

## Interim 2008, Estonia

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The 2008 Interim meeting was held in Estonia from the 23rd – 26th of January, at Järvselja, near Tartu. This meeting of IFSA officials is held to allow evaluation of the work done during the first half of the officials' term and is an important step in renewing motivation, redefining goals and setting the direction of IFSA for the months before IFSS in August.

Although unfortunately no regional representatives were able to attend this year's Interim, the IFSA 7 and heads of the Language, Exchange Program and Web, and a member of the Publications and Promotions commissions were present. Through workshop discussions on how to improve the work done by IFSA, problems and potential solutions were identified.

In particular this included better understanding of the Yahoogroups as a means of communication and improving the changeover of officials. Some positive developments were made in how to improve the work of commissions and how to use IFSA's commissions more effectively. Encouraging IFSA members to more actively use and become involved in these commissions was identified as an important step in improving communication within IFSA and helping all IFSA members to get the most out of their IFSA experience.

Another major focus of the Interim was on redefining IFSA's corporate image and updating IFSA's promotional material. All IFSA members should keep an eye out for the new improved IFSA flyers, presentations and website (coming soon!). It is hoped that by updating many of the old documents that are still in use and improving the clarity of the website, IFSA will become more relevant, attractive and user-friendly to IFSA members, partners and sponsors.

Connected with this is the development of an IFSA strategy, which will be a major task for IFSA officials in the coming months. This IFSA strategy, which was the brain-child of our current president Sylvain, will be a summary of IFSA's vision, mission, goals and actions for implementation. This document should therefore be important in our ability to communicate „what is IFSA“ and will be an invaluable source of information to newly elected officials, IFSA members, partners and sponsors.



The lodge at Järvelja provided the perfect backdrop for discussions during the Interim.

We made time to explore the surrounding forests, share personal and cultural experiences and enjoy the company of IFSA friends. Although it never reached the extreme temperatures of the Estonian winter, we were able to effectively unwind from the business end of the day by building snowmen and having snowball fights, as well as sharing food and drink during a mini 'International Evening'.

For more information about the interim or how to become involved in IFSA commissions make sure you check out the IFSA website or contact the IFSA 7 and heads of commission with any questions you may have. In the time since the Interim IFSA officials have reinvigorated their motivation to continue the work of IFSA and we hope we can encourage IFSA members to do the same!