



**Council of International Fellowship**

**Council of International Fellowship**  
**2018 Annual Report**

## Welcome!

2018 has been a very good year: CIF International has been looking back and at the same time at the needs of our members. It has also been looking into the future - the future of CIF International as well as the future of its National Branches. It is also looking keenly at the quality of its work while keeping the personal engagement of hundreds of volunteers. So this is the time to thank all of you who make it possible to continue the goals we have since 1960: To contribute to peace and understanding through promoting professional, cross-cultural and educational exchange for those working in the field of social services.

Dear member, dear reader, explore the report on one of the most interesting experiences available for professionals in social work and closely related fields all over the world! On behalf of the Executive Committee of CIF International I am happy to present to you the Annual Report 2018.

Mireille Boucher, President



EC team 2017-2019: Astrid, Merja, Margit, Demet, David, Mireille

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Drawn from the CIF Statutes, Article 5:

## **CIF Organizational Objectives**

- A) To maintain and facilitate relations, provide learning opportunities and the exchange of work and cultural experiences among its participants, members, host families and anyone else involved in the activities of the Organization and its National Branches.
- B) To promote and support the organization of a two-yearly International Conference, establishment of new National Branches or, where this is not possible, a Contact Person.
- C) To support the organization of International Professional Exchange Programs that combine practical and theoretical information about the social and cultural environment of the host country.
- D) To support recruitment and selection of new participants in CIF International Professional Exchange Programs and CIPUSA Programs, encourage their participation in the activities of the Organization and become members.

## CIF Professional Exchange Programs in 2018

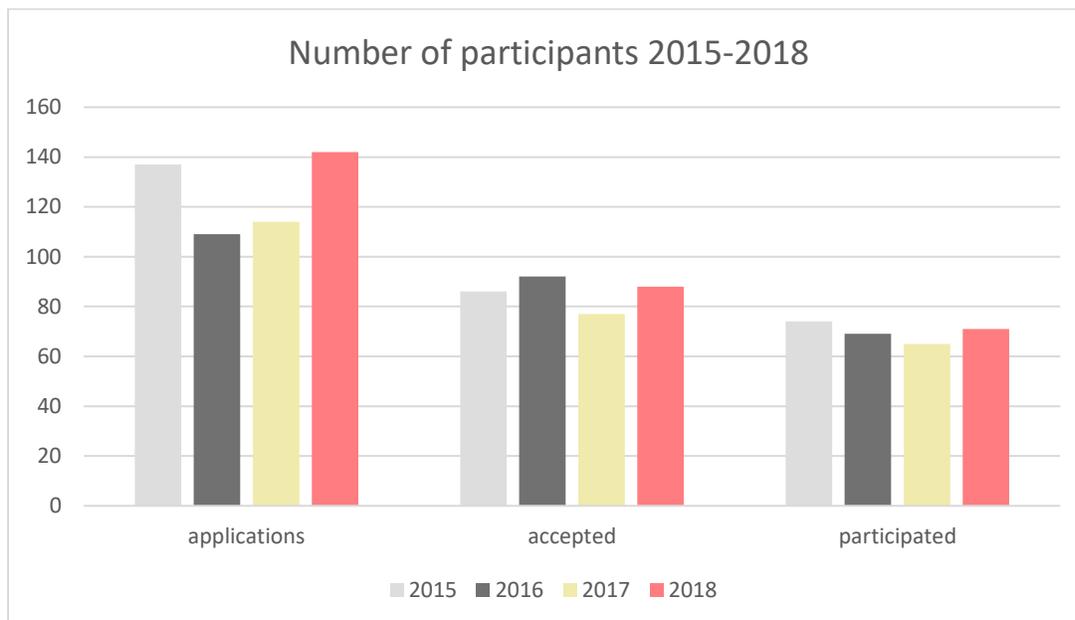


### General information on recent Professional Exchange Programs (PEPs)

In 2018, 18 National Branches (NBs) and CIPUSA organized a total of 19 CIF International Professional Exchange Programs (PEPs). CIF Spain organized its first PEP in 2018.

All 18 National Branches provided information about the PEPs they completed, by sending a Final Evaluation Report (FER) 2018. Here are the results:

142 applications were submitted for CIF International Professional Exchange Programs in 2018. 88 applications were accepted, and 71 participants completed their program. The diagram shows the development during the last four years. In 2018 only 62% of the applicants were accepted in the programs (in 2017 the proportion was 68%, in 2016, 84% of a much lower number of applications, and in 2015, 63%).



We do not (yet) collect data about the reasons why so many of the applications are apparently rejected, and we need to learn if some applications did not meet the criteria or if there were any other reasons, in order to see if something needs to be changed.

Most of the organizing branches reported that they had no difficulties in recruiting participants, though three branches cancelled their PEP because they did not get enough applications (Estonia, Germany and Turkey). From branches who actually organized a PEP in 2018 only two reported that they had a low number of applications. One PEP had almost all applications from one country (5 from one country and 1 from a different country). Five branches reported participants having problems with getting a visa to come for the program. The PEPs of Austria, Finland, France, New Zealand, Sweden, and Switzerland received most applications. 58% of all applications were to these six countries. This results in a higher participation level for these countries (average 5.5 against 3). Programs with no participation fees usually get more applications than they can accept in the program (Thus the percentage of accepted applications in the PEPs with no fees in 2018 was 48% whereas in the PEPs with fees it was 68%). The average number of actual participants per PEP was four.

Of the accepted participants 81% completed the program (in 2017 the figure was 84%, in 2016, 75%, in 2015, 86%). By contrast, in 2018 there were two participants in the Argentinian program, but both of them left the program before the end of it, thus uniquely no participants completed the program.

PEPs organized in 2018 were 2-4 weeks long (12-30 days), and the average duration of a program was 19 days. Most PEPs are organized in cooperation with universities/social work schools, invited lecturers and professional associations. All programs have agency visits and host family living.



CIF Spain PEP 2018

## Finances

PEPs are mainly financed by:

- Participation fees - all programs except Austria, Finland and Sweden have a fee, which covers 20-100% of the whole cost of the PEP (only in three of the other programs are 100% of costs covered by the fee),
- Contributions by local members – these can cover up to 80% of the total cost,
- Other finances, mainly professional associations and other partners – these can cover up to 100% of the total cost.

## Main reported difficulties in organizing a PEP:

- Financial issues
- Finding host families  
Finding field placements/agency visits
- Participants' cancellations (sometimes at the last minute)
- Visa issues
- Not enough volunteers in the branch (not enough currently working professionals, not from relevant fields).

## Suggestions made for improvement of the PEPs in the future:

- More attention of the sending country to: careful preparation of the applicants to make sure they understand what PEPs are; setting a maximum number of applications (3) from one sending country to one PEP and clear information reported if someone is applying for more than one PEP at the same time;

- Interviews also by the receiving branch (by Skype) to make a better selection;
- More focus on social media and PR in general;
- International blog or vlog for all participants;
- CIF PEPs should be competitive, acknowledging and rewarding the best programs – those with best practice and innovative content; let organizing countries do a presentation on this topic at every CIF conference.

## Benefits and Experiences

Reported participant feedback about the benefits of the PEPs in 2018:

- Enriched by international, professional and cultural exchanges with fellow participants and local professionals/CIF members.
- Learning about social realities, social welfare systems and services, and the social policies of the organizing country.
- Learning about cultures and how to work with different cultures.
- Making new worldwide connections and friendships (professional and personal).
- Supporting development on a personal and professional level.
- Gaining motivation and enthusiasm to participate in CIF in their home countries and promote CIF.
- Fostering new insights and new practice that they can implement in their own work.
- Learning that social work can be practised effectively with limited and scarce resources.
- Having an opportunity to be an ‘ambassador’ of your own country.
- Enjoying a most interesting time!



CIF Aotearoa/New Zealand's PEP 2018

## Success Stories from the 2018 Programs

- CIF Austria: we had great participants, and very good cooperation with the university, with engaged students.
- CIF Israel: further personal and professional connections with participants and enrolling new members in the PEP.
- CIF Italy: the participants were able to be part of the first CIF Peace Project Meeting in Rome.
- CIF France: very interesting group, participants from Portugal and Vietnam want to become contact persons in their countries.
- CIF Finland: great group spirit, very active in all ways.
- CIF Netherlands: due to financial issues in former years we tried a different process for payment: upon acceptance, we requested payment before a certain date – aiming for a smaller risk of late cancellations.
- CIF Scotland: both participants were delighted with their experiences and have kept in contact throughout the year via email or Facebook.
- CIF Spain: the participant from Costa Rica has become a contact person in her country.



CIF Sweden's PEP 2018



CIF Hellas' PEP 2018



CIF Indian PEP 2018

## CIF's Organization

### General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest body of the organization and consists of all CIF members. To be a member of CIF one must be an alumnus of a CIF, CIP, or CIPUSA program. Alumnus of the former German ISP program also qualify. In countries without branches members can also be individual professionals in social work, social welfare, human services and closely related fields, who support the objectives of CIF. As General Assemblies only take place in years when there is a conference, there was no General Assembly in 2018.

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (BD) consists of the Presidents of the National CIF Branches and a representative from CIPUSA.

The Board of Directors decides upon ongoing policy and priorities, policy implementation and the allocation of financial resources under the broad policy and priority guidelines established by the organization.



Participants BD Vienna

In 2018 the meetings of the Executive Committee Meeting and the Board of Directors Meeting took place in August in Vienna, Austria. We thank CIF Austria for the wonderful organization of both meetings.

### **Some highlights from the 2018 BD meeting:**

#### **New CIF National Branch**

Algeria requested to be officially recognized as a CIF Branch, and submitted all the required documents. The EC recommended a vote in favour, to allow Algeria to become a National CIF Branch. A motion was unanimously accepted.

#### **Committee CIF 2028**

This Committee, formed in 2017, works on the future of CIF. The main goals are to look at: Where is CIF supposed to be in ten years' time and how will we get there? In a first step the tasks of the Committee 2028 were to prepare an analysis of

- the CIF's products (PEPs, conferences, CIF World News, possibly others)

- the CIF organisation (the means we use to accomplish our goals: people, the EC and BD, finances, PR tools (like website, social media), and possibly other aspects of the organisation).

The Committee developed a questionnaire on six main subjects, for the branches, EC and Contact Persons (CPs). Two thirds of the branches and one Contact Person answered. The answers were analysed, the Committee drew conclusions and through a workshop in Switzerland developed proposals on goals for the next ten years and an action plan 2019-2020, both for the BD to approve.

Regarding PEPs, the lively discussion in the BD showed clearly that branches at present do not want to develop these into a formal educational system; but it was considered necessary to examine the quality of PEPs, the standards and the needs of future participants. A working group for this task was formed.

Group discussions also took place on the following topics: Conferences, Publicity and Organization. Another working group was formed, on "Communication Strategy" which was considered particularly important regarding the visibility of CIF and its future development in a changing world. Both groups have worked productively since November 2018.



Working on the future Committee CIF 2028 BD meeting 2018

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) is elected by the Board of Directors. It acts on behalf of the Board of Directors, in accordance with the policy, programs, projects and general guidelines of the organization. The EC executes decisions of the Board of Directors and takes care of the ongoing day-to-day business.

The EC met in August 2018 in Vienna, just before the BD meeting.

## Executive Committee 2017-2019: tasks and duties

The EC was elected in 2017 and will serve the organization until July 2019. It has divided the several tasks amongst its members as follows:



In the picture the EC members: Astrid, Merja, Mireille, Demet, and Margit. David is not in the picture.

**President:** Mireille Boucher, France

- National Branch Projects
- European Project
- Annual Report.

**Vice President:** David Scheele, Netherlands

- Branch development & contact persons
- Annual Report
- Involvement of new participants without branch or CP.

**Secretary:** Demet Gulaldi, Turkey

- Guidelines coordination.

**Treasurer:** Astrid Sehmer, Germany

- Finance and Budget.

**Member at Large:** Merja Niemela, Finland

- Grants (Conference – BD)
- PR (Website management – Social media)
- Peace projects coordination.

**Member at Large:** Margit Randaru, Estonia.

- PEP coordination
- EC liaison for the Committee CIF 2028.

## Committees

CIF had various active committees in 2018:

### Election Committee

The Election Committee is a permanent committee and is composed of a minimum of two and a maximum of three members, of whom one has the function of Convener, to call for nomination for membership of the Executive Committee.

Members: Jane Ollendorff (USA), Ilse Hoffmann (Germany), Nuket Atalay (Turkey).

### Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee is also permanent, and advises and supports the Treasurer on financial matters. They have regular e-mail contact.

Members: Gabi Kronberger (Austria), Lisa Purdy (USA), Mieke Weeda (Netherlands).

### Special Committees:

- *CIF 2028*

See report page 11.

Members: Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen (Switzerland), Ya Chuan Hsu (Taiwan and Switzerland), Lisa Purdy (CIPUSA), Margit Randaru (Estonia), Mieke Weeda (Netherlands).

## Finances

This year CIF International did not receive any financial support from outside sources. In 2018, CIF International had an income of about €8.500. The main income is the yearly paid membership fee (nearly €6.000,). Every National Branch has to ensure that 10 or 5 Euros for every member goes as membership fee to the bank account of CIF International.

In 2018 the membership fee was paid in respect of 621 members. Some national branches might still pay the 2018 membership fee in cash at the next BD meeting in St. Malo, France. In order for branches to be eligible to vote at the BD meeting, the membership fee for 2018 must be paid.

Donations are very welcome to maintain and improve the work of CIF International (see bank account information below). In 2018, CIF received donations to the amount of €150.

CIF expenses were around €12.200. The main expenses of CIF International were the costs of the Executive Committee (around €3.300) and the meeting of all I branches (Board of Directors Meeting, around €1.000).

For the first time CIF International gave grants for attending the BD meeting in Vienna. Four persons could be supported. The budget for the grants was €1.000, and €600 was called upon.

The Workshop of the Committee 2028 took place in Switzerland in April 2018. The results were reported at the BD meeting. The expenses for this workshop amounted to €2.700.

The magazine of CIF International is CIF World News which was also financed within the budget of CIF International at a cost of nearly €2.900.

Other important expenses are the costs for public relation activities (€720). The YouTube CIF promotional videos were adapted with the new- logo.

The operating result was a deficit of around €3.750,-, which was far less than the approved budget allowed. Nevertheless we are working on a balanced budget for the coming years.

<b>Budget + PROFIT &amp; LOSS STATEMENT 2018</b>		
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Profit&amp;Loss</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fee	6.000,00 €	5.876,86 €
Auction/Market		100,00 €
Conference Fees (Kalamata 2017)		2.340,00 €
Donation/Fundraising for Peace Project	1.000,00 €	150,00 €
Other Donations/ Legacy		
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.000,00 €</b>	<b>8.466,86 €</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Travel & board EC	3.000,00 €	3.297,92 €
Travel & board BD	1.000,00 €	1.043,70 €
Workshop 2028	4.000,00 €	2.693,13 €
Grants	1.000,00 €	1.040,00 €
World News and Postage	2.500,00 €	2.872,66 €
Internet expenses/website	400,00 €	293,44 €
Administrative expenses	100,00 €	139,14 €
Bank charges		110,45 €
Public Relation	4.000,00 €	720,00 €
Peace Projects	1.000,00 €	
Other expenses	500,00 €	3,70 €
New National Branches	200,00 €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.700,00 €</b>	<b>12.214,14 €</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>-10.700,00 €</b>	<b>-3.747,28 €</b>

The balance sheet is available on request.

The information on the bank account of CIF International:

Name: Council of International Fellowship e. V.

IBAN: DE02 5705 0120 0000 1884 25

BIC-Code: MALADE51KOB

Bank: Sparkasse Koblenz (Germany)

For all further information we invite you to contact the Treasurer of CIF International, Astrid Sehmer: [treasurer@cifinternational.com](mailto:treasurer@cifinternational.com)

## Grants

In 2018 CIF International had for the first time money allocated in the budget for BD meeting grants. A call for grants was sent on 28-02-2018. The final deadline for applications was 20 05 2018. Eight applications came by the deadline and six grants/€.1000 were offered. After several changes and a late cancellation four grants were given and six hundred euros (€.600)

were used. Four hundred euros (€400) were saved to be used next year for the conference grants.

On 18-12-2018 a call was sent for Conference grants' applications, to be received by 13-01-2019.



## **Report on Peace Projects**

The Call for Peace Projects (PP) proposals was sent on 22-01-2018. Responses were due by 31-05-2018. In the Peace Projects Fund a little more than €600 was available.

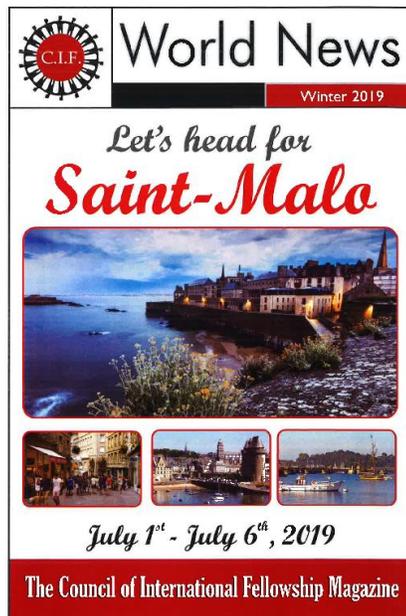
07-05-2018 a call for Peace Projects proposals was sent once more. After one donation CIF international had €750 in the PP Fund, but no substantive proposal was received

In the BD Vienna meeting there was discussion about the necessity for clarification of the concept of a Peace Project. The BD decided that the EC will make a clear proposal about the criteria for Peace Projects.

On 21-08-2018 a call was sent for Peace Projects donations to be received by 31.12.2018.

## CIF World News Magazine

CIF World News is a magazine produced twice a year (Summer and Winter) with the purpose of informing, exchanging ideas and networking for CIF members and the general public. Included are all of the “happenings”, updates on the organization, including information on events, issues, accomplishments, projects, exchange programs and much more.



CIF World News serves as a means of raising awareness and showing a public image that can be used by all members and people around the world to help them understand what our organization does, and to inspire them to become active CIF members in their countries. CIF World News is edited for many many years by Maria Christopoulou (CIF Cyprus) and published in both online/electronic form and in hard copy, so as to be displayed in public areas to help promote the organization.

## CIF National Branches

CIF now has a total of 30 national branches plus CIPUSA. Algeria became a new branch in 2018.

Of these national branches, 18 provided a Professional Exchange Program in 2018. CIPUSA hosts programs throughout the year. Other branches have shorter programs. Each program is designed to provide professionals in the human services field with a training program, host family living, and opportunities to participate in cultural activities.

CIF has National Branches in:

Algeria	Estonia	Japan	Slovenia
Aotearoa /	Finland	Kyrgyzstan	Spain
New Zealand	France	Morocco	Sweden
Argentina	Germany	Nepal	Switzerland
Australia	Greece (Hellas)	Netherlands	Taiwan
Austria	India	Norway	Turkey
Cameroon	Israel	Russia	United States
Cyprus	Italy	Scotland	CIPUSA (U.S.)

Kenya and Lithuania were terminated as CIF Branches, as there was no communication, they had neither paid their membership fees for more than five years nor issued annual activity reports over those years.

## **Summary of CIF National Branches activities**

27 national branches and CIP/USA provided information by sending their Annual Activity Report (AAR). The following three branches did not send one: Australia, Cameroon and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Information and numbers are therefore based on the 27 reports provided.

### **Members**

The total reported numbers of CIF members in 2018 was 775 (the national branches that did not report are not included, so the actual number will be higher. (CIPUSA has no members so pays no fees).



## Public relations

Most branches have contact with their national associations of social workers and are able to publish articles about the experiences of participants, including within specialized newspapers for social workers. A few branches have contact with organizations with goals similar to those of CIF.

Some branches have exchanges between participants and universities during the PEP program to help promote CIF.

Several branches were involved in public events, organized by university departments of social work, like conferences, lectures and workshops.

There was also promotion of CIF during meetings in agencies, and in national and international or European meetings.

Some branches have a Facebook page, or a blog. Many branches have a website.

Past participants are encouraged to share their personal experiences with colleagues.

## Some other PR initiatives

**CIF Algeria:** Birth of CIF Algeria, including official declaration.

One member works with CIF France in a European Project " ReSport".(a network for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

**CIF Austria:** During PEP 2018 they organized a public event, "Growing through encounters" at the University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien – thesis to International Competence through International Exchange and Panel discussions (together with the participants in the PEP and students).

CIF Austria also hosted the EC and BD meeting in August 2018.

**CIF Cyprus:** Organized an Erasmus students and staff exchange program.

**CIF Estonia:** Summer seminar, two days mini program with agency visits.

**CIF France:** Involved in ERASMUS and European Project "ReSport".

**CIF Germany:** Made a Power Point presentation on CIF Germany.

**CIF Israel:** Arab Social workers joined CIF Israel.

**CIF Nepal:** Fundraising activities for health camp, other social activities.

**CIF Sweden:** Focused on developing a Facebook page to facilitate more activities. They also created a Power Point presentation to promote CIF.

## National and international projects

Every branch is doing different projects:

**CIF Italia:** organized the 1st Meeting on a CIF Peace Project September 2018 near Rome.

**CIF Morocco:** prepared a proposal to host the BD and EC meeting in 2020. (which was accepted).

## New opportunities

**CIF France:** worked with the schools of social work in the St Malo region, to prepare and organize the CIF Conference 2019.

**CIF Russia and CIPUSA:** worked together in developing a CIF NGO Empowerment Initiative with more than 40 organizations.

## Challenges reported

Many branches were aiming to recruit more PEP participants, more host families, more active and younger members. Besides this:

**CIF Hellas:** changed their statutes to open up to people close to and involved in social work.

**CIF Morocco:** preparing to organize EC and BD meetings in 2020 in Marrakech.

**CIF France:** Organising the next CIF conference in 2019.

## Aims and goals

Many branches want more people involved, more members and people to specifically organize the PEP.

**CIF Argentina:** seeking more people to be involved in the branch and for the PEP.

**CIF Italia:** organize the Peace Project.

**CIF Kyrgyz Land:** organize a PEP.

**CIF Turkey:** developing the PEP also in Izmir, in addition to Istanbul and Ankara

**CIPUSA:** develop new program models.

## Co-operation between the Branch and CIF International

Most Branches made no comment on this. Those who responded found co-operation good and approved the work of the team and the fast reactions. Continual support of the PEP in the different countries is considered to be important.

## Contact Person and Branch Development report

### CIF Contact Persons

A CIF contact person (CP) is a former participant of a CIF or CIPUSA professional exchange program in a country without a National Branch. The criteria are that the person is recommended by a CIF National Branch or CIPUSA, and is willing to work as a volunteer for the promotion of CIF International and its professional exchange programs (PEPs). They also have to understand and agree with the CIF Statutes and the CP guidelines.

One of the duties of a contact person is that they communicate with former PEP participants in their country and often organize regular meetings for them. Contact persons will also distribute CIF World News and other CIF information. Last but not least, they are responsible for writing recommendation letters for candidates from their country applying for PEPs.

Like the branches, contact persons are requested to report on their activities. A survey report on activities and plans was received from all CPs active in 2018, except two.

The names and e-mail addresses of the contact persons are published on the CIF International website and in CIF World News.

In 2018 ten new contact persons were appointed. They are from China, Costa Rica, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Philippines, Romania and Tanzania.

Latvia has ended as a branch at their request and now has a contact person. Their first report will be in 2019.

Lithuania was terminated as CIF Branch. There is now a contact person, but she did not send in a report yet.

**The total of contact persons in 2018 was 14.**

Portugal and Vietnam are new as of 2019 and will submit a report next year.

CIF had CPs in the following countries in 2018:

China	Latvia	Palestine	Tanzania
Costa Rica	Lithuania	Philippines	Tunisia
Jordan	Madagascar	Romania	
Kosovo	Pakistan	Serbia	

## Reports from Contact Persons

**China:** There are not previous participants in China, so the first goal is to get more participants in a PEP.

**Costa Rica:** Costa Rica CIF is new and already fast growing. The contact person puts a lot of effort into promoting CIF programs. As a result, two social workers applied for a PEP and were accepted in CIF Germany and CIF Finland. A great achievement! The contact persons goal is to establish a branch soon.

**Jordan:** The contact person is in contact with the Ministry of Social Development to establish a CIF branch in Jordan. They are working hard to make it happen. The Ministry requires a lot of information. Once that is completed, the application will be submitted to the Ministry. The goal is to apply formally as a CIF Branch at the BD meeting in 2020.

**Kosovo:** The contact person is promoting CIF and its mission with social work professionals and in institutions in Kosovo. Social work in Kosovo is a relatively new profession and can now be studied at the Public University. Before that, social workers had different backgrounds in the social field, including sociology, pedagogy etc.

The biggest challenge is getting more participants in CIF programs, considering that many social workers have a lack of knowledge of foreign languages. The financial aspect is also a complicating factor.

The contact person is in touch with several organizations and the University of Pristina, to improve cooperation and provide professional opportunities to participate in CIF exchange programs. Another idea is to create a program in cooperation with an international CIF expert to provide experience in Kosovo through a project that could be funded by the European Commission.

**Madagascar:** The contact person reported that 20 people wished to participate in a PEP, but have not enough money to do so. They will need support from CIF friends (travel fees, registration fees) in order to be able to participate.

The contact person would like to establish a CIF branch in Madagascar, but would need more persons who have participated in CIF exchange programs.

**Pakistan:** The Pakistan contact person was in touch with previous participants and is also actively looking for potential participants.

She was able to introduce CIF in academia in Pakistan as she is a lecturer in the Social Development and Policy department at Gabon University. The program focuses on providing hands-on experience by engaging development of practitioners in education. Students, instructors as well as people working at grassroots level in Pakistan's community development field, are showing keen interest. She would like to explore the possibility for an exchange program between students. She would be interested in a fellowship program with a school of social work.

The contact person also met some people doing social work and community development in Karachi. They work in NGOs like Orangi Pilot Project, whose work has been recognized internationally, but due to unavailability of funding opportunities, these potential candidates do not even apply. Some guidance from CIF in terms of possible funding opportunities would increase the critical mass from Pakistan in CIF.

**Palestine:** Palestine applied formally to register as a CIF branch locally and is expecting to be approved before June 2019. They are currently waiting for the official response. Palestine has 7 former PEP participants. The goal is to apply formally as a CIF Branch at the BD meeting 2019.

**Philippines:** The CP was new in 2018, but there was no communication and she did not send in a report.

**Romania:** Romania has a contact person as of 2018. Two members of the International Federation of Educational Communities FICE Romania (a psychologist and a social worker), participated in the Swiss PEP in 2018. This led to the organization of a national seminar in Bucharest later in 2018, with the theme "Swiss-Romanian Realities-comparative study between ways of working in child, youth and family welfare". The event was a collaboration between FICE Romania, FICE Switzerland and other institutions from Romania and the CIF Contact Person from Romania.

This seminar offered an occasion for an exchange of ideas and practices among specialists from local welfare services from all the country, and it was a good opportunity in Switzerland for the PEP have received information about the CIF-PEP Switzerland.

The contact person did a lot of promotion for CIF, resulting in the selection of two candidates for the PEP 2019 in Sweden.

It is difficult to find Romanian participants for CIF Programs, because many of them cannot pay the participation or travel fees.

The contact person advises to try to develop at international level partnerships between the sections of the International Federation of Educational Communities FICE and CIF. They had a good experience in cooperation between FICE Romania, FICE Switzerland and CIF Switzerland.

**Serbia:** The contact person reported that the financial situation in Serbia was the biggest challenge for social workers and experts in the field of social and health welfare to actively take part in CIF exchange programs.

The contact person introduced CIF's ideas and mission to the governmental institutions and local community. As local and state governmental members are changed every few months, they never come to the point where the CP could do more, with more support and better logistic. Promises made before are often put on standby because of this system.

In order to expand activities and get more participants, the CP would like to start a project/exchange program with another CIF Branch. In that way, they could get more members and maybe create a national branch.

**Tanzania:** Tanzania was back in CIF with a contact person. The CP is in contact with seven persons who all were in a PEP. They met three times in 2018.

In the last two years four professionals participated in PEPs in Finland, the USA and the Netherlands.

The contact person reported that they have several challenges. There is limited time to conduct regular meetings for members as they are living in different regions. The recruiting of professionals to apply for exchange programs is at the moment only done by the CP. However, all Tanzanian members should be involved in this.

The contact person has the goal of making Tanzania a lead in the Eastern African zone for CIF exchange programs. This would mean establishing a task team to ensure other African countries nominate a contact person to facilitate the process of establishing CIF Branches.

**Tunisia:** The contact person was continuing to promote CIF and try to have new participants in CIF Programs. He was working within his own organization to get participants.

The contact person finds it important to continue contacts with CIF France and other branches, for professional exchanges.

## **National Branch development report**

Algeria became a national branch in 2018, in Vienna.

Jamaica is or was in the process of becoming a branch from two years previously, but no information about developments or progress was received in 2018, despite several attempts at contact.

Jordan and Palestine are in the progress of establishing branches and are working on the paperwork.

## **CIF International Conference 2019**

In 2018 there was no CIF conference, as it is a bi-annual event. In 2019 the CIF International conference will be held in France.

[www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com)

May 2019