

SIFE SWEDEN HOLDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

On the 31st of January SIFE Sweden held an Entrepreneurship day. The event was attended by almost 70 participants from all over the country.

Students from more than 13 SIFE teams gathered at the Investor headquarter in Stockholm where the event took place. The day was filled with excellent lecturers and interesting discussions. After a warm welcome by Marie Svaton, Country Coordinator, SIFE Sweden, Michael Teschow, Chairman of Electrolux, Ericsson and Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, spoke about Entrepreneurship, SIFE, the link between the two and good reasons to join SIFE. He was followed by Börje Ekholm, CEO Investor, who gave a different angle to the topic entrepreneurship and added a lot of personal experience to the topic. SIFE was represented by Kaja Otto, Program Director, SIFE Europe, who gave some tips on implementing projects, the importance of documentation and the competition procedure. Last but not least Tove Lifvendahl, Head of Communication, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise (Svenkst Näringsliv), introduced the idea of Social Entrepreneurship to the audience. The day was closed with interesting discussions and new impressions and a delicious dinner.

For more information please visit: www.sife.se

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AWARD FOR SIFE POLAND COUNTRY COORDINATOR

On 21 December Arek Bodus - SIFE Poland Coordinator was awarded a medal of Young Positivist in a recognition of his integrity and contribution to implementation of ideas of labour for the benefit of the economy and positive changes in Poland.



Arek Bodus with Dr Marian Krol, President of the Hipolit Cegielski Society

He was invited to join the Young Positivists Club which is the place for new economical, social, philosophical and scientific conceptions to be born, but also the place of polemics with the reality. The Club is also expected to be the place of meetings with celebrated personalities of culture, science, politics and business from Poland and from abroad. Candidates for Young Positivists Club members may be proposed by universities, institutions, social organizations and various circles according to their achievements – scientific, professional, social, etc. Arek was recognized for his work in a family owned enterprise and at the same time contribution to development of SIFE program in Poland.

For more information please visit: www.sife.org.pl

HSBC GRANTS AWARDED

Almost 400 SIFE team from more than 25 countries applied for the HSBC grants in December. Now we got the results! 324 are tentatively awarded!

The 2007 HSBC Financial Literacy Grants have been reviewed, scored, and agreed upon by SIFE and HSBC as of today. Out of the almost 400 teams applying for a grant, 90 were from Europe. More than 70 of them were awarded. The total amount of grants given out for European team is more than € 40.000. SIFE teams received award letters or rejection letters on 30 or 31 January. SIFE teams have until Friday, 9 February to sign their acceptance agreements and either fax or send as a PDF via email.

But this year it is not just the HSBC grant teams can get. For those who got awarded there also is the chance of a free ticket to NYC! On October 9th the Financial Literacy Forum will take place in New York City and if your team will be chosen to participate, one team member will have the opportunity to not just join the forum, but also stay on for the SIFE World Cup!

SIFE Europe wishes all the teams good luck! For more information please visit: www.sife.org/hsbcliteracyprogramme

HSBC 
The world's local bank

NEW TRAINING CONCEPT IN THE NETHERLANDS

On January 26th was the first time that SIFE The Netherlands invited SIFE students to a training day. Which not exclusively dealt with SIFE topics. It also was the first time that Alumni, FA and team leaders had their own workshops.

More than 50 students gathered at the Unilever headquarters, where the training was held. After a welcome by **Robert Jacobson, Senior Vice-President Chairman's Office, Unilever**, the students were split up in different groups, according to their involvement and experience with SIFE. The new students were trained by **Kaja Otto, Program Director, SIFE Europe** on basic knowledge, criteria and the competition format, while more experienced students joined a session lead by **Graham Church, Regional Vice President, SIFE Europe** and **Rombout van Riemsdijk, SIFE Alumnus** of SIFE Utrecht. This session was focusing on Alumni, possible involvement and how they can be useful for their teams as well.



Enjoying the Cornetto!



Carina Ianelli during her workshop

In the third workshop team leaders and Faculty Advisors together with **Saskia Verbunt, Country Coordinator, SIFE The Netherlands**, exchanged strategies and best practice and developed some important points as next steps. The sessions were followed by a summary and a delicious lunch donated by Unilever. The hint given by Robert Jacobson in the morning, which concerned the ice cream machine, was used extensively, so everyone emerged of the break with a lot of energy for the afternoon session.

Carina Ianelli, CEO, Making Things Happen held a workshop on „How to involve your BAB“ and **Rob van der Laak** gave the students a better insight in Presentation Skills. The students liked the workshops a lot and could take some new ideas and knowledge from them. All in one, the feedback was very positive and everyone enjoyed an inspiring day. For more information please visit: www.sife.nl



Rob van der Laak on presentation skills

NEW TOOL ON SIFE.ORG

On January 31st SIFE launched a new “login section” for the SIFE Portal at sife.org.

The new features of this section are:

- Streamlined registration process, making it easier for students to register and update their information.
- Notifies interested students & faculty if there is a SIFE team on their campus and whom to contact on their campus.
- Significant Improvements in the Registration capabilities for Faculty
- Tightly integrates the Faculty & Student Registration with the University Management System (UMS).
- Allows alumni that registered as a student to update their information.
- Adds a lost password recovery feature. Site users who lose their password will no longer have to call SIFEHQ to get their password.

Already during the first 24 hours of the launch more than 200 SIFE students logged on!

If you are not registered with SIFE yet, take the chance and go to www.sife.org/sifeportal/login.aspx!



TIP OF THE MONTH

Each year SIFE team membership numbers tend to fluctuate due to member graduation and recruitment efforts. To ensure a quick and efficient start to the academic year, SIFE teams should create a team succession plan.

The object of the plan is to ensure that the students who will be returning next year understand the team's goals, objectives and methods well enough to continue the team's momentum.

Some of the key ideas of the plan include:

- Determining next year's leaders early enough.
- Creating a shadowing or mentorship program for members who would like to be in a leadership role.
- Recruiting younger members. This can add stability to team membership.
- Creating a yearly transition notebook.

YEARLY TRANSITION NOTEBOOK

One of the most important tools your team can create for sustainability is the yearly transition notebook. Think of this document as a blueprint for your SIFE team. If someone who knew nothing about your team picked up this document, they should be able to immediately understand what your team is about.

This notebook should be updated at the end of each academic year, preferably at the year-end meeting of the SIFE team leaders. It should remain in the SIFE team office, with the faculty advisor or with the incoming team leader or president. The notebook will become particularly important if your faculty advisor does not return or if the majority of your team graduates.

In this situation the following items become essential to the continuation of your SIFE team:

1. Contact information for SIFE team supporters within the university.
2. All information associated with the team's financial support
3. Business Advisory Board contact information.

For more information, please refer to the Team Succession Toolkit on the SIFE website: www.sife.org/global/global_team_resources.asp or to **page 41 in the Global Training Manual.**

SIFE ALUMNI STORIES

We will start 2007 in this rubric with a SIFE Alumna who did not study in Europe, but now works in an European country. This example shows, that SIFE works beyond borders also in the business world.

Corinna Orietta was a member of the SIFE Team at Eckerd College, the only private national liberal arts college in Florida, USA, which is located on a waterfront setting in St. Petersburg, from where she graduated in 2002. Corinna studied International Business and French and was the Public Relations Officer of her SIFE Team. Right now Corinna is working at Panasonic Marketing Europe in Wiesbaden, Germany as Sales and Product Manager for consumer electronics.



What was your favorite part of your SIFE experience?

Reaching out to the community and actually watching how consistent programs (like 'Enterprise Village' etc), do have a great impact on the people; students in this case. In my opinion SIFE not only prompted me to build leadership, creativity and networking skills among others but at the same time provided me with the opportunity to do all that through a good cause; helping the community. This unique combination is what drew me to SIFE.

In what ways has your SIFE experience helped you in your personal and professional development?

SIFE showed me that in a simple but organized yet creative and consistent manner, positive impacts can take place within ones community.

I saw with SIFE that it doesn't take an army of resources to make a change and that everyone that sets a goal to do so can contribute tremendously in improving and bettering life in our close proximity. SIFE not only enhanced my exposure to community but also allowed me to be seen in the professional realm as someone that brings more to the table other than just financial driven goals.

Are you also a SIFE Alumni? Or do you already have SIFE Alumni on your SIFE team? Please encourage them to contact Kaja Otto (kotto@sife.org), if they would like to share their SIFE experience!

Do you want to register as SIFE Alumni?

Please contact your Country Coordinator and register at http://www.sife.org/portal/new_user.asp?ID=Portal

SIFE ALUMNI NETWORK

The SIFE Alumni Network's purpose is to create an avenue for people to continue their involvement in SIFE after graduation.

Many SIFE graduates do this by working with active teams. Alumni are a great prospect for your Business Advisory Board! View the location and contact information for a SIFE Alumni Local Area Network at: www.sife.org/alumni_network.

Consider creating an alumni network unique to your team by maintaining contact information of your graduating team members.

LIKE TO SHARE A STORY?

For the European Newsletter SIFE Europe is always looking for interesting stories to share.

This can be great projects, best practice or just unique experiences you had with SIFE and would like to share. Have you been to another country for a SIFE project? Did you get an internship through your SIFE involvement. Did you meet someone who became special to you through your SIFE project?

If so, please do share your story (including pictures, if possible) and send it to kotto@sife.org

SIFE ALUMNI BRUNCH IN GERMANY

2007 started in Germany with the first Alumni Brunch. The event took place in Cologne.

Due to the success of the SIFE program in Germany during the last years a lot of SIFE Alumni now are looking for possible involvement. Therefore SIFE Germany invited SIFE Alumni to an exclusive brunch in Cologne for a kick off meeting.



Petra Lewe discussing with SIFE Alumni

Topics discussed were: different kinds of involvement, how to reach out to Alumni, the building of a German Alumni website, engagement in SIFE events. Other parts of the discussion dealt with tasks of the Alumni organization, and possible support for teams and the SIFE Germany organization itself.

All participants were inspired by the fruitful discussion and the next brunch is already scheduled!

It will be in **Düsseldorf on the 21.04.2007** (please do inform your SIFE Team Alumni).

If you are interested to join the next Alumni meeting, support SIFE Germany during events and/or become a SIFE Germany Alumni, please contact Petra Lewe, Country Coordinator, SIFE Germany

For more information please visit: www.sife.de or contact SIFE Germany Staff directly.

