime a new domain and server has been registered through the initiative of PTP Stockholm. Council related information will be available under www.ptpe.org. For chapters, who don't have own space they may have their information posted at this server. Possibly names can be www.stockholm.ptpe.org, www.berlin.ptpe.org, www.paris.ptpe.org

Coming events

Chapters and members are encouraged to submit their upcoming program to PTP Europe in order to share with other chapters.

May 10-12	PTP European Conference - Stockholm, Sweden
July 11-August 4	AIPES - Prague, Czech Republic (Summer course)
July 14-August 6	IIPES - Crete, Greece (Summer course)
October 9 – 13	PTPI World Wide Conference - Kansas City, USA
October 9 – 13	PTPI Global Youth Forum - Kansas City, USA

Coming soon: New Generation-PTP

Details will follow!

Anne-Marie Aebi (Chapter Interlaken)
Simon Krebs (Chapter Bern)
Reto Limacher (Chapter Luzern)
Cornelia Siegenthaler (Chapter Bern)
Simon Troxler (Chapter Luzern)

European Conference - a place to meet

Berlin in 1999

Lucerne in 2000

Angoulême in 2001

Stockholm in 2002

Highlight of the year

Over 100 participants

Mark your calendars!

Welcome to Stockholm in May!

People to People Sweden would like to welcome members to the 2002 PTP Europe Annual Conference in Stockholm May 10-12, 2002. We are planning a weekend of excitement, rewarding discussions, Scandinavian cuisine, and most importantly, friendship and encounters.

Stockholm in May is bursting with greenery, people enjoying the spring, boats setting their white sails against the blue sky and children happy to get out after the long winter. We would like to show you our beautiful capital and introduce you to Scandinavian culture while enjoying the company of PTP members from across the world, in yet another interesting, eventful European conference.

The venue for the conference is beautiful Skepparholmen, by the water along one of the entrance passages to the city. Lodging, meetings and dining will be gathered in the same relaxing facilities in order for us to spend time together. Visitors may enjoy the luxurious Spa section or challenge the Swedes for an early swim in the ocean...With the city centre only 20 minutes away, Skepparholmen is a true representative of Stockholm: nature and city hand in hand.

PTP European Conference in Stockholm May 10-12, 2002

Participants	Members and non members
Registration	April 2
Early Bird	March 4
Invitations	Will be sent out
Homepage	www.ptpe.org/stockholm2002
E-mail	stockholm2002@ptpe.org
Grants	Available
Visa assistance	Available
Stockholm	Beauty on water
Optional program	Of course
Special sessions	Resource Development, Youth
Mother's Day	Will be recognised
Welcome	Välkomna!



Beside the conference meetings and other activities during the weekend, the PTP Vikings will prepare a true Viking Feast on Saturday evening, which we promise you will remember for a long time... And for Mothers, who worry about international Mother's Day on Sunday, we promise a special celebration for you all! For those who wish, there will also be interesting additional programs before and after the conference.

Registration deadline is April 2nd, but for those of you who know you will be coming, there will be an Early Bird discount rate until March 4th. We advise those of you who will need a visa (most nationalities will not need one) to apply for one as soon as possible, more information on this can be found on the web site.

We invite sponsors among chapters and individual members to support the conference through special sponsorship packages (for instance a "coffee break" or an "exhibition" package), which you will find on the web site or through direct contact with us.

More information is available on the internet at www.ptpe.org/stockholm2002 and please check the site now and then since it will be continually updated with new information!

*Welcome to Sweden in May!
Stockholm Conference Organising Committee*

Fund for American Studies

A chance for PTP University Students to go to Prague or Crete

People to People has been in contact with the Fund for American Studies and we would like to recommend two summer programs for university students. People to People doesn't organise the programs, but encourage members to apply to them and to seek financial support from PTP through the matching Grant program. All chapter presidents have received information about the programs already and all information is available on line.

Program	AIPES - American Institute on Political and Economic Systems	IIPES - International Institute for Political and Economic Studies
Universities	Charles University and Georgetown University	Georgetown University and The Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation
Time	July 11-August 4, 2002	July 14-August 6, 2002
Location	Prague, Czech Republic	Chania, Crete, Greece
Credits	Academic credit available through Georgetown University	
Cost	450 USD	500 USD
(Actual cost)	2500 USD	3200 USD
Grants	Available - Contact your chapter president for information on the Matching grant	
Early Deadline	January 31, 2001	
Final Deadline	March 15, 2002	
Homepage	www.aipes.org	www.iipes.org
Student origin		See below *

* For the IIPES program approximately 65 students will be admitted. Students must be citizens of one of the following nations: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Romania, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

AIPES

The Institute's curriculum engages students in a thorough examination of fundamental political and economic concepts, using the American model as its focus. The course is divided into two components-government and economics.

As part of the government component, students will be given the opportunity to use their political and economic knowledge in a parliamentary simulation. Student will write laws on contemporary political and economic issues, and debate and vote on the legislation on the floor of a hypothetical parliament.

The economics component examines the structure and functions of market economics in the context of such fundamental issues as competition, the role of government in the economy, and private property rights. The course covers trade policy, fiscal and monetary policy, capital flows and foreign investment, financial markets, wage and price controls, and monopoly and regulation.

IIPES

Academics: philosophical examination of government, price system, society and culture, and conflict resolution. The Philosophy Component presents a select number of readings drawn from great classical philosophers to contemporary historians, and offers discussions concerning the philosophical principles behind a good society and relationships between civilizations. Classes study the fundamental question of how societies can most appropriately organize and govern themselves. Lectures focus on the dynamics of historical change, the nature of civilization, and what is required to enhance the possibilities of a peaceful future for the Eastern Mediterranean region

The Conflict Resolution Component introduces students to the basic principles of conflict resolution through interactive problem solving, simulations, and group work. Students analyze conflict resolution theories and synthesize lessons learned for future application to conflicts in their own countries and regions.

Chapter reports

PTP Tbilisi - Seeks Sister Chapter

On November 1, 2001 PTP - Tbilisi, Georgia meeting had been held. At the meeting PTP Tbilisi chapter priorities were set.

Several working groups were created i.e. educational, cultural, exchange, young fellows, press service and foreign relations. Working principles of all groups were elaborated. Group had prepared several projects, which are to be performed.

In particular, it was decided to publish special, regional, bimonthly magazine, highlighting PTP activities and dialogue of cultures in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Furthermore two summer and winter schools - training-seminars for South Caucasus NGO-s are planned to be held.

Training -seminars will be dedicated to conflict prevention and resolution, dialogue of cultures and peace building process.

Projects on exchange of students and homestay program are also being prepared.

On this stage we work on completion of projects and fundraising activities. PTP Tbilisi is interested to have close contacts with one or two US and European chapters (sister - chapter) and contact other chapters.

We would be happy to exchange information and co-operate with other chapters.

Best regards, Ucha Nanuashvili, PTP - Tbilisi, Georgia

PTP Chester

On Sunday 25 Nov Chester Chapter celebrated Thanksgiving by holding an afternoon tea-party and silent auction to raise funds for PTPI 's New York Relief Fund. About 50 members attended and £425, (\$700 app.) was raised.

On 15 March at the Town Hall we shall be staging our annual Musical Spectacular when we showcase the music student who will represent us in our annual exchange with our Sister City of Lakewood Colorado.

Other young musicians from Chester will also perform. This year's winner is Robert Chesters, a 16year - old pianist.

PTP Estonia

In December People to People Estonia finishes its one-year program Civic Society and Civic Education. Next year a new program starts: Young Generation in the European Union. There will be seminars for high school and university students, for teachers in civic and travel trips to Estonian and Latvian schools. Participants will learn about the bilingual education and democracy in EU countries.

PTP Estonia distributed letter about the School and Classrooms Project. English language teachers and children from Estonian and Russian schools are very interested to participate in this project and the Pen Pal program.

People to People Tallinn member Vladimir Balabnev had a photo exhibition in Angoulême November 5 - 30. He and PTP Tallinn member Larisa Narishkina participated in the Photo-festival had great homestays in Angoulême as well. Thanks a lot to PTP Angoulême chapter President Annick Debien.

PTP Tallinn President Ruta Pels participated in the International NGOs Conference in Tallinn and talked there with CIVICUS International Program President Kumi Naidoo from South Africa about the co-operation between PTP Estonia Civic Programs and CIVICUS.

In December 11 there will be a Christmas Dinner for PTP Estonia members in Tallinn. We invite all our friends to join us at this evening.

PTP Tallinn chapter is waiting Claudia von Ellerts from PTP Zurich chapter in Tallinn in February to discuss sister-chapters project.

The group of young PTP Estonia members are looking forward to participating in the European Council Youth Training Program in Strasbourg in April.

PTP Estonia members invite PTPI members and guests to visit our chapters for homestays in May before and after the PTP Europe Conference.

Ruta Pels, PTP Estonia President.

PTP Tartu

People to People Tartu was represented by Marianna Drozdova on the three-week summer school Minority Course 2001 for Young Europeans Active in NGOs. The course took place in Denmark, Aabenraa during July 22 – August 11. During the course young representatives from non-governmental organizations all over Europe engaged in discussions about the fate of minority nations in Europe and possible changes after EU accession of the candidate countries. As a continuation of the program Marianna was invited to take part in the meeting of former Minority Course participants in Aabenraa, Denmark in February 2002.

During the course Marianna Drozdova was happy to meet for a tea with Mrs Gunilde Bogdahn from People to People Denmark, who later kindly organized homestay with Roenne family living in Greve, close to Copenhagen. The stay was a very pleasant experience, and it is a pleasure to send to Denmark the best greetings from PtP Tartu and many thanks for hospitality!

Small integration summer camp was organized by People to People Tartu in cooperation with two youth clubs – Tähe Youth Center in Tartu and Sintone youth club in Narva during 22-25 August 2001. The camp took place in Narva-Jõesuu, on a picturesque bank of North-Eastern Estonia. During the camp 30 young people of Russian and Estonian origin engaged in different activities, simulation games and discussions on theme of integration and minorities. Co-operation between PTP Tartu and the youth centre in Tartu is a long-lasting relationship, ever since the founding of the centre in spring 2001.

Several members of People to People Tartu took part in organizing the First World Championship in Indica organized by the Estonian Indica Union. The event took place in Tartu during 15 – 20 August. Teams from Germany, Estonia, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Japan and Switzerland were represented at the championship.

Marianna Drozdova, People to People Tartu

PTP Bucharest

People to People in Bucharest met in November to discuss programs. Invited were both members and non-members. Chapter President Christian Radulescu described the background and efforts of the organisation the last few years. Founding member Nic Enache kindly hosted the meeting. There will be a follow up meeting in January.

PTP Interlaken

This year, the Interlaken chapter had another busy summer!

In May a delegation attended the European Conference in Angoulême, France. We enjoyed the trip and the days in France very much and we once again would like to thank our friends Annick and the Angoulême chapter members for their hospitality. They all did an excellent job and showed us the French style of life in a very friendly and charming way.

In June and July the Interlaken chapter hosted 44 guests – students and adults, groups and individual travellers – all members of one of the United States chapters. Later on we asked our hosts re their experiences: They all reported that they had a great time with their guests. In the meantime many e-mails went back and forth, there are still many contacts between „Swiss parents“ and their „American daughters/sons“.

In August a delegation attended the annual Swiss Chapters Meeting, this year organized by the Lucerne chapter. We had a very nice day (and an excellent lunch!) at a beautiful place near Lake Lucerne.

On October 7th, we invited all our hosts and members to a meeting in the Spiez Yacht Club and had an early dinner together. Again, the reports were very positive. We heard of sight-seeing tours, hikes and parties and the pictures showed us happy faces only. In Spiez we also had to say good bye to our Youth Co-ordinator Andy who left us for a two years stay in America. We quickly found two young members who took over. In the meantime they already started with the planning for youth activities in 2002.

2001 was for many of us a most difficult year, so let's hope that 2002 will be a better and an easier one.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Regina Wälti

Natsukashii omoide- Sweet Memories Japanese Reunion

Since some 15 years PTP Stockholm has had an exchange program with International Friendship Center (IFC) in Tokyo. Members can visit IFC for a three month period working as international students assisting with various programs. Each program participant gets classes in Japanese and an excellent contact with the Japanese members and a sense of Japanese culture. Until now some 180 participants have taken part in this program. For the 20th anniversary all former students were invited to a reunion. Corinne Remmen and Petra Reijnhoudt both from the Netherlands made the trip back to Tokyo. This is what Corinne writes.

The International Friendship Centre in Aoyama in Tokyo was celebrating its 20th anniversary last October and for my friend Petra and me that was the best reason to finally make our way back to Japan after seven (for Petra) and eleven years (for me).

I was curious about the standard of my Japanese, since we had been (and were during our time at IFC) students of Japanese Language and Culture at Leiden University in Holland. Both Petra and I did not pursue a career in that field and nowadays we hardly use the language.

I also wanted to find out whether Tokyo had changed much since I was there last, or maybe had I changed?

And last but not least: there are quite a few friends I still am in touch with, even after eleven years, who I met through IFC. And I was very much looking forward to seeing them again.

IFC is a very good place to meet with Japanese people, especially when you first arrive in this enormous city and might be overwhelmed by cultural differences and language barriers. People who join in are willing to meet with foreigners, practise their English language skills and learn about overseas cultures. This is all done in a fun and relaxed atmosphere by organizing theme parties, lectures, cooking classes, English language classes and so on. And I had the chance to practise my poor Japanese, make a lot of friends, attend Japanese language classes and generally felt very welcomed by some amazing and hospitable people. And as a bonus I also met with some other nationalities like Swedes, Danes, Canadians and Mexicans.

In short, I had a very good time eleven years ago. The anniversary this October was celebrated at two parties at IFC and the first thing I noticed that had changed was that there was only one 'International Student' from Sweden, while when I was there we were at least five. I hope in the future there will be more interest in the IFC program. Secondly the staff of eleven years ago was still there and welcomed us most kindly. And last the parties were very busy, so

people still seem to be very involved with IFC and open to other cultures.

There were two major things that brought back the Natsukashii omoide. The simple one was to me the smells and scents of Tokyo, which are mostly the smells of the Japanese cuisine. I am one of the people who do not eat seafood, but let me assure you that my friend Petra made up for me and dragged me into every Sushibar we saw...and I on my part enjoyed the smell and taste of yakitori (chicken skewered on a stick and cooked over a charcoal fire), ramen (noodles) and okonomiyaki (Japanese-style omelette). And secondly it was the joy of seeing my old friends again and having the feeling that it did not matter at all that all that we had been apart for such a long time. We just took off where we had left it last time and added another chapter to the book of our friendship. Okay, with a bit of a language problem, because yes, my level of Japanese had gone down quite substantially.

Tokyo has changed. When I was in Tokyo in 1990 it was of course the economic boom-era in Japan and nowadays things seem to be not as luxurious and extravagant as it used to be. The biggest shock to me was seeing homeless people and quite a few of them. In some parks there seem to be little communities living in cardboard boxes.

And yes, I have changed too. Where as when I was 24 years old and carried away by the excitement of this big city that literally never sleeps and seems to go on forever, I now found myself after a few days longing for some peace and quiet.

So if you excuse me now, I am going to have a look in the mirror and check for grey hairs.



If you are interested in this program you may contact PTP Stockholm for more information. Their homepage is www.algonet.se/~ptp. Contactperson is Malin Falk Sträng (malin.falkstrang@telia.com).