

AN ANNUAL REPORT ON EBBF COLLABORATION WITH AIESEC 2007-8

This report reviews a large number of collaborative activities between the European Bahá'í Business Forum and AIESEC during the year beginning July 1, 2007. This "AIESEC year" begins each year on July 1 when the new AIESEC International team takes charge. The report is divided into five areas: highlights, international involvement of EBBF, significant national conferences, learning partnerships, AIESEC participation in EBBF events, and summary.

HIGHLIGHTS

This has been an exceptional year in the collaboration between EBBF and AIESEC. Some of the most notable achievements have been the following:

Greater impact and contributions to international conferences.

A series of keynote talks by Augusto Lopez-Claros and Arthur Dahl enabled EBBF to reach a much larger group of AIESEC leaders.

Several successful value-based leadership seminars open new opportunities for the future.

The increase in the number of MCs with which we collaborated was notable, in no small measure due to the Saturday evening meeting Emanuel organized at IC with 30 MCs.

Several new forms of collaboration developed such as serving as externals on selection committees (Switzerland and Slovakia) and more active participation in development of MC annual plans.

An AIESEC/EBBF website has been developed and will be operational soon.

The workshop for alumni at IC 2007 was our first real contribution to alumni.

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT OF EBBF

International Advisory Council: George Starcher represented EBBF and attended meetings of IAC in Istanbul and London.

International Congress (Istanbul, August 2007) George Starcher spent three days at this conference which gathered 650 representatives from the 100 national committees throughout the world. He gave a presentation to about 25 AIESEC alumni and led a workshop. He met with a group of representatives of about 30 MCs, most of whom were from Eastern and Central European countries, to discuss EBBF/AIESEC collaboration. A number of these contacts led to collaboration.

International President's Meeting (March 2008)

Arthur Dahl gave the keynote speech at IPM on "The State of the World" to the plenary (all the outgoing and incoming national presidents) as well as a workshop on Sustainability. Greg Dahl led a well attended workshop on Globalisation. In a note to Arthur Dahl from Emanuel Gavert, "Dear Arthur, ...The informal feedback that I have received has been outstanding and on a personal note I can just agree. The reach you managed to have with your speech and the way it was perceived had a huge impact within the membership of AIESEC globally.

International Trainers Conference (Kyiv, May 2008)

On May 9, Gary Reusche was on the stage all day at this very international conference keynoting and leading two workshops on the theme of "leadership and diversity in the information age." He reported: "The 85 or so AIESECers assembled in Kyiv was quite a challenging group. They came from all over the world, 21 countries, including China, India, various countries in Eastern and Western Europe, and North America."

Iberoamerican Forum of Responsible Leadership.

On 27 March, Daniel Truran and Augusto Lopez-Claros gave keynotes and led workshops at this international conference. Over 300 AIESECers from India, Japan, all of Latin America, half of Europe, USA, Canada, and Morocco participated.

60th Anniversary International Meeting of Former AI Board Members to be held on 27-29 June in Brussels: Augusto Lopes-Claros will give a keynote presentation.

SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

AUSTRIA

On 15 February Nora Tönnis and Sarvanas Enayati facilitated a workshop in Vienna on "Inspiring Responsible Business – EBBF" at the AIESEC Conference on "Solution:Leadership for Sustainability". Also Faramarz talked to a workshop group of 40.

In March Faramarz met Vlad, the newly elected MCP for 2008, to consult on further collaboration between AIESEC Austria and EBBF and to explore EBBF becoming an official Learning Partner of EBBF Austria.

Arthur Dahl spoke at an EBBF/AIESEC seminar in Vienna organized by Sarvenas Enayati and the AIESEC Austria MC. On 4 April, Arthur Dahl gave a lecture on "Sustainability for a Globalizing World: adding an ethical dimension" for an overflow crowd of AIESEC alumni and some other friends. Many joined for dinner afterwards. Saturday Arthur participated in an all-day seminar for about 20 AIESECers on "The Human Element of Sustainability". Most of the AIESEC Austria MC were present, with both present and incoming presidents who had heard Arthur at the IPM. This was the first event under the new agreement through which EBBF has become a formal learning partner of AIESEC Austria. It should be another strong and fruitful collaboration..

BELGIUM

EBBF Briefs AIESEC Students on Networking for Successful Career at Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School. Ghent, Belgium, April 27, 2008 : Koen Van Besien, Dale Emerson and Daniel Schaubacher gave three workshops on April 26-27 at the Heading for the Future AIESEC conference to some 30 students in economics and business management – who will all be completing their studies this year with a PhD or MAB and plan to embark on a professional career.

EBBF Workshops at AIESEC Belgium's Training and Motivation Seminar. Tongerlo, Belgium, November 9, 2007. EBBF Brussels was invited to give two workshops on "Values-driven Leadership – Responsible Entrepreneurship – Making a Difference" at the AIESEC NTMS (National Training and Motivation Seminar). Some 300 students from 13 Belgian universities participated in the conference.

EBBF was invited to run a workshop and to address the plenary meeting twice. Over three hours, the interactive EBBF workshops given by Dale Emerson and Daniel Schaubacher provided 41 young students with a good opportunity to apprehend major societal developments affecting the business world, and concepts such as cultural diversity, the gender issue, CSR, responsible or social entrepreneurship, sustainability, fulfilment experienced through a new approach to work and work/life balance, and stewardship of our common resources.

March 22, 2008. EBBF was invited to contribute to the « Inspiration » session of the AIESEC International Leadership Development Conference held in Brussels. Some 70 students attended. In offering this basic training, AIESEC students set themselves bold objectives : understanding the role of leadership in a changing world; acquire a vision of "who we are as individuals" and "the role we can play", and learning about the resources and tools needed to implement this vision in order "to make a difference". In a special session called "Inspiration", AIESEC students engaged in a dialogue about the power of positive leadership. Over two round table discussions each attended by some 14 to 18 students, Daniel Schaubacher enumerated EBBF values and its understanding of the role of leaders and of business in eradicating poverty, contributing to prosperity and sustainability.

Saturday 12 April 2008: Marc Avanzo, Graham Boyd and Shoghi Emerson (all EBBF members) met for the full day with about 80 Belgian AIESEC members to define a new strategy for the future. The day started with a workshop led by Marc to enable them to understand their own personal values and to inspire them to go further. Then Graham went on using Appreciative Inquiry in a very organised way (using the 4 stages as well as new group dialogue methods) to help them clarify " what was your best experience in AIESEC, and lead them to "what would be your dream AIESEC" and to finish with "What would be the first steps to implement the vision?". The current and future presidents, Andreis and Vishal really appreciated our support and backing them up. They are still in touch with Graham and Marc in

order to benefit fully from this intense and fruitful working session. They are really doing everything possible to leave their positive mark at AIESEC in Belgium. We had an excellent connection.

April 27: Daniel Schaubacher and Dale Emerson led a workshop on "Purpose before Profit" at the Heading for the Future Conference of AIESEC Belgium.

BULGARIA

On 17 April, Greg Dahl was a panelist to open the Bulgarian celebration event in Sofia of AIESEC's 60th anniversary and Bulgaria's AIESEC 15th anniversary.

CHINA

8/10/07 From Elisa Mallis: I've been in touch with Aman from AIESEC and we are planning some meetings with the China AIESECers. I think there will be some good ways for us to collaborate in terms of recruiting.

ESTONIA

April 2008: Leonor Gimelfarb led a session on CSR at the national conference in Tallinn.

FINLAND

This was the second year of collaboration of EBBF with AIESEC Finland. As an example of the strength of our relationship, on 19 May, 2008 three EBBF members will meet with AIESEC MC to plan activities for next year.

On 2 November Kimmo Vesajoki led a workshop at the National ACCESS Conference on the subject of "Ethical Sales: Purpose Before Profit" at which he confirmed excellent discussions with members of the MC and agreed to continue the relationship.

May 2, 2008, Helsinki University of Economics, Helsinki, Finland
EBBF - AIESEC co-organized a lecture on "Sustainable development in business and Individuals' opportunities.", Arthur Dahl as the guest speaker, gave a memorable speech. There were about 20 AIESEC students present. The most important thing about this session was the message that we can each make a difference, the world changes when we change.

EBBF was invited to give two workshops at the AIESEC SUCCESS 2008 in Helsinki, Finland, 28-30 March 2008. There were 180 participants mainly from Finland but also from Germany, Norway, India and China. Workshops given by EBBF Finland representative Mr. Mika Korhonen and EBBF member Mr. Janne Lemettinen were titled "Group decision-making" and "In search of a meaningful career". The workshops had 17 and 24 attendees, respectively. Both of the themes were well received by the audience.

FRANCE

Early in August 2007 Marc Avanzo gave a full-day workshop for the new managing team of France. The workshop was based on values based leadership and group decision making. Marc has offered to lead a three day VBL session for 14 outgoing and incoming members of the MC.

16/11/07 Sustainability Day: Marc Avanzo (EBBF) lead a three hour highly interactive session for 19 participants in the Sustainability Day National Conference in Bordeaux. Topic: Values in Sustainable Processes.

1/02/08 Marc Avanzo gave a short course on Values Based Leadership at the National Convention.

A very close and friendly relationship has grown between the current French national management team (President Antoni, Treasurer Aurélie, Vice President Alexandre) and EBBF members (Marc and Arona Roshanian); they meet informally at least once a week..

Arthur Dahl has been invited to give a keynote presentation at the AIESEC France 60th Anniversary celebration in Paris on 30-31 May 2008.

GERMANY

In October, AIESEC Germany invited EBBF to run a workshop at their Autumn Strategic Meeting. "350 delegates, all students who hold leadership positions in AIESEC, met to plan activities for the new academic year and to give themselves further training. EBBF member and AIESEC alumnus Leonor Gimelfarb organised a workshop on "Responsible Trade with Emerging Markets – how to manage supply chains more sustainably". Drawing on her experience with a textile company sourcing from India, she highlighted workplace issues and the importance of cultural sensitivity when dealing with suppliers. "Those students who major in logistics could actively contribute to the discussion on supply chain management" said Gimelfarb. The second half of the workshop was dedicated to a case-study. Students took on the role of a social audit team inspecting a factory. "They came up with very relevant ideas as to how to conduct the audit" said Leonor. "The workshop was very interactive and we loved the anecdotes", was the most-heard feedback from students.

The EBBF-AIESEC cooperation will continue at the EBBF Conference in Berlin on 26-28 October. Juliane Krüger and Gerrit Mumm from the AIESEC Global Marshall Plan drive team will present their project "Unity in Diversity".

HUNGARY

Greg Dahl was keynote speaker at a European AIESEC Alumni Event in Budapest, Hungary in May.

ITALY

This has been another great year of collaboration between AIESEC and EBBF in Italy. The highlights are:

- Annual memorandums on collaboration since 2001.
- Joint activities with EBBF speakers on five university campuses.
- A four-day seminar at Acuto (see below)
- Joint external activities such as 24 Ore.

This year, the annual EBBF-AIESEC seminar at Acuto, Italy, on 14-17 February, included presentations by four EBBF board members: Daniel Truran, Beppe Robiati, Rudiger Fox and Arthur Dahl (who spoke on "Sustainable Development: State of the World" and "Energy for Sustainable Development"). It was a very intensive and stimulating weekend for all concerned. 30 AIESEC members from 11 LCs participated.

EBBF Italia provided speakers at three national conferences, including one in Palermo at which there were 120 members from 23 local committees. Sandra Luschi spoke on emerging markets. On 13 December Sandra Luschi spoke to an AIESEC conference in Urbino on emerging markets.

On 20 June, Beppe Robiati has invited all members of past and the new MCs to continue past practice of collaboration in developing the programme for the coming year.

JORDAN

May 2008: Arthur Dahl wrote a very well received letter requested by the MC Jordan which was shared with all participants at the National Conference in Jordan.

Dear Mr. Dahl,

Allow me to express my deepest gratitude and respect for the time you have dedicated in order to write this letter which will be an immense contribution to our event. It will unquestionably add value and lend weight to our event and the mission we are seeking to realize. I have shared your letter with the President of AIESEC in Jordan and with the Organizing Team, and you have instilled in us more passion and induced more drive towards realizing our sustainability initiative.

This letter is but a testimony of your sincere faith in the role of young people, and their ability in inspiring ethical conduct and mobilizing a mental revolution that is to take its first steps in re-shaping our region and building a future where the upcoming generations can prosper and contribute positively to the welfare of humanity.

I shall up-date you on the progress of our event and shall duly inform you of its outcomes. Allow me once again to offer my deep thanks and gratitude for your contribution, and express my admiration in the dedication and commitment you demonstrate which is a real inspiration.
Best Regards, Lana Baddar, Local Committee President, Amman

MACEDONIA

Three EBBF members participated in the 13 May Annual Leadership Conference. Metodija Trakovski, now an AIESEC alumnus, and who represented EBBF at the conference, led a 3.5 hour training session on values based leadership (13 participants). He "adapted the training materials Marc Avanzo used and shared with us in Paris, when I was on the board AIESEC in France". EBBF member Ton Creemers also led a workshop and Katerina participated as well. Nenad Mladenovski, MCP of Macedonia, writes to EBBF "first of all I want to thank you for the contacts you gave us from the EBBF person form Macedonia. We met Katerina and she participated on our national conference. She and I facilitated a whole day session based on the Covey's "Seven Habits". Katerina was great, the delegates loved the session and we received a feedback that it has been one of the best personal development sessions they have ever seen. Also we had a really beautiful experience with Ton Creemers from the Netherlands. He was in Macedonia for more than a week and had meetings with our members from the three Local Committees. He interviewed between 20 and 30 of our members and they were very satisfied with the things they heard from him.

"We have good communication with Katerina and for all the future cooperation we'll contact her. If we find useful the contacts of Greg Dahl for some of our conferences or seminars or Projects, we'll get in touch with him. Once more thank you very much for the contacts and the cooperation. All the Best, Nenad"

NORWAY

October 2007: Report from Riaz Rafat:

A couple of months ago, my wife and I invited the President of AIESEC Norway, Mr. Magnus Grimstad, the previous External Affairs Officer of AIESEC, Mr. Børge Hennø (who had met with George Starcher in Poland) to dinner at our home, which was a very nice meeting. At this meeting, I was invited to AIESEC's forthcoming Annual Conference in Bergen as a speaker. Thus, on Friday 19 October, I held one of the keynote talks at AIESEC's annual conference, conducted this time at the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration in Bergen (NHH). Approximately 125 members of local and national bodies of AIESEC in Norway were gathered at this event, as well as some guests from AIESEC's branches in India and some other countries.

I talked on behalf of EBBF and Telenor, the latter Norway's second largest company. The topic of my talk was "Microfinance". It included Baha'i-inspired concepts and experience, including from the Norwegian Baha'i community's social economic project in Uganda ("UPLIFT"), the Baha'i-inspired micro-credit project in Nepal ("community banking" by ECTA), as well as Telenor's micro-credit "village-phone" project in Bangladesh by the telecommunication company "Grameen Phone". I also told about the co-operation between AIESEC and EBBF internationally.

POLAND

From 29 February to 2 March 2008, Dr. Thomas von Lutterotti was totally engaged and played a key role in the Entrepreneurship track at the Marketing & Entrepreneurship Global Academy 2008. There were 180 delegates, including 25 from abroad (IT, FR, DK, SK, DE, UA, China and India) carefully chosen from 340 applications. Thomas, as an EBBF member, gave the key note speech at dinner on "The good balance in business: stakeholder value " and a lecture on "Business Ethics and Value Based Leadership". As entrepreneur, he moderated a panel on "Portraits of Entrepreneurs – Why is it worth it?" contributed to a learning circle on international business and was a member of the jury for "Conceiving a Business Plan".

ROMANIA

On February 15, three members of AIESEC were invited to attend a large conference of over 100 business people organized by EBBF in Bucharest. Oana iuiu, Communication Vice President, AIESEC Bucharest was invited to be one of the speakers. Other speakers included EBBF members Kazem Samandari, Massimo D'Attoma, and Paul Hughes and the Chairman of one of the large banks there.

RUSSIA

Message (21/10/07) from Gary Reusche. "I have been in touch with Natalia (the AIESEC Alumnus in Moscow (natalia.kotlyarova@ru.pwc.com)). I met her once in Moscow and now she is planning a visit to Kyiv. We have talked a little bit about AIESEC Alumni, and what happens to AIESECers when they enter the "real world." Many alumni, according to her, become skeptical of the AIESEC ideals when they run into difficult situations in their work. They don't stay involved as "change agents." My feeling is that AIESEC needs to work more on the issue of "service mentality," so that when they leave the organization, they have already felt the personal benefits of such a mind set, and so that they stay "involved" and less subject to the negative influences in their environment. Kind regards, Gary

SERBIA

Contact between EBBF member Riaz Rafat (moving from Norway to Serbia) and the MCP Serbia should open up opportunities for collaboration next year.

SPAIN

Both Augusto Lopez Claros and Daniel Truran presented at their IBERO AMERICA event in Barcelona. Daniel Truran worked with MC in developing and drafting a code of ethics.

21 Sept: Cristine and Daniel Truran led a session on Ethics with the MC of Spain. AIESEC news "...we had an incredible Learning Circle about Code of Ethics with EBBF & IBM.

For 3 hours, we were working about ethics, and learning about actions/organizations quite interesting discover differences between organizational goals-ethics & individual goals:
An ethics high-way with lots of unethical exits/short-cuts."

SWITZERLAND

On 9 November 2007 at the national DO IT conference in Fiesch, Switzerland, Arthur Dahl led two workshops for about 40 participants each on "Ethical Challenges in Business".

11-12 January 2008: Arthur Dahl participated in the AIESEC Switzerland National Conference of LCPs and other local delegates as

the external representative on the Member Committee (MC) Review Board 2008. The MC Review Board consisted of Joana Garbalinska, President of AIESEC Sweden, Ivan Melay, President of AIESEC Switzerland (and President last year in Slovakia), Simone Kuhn, VP AIESEC Switzerland, an LCP representative and myself. We spent two hours interviewing each of four candidates for AIESEC President 2008-2009 before the election on Friday, and then 4 candidates for Vice-President on Saturday. Regula Marti, a former LCP Geneva, was elected President, and Sara Enstedt, LCP Geneva with whom we had lunch with Ivan, will certainly be a Vice-President. The Review Board helped advise the new president on the selection of her MC

UKRAINE

On May 9, Gary Reusche was on the stage all day at the International Trainers Conference in Kyiv (already reported on above among the international conferences). Gary gave the keynote presentation and led two workshops on the theme of "leadership and diversity in the information age."

The issues that seem to stand out from discussions include: (1) the diversity issue was a good choice as I felt that many had not given this very serious thought. I of course dealt with it from the perspective "mankind is one" and that we are united by a set of universal values, etc, and that diversity issues are often related to our upbringing and our cultures. This seemed new to the group (which surprised me). As far as leadership goes, this group knows all the theory. Knowledge management, both personal and institutional, was a topic with a lot of questions.

12 November 2007: one day training on team building led by Gary Reusche for members of the AIESEC national committee and local committees. 15 participants.

Feedback from Olya Druchak

Sent: 12 November 2007

To: Gary Reusche

Subject: Re: Chervonograd. About the feedback - well, as I already told you, it was just hitting the bull's eye - interesting, theoretical and practical content very relevant to our current situation and gives opportunity to stretch our views. Well, I'm completely satisfied with the training and don't have anything to add except Thank You Olya

UNITED KINGDOM

Manouchehr Yazhari organized contacts during the year with JohnJo Rayan and Laura Archer, but no formal collaboration was organized. Manouchehr will attend the Annual Conference in June. Contacts were made with AIESEC alumnus Cornelia.raportaru@gmail.com by George Starcher and Payman Sabeti.

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

EBBF now has learning partnerships with a number of national committees of AIESEC. Many of these are formal agreements; some are informal but real. The MCs with whom these agreements were formalized before or during this past year include:

Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

AIESEC PARTICIPATION IN EBBF EVENTS

While much of this report has concentrated on EBBF collaboration in events organized by AIESEC, our collaboration has been a two-way street. There have been several EBBF events at which members of AIESEC made memorable contributions. Among them are the following.

Emanuel Gavert offered a memorable presentation about our collaboration at the EBBF Annual Conference in September 2007 at dePoort Conference Centre. There were 170 participants to learn about AIESEC.

AIESEC also collaborated actively in the first EBBF conference in Berlin.

An AIESEC member presented at the important conference that EBBF member Wargha Enayati organized in Bucharest in February. More than 100 business people participated.

Two AIESECers, Alessandro Amelotti and Paolo Russo, who spoke along with Emanuel Gavert at the EBBF Annual Conference in September 2007, have been invited to speak in the June 2008 EBBF conference in Acuto, Italy.

IN SUMMARY

In summary, we are beginning to understand better how fruitful and meaningful the AIESEC/EBBF partnership can be for both partners. The Governing Board of EBBF is anxious to build on the success of the past and to develop this partnership further. Some of the areas of "growth" upon which we would like to consult include:

Identifying and following indicators of achievements of the partnership

Expanding the geographic coverage to activate collaborate in additional countries such as the UK, Netherlands, France, Russia, and Serbia.

Increasing seminars on values based leadership.

Increase collaboration with AIESEC alumni.

Respectfully submitted,

George Starcher