SIFE
THE NETHERLANDS

Newsletter May 2008

Stedenbijeenkomst and Pre-presentations

Friday on the 11th of April SIFE the Netherlands had its second stedenbijeenkomst of this year. The entire afternoon was devoted to presentation skills, given in an interactive workshop by *Jaspar Roos* from ABN Amro. This was the kick-off for the preparations of the National Competition. In the afternoon *Jaspar Roos* gave a workshop of three hours where the students had to actively participate, present and react. It was different than the times before, since the passive listening part of the afternoon got taken away by the trainer, then he got the students out dancing to let them relax and get prepared for his energetic three hours of training. The time passed by very quickly and the students got to learn a lot without necessarily realizing that themselves. After the training two SIFE alumni shared their experiences of the preparation phase for the National Competition with the students. *Evelien de Wind*, alumnae from the Universiteit Utrecht, guided the students through the various stages it takes to give a well structured presentation. There after, *Andre Lake*, alumnus from Stenden Hogeschool Leeuwarden, pointed all the essential details of having an informative, but concise annual report and reminded everyone to have fun while preparing for the National Competition.
On the 8th and 9th of may we had the pre-presentations where the teams presented their work done so far. True SIFE presentations expert Pepi Rozendaal led both days, by providing constructive feedback to the teams, which will help them to further refine their work. SIFE board members Ron Jansen (Ebbinge & Co) and Johan van Zeelt (Samskip), alongside with European vice-president Blake Dinkin and program manager Nina Koopman served as supportive critics in helping the teams to improve their work and that way to further improve their presentations. SIFE the Netherlands is very excited and looking forward to the National Competition on the 6th of June.

SIFE ALUMNI STORY: SIFE alumnus Ruben van Geldorp, from the University of Amsterdam about his experiences with SIFE

Why did you choose to become active in SIFE?
I had just ended my year setting up Utrecht University Model United Nations (UUMUN), when Saskia approached me to have a talk about SIFE. I had never heard of the organization beforehand, but was enthusiastic about the combination of a professionally run organization on the one hand and tremendous amounts of personal freedom on the other (something I had missed in AIESEC). I decided to become active in SIFE due to its enormous potential.

Can you tell us more about your time being in SIFE?
It was much like a day at Walibi World. A lot of ups and a lot of downs, which sometimes made you sick to you stomach. At the end of the day however, it gave a very satisfying feeling.

What did you do? What did you learn in the time you were doing SIFE?/What added the most value for you?
I had set up an organization from scratch before so the idea itself was nothing new, so I thought. It soon became apparent that it was not so much the understanding of the process that would make or break the setup, but the people. We had a lot of individual minds in our group, which created interestingly varying perspectives but also a lot of discussion. From an efficiency standpoint these discussions might have taken up too much of our time, cutting into time we should have spent on our projects. We did however end up with a solid and balanced base for our local committee to build on. The road to achieving this taught me a lot about the virtues of social cohesion and patience.

Where is current job about?
I am still a student, but I currently co-own a recruitment agency called Van Zwieten & Company. We build custom-made recruitment events and select high potential students for traineeships at large companies. We currently work for 33 different companies, in practically every sector: KLM, Rabobank, Fortis, Towers Perrin, Randstad, Roland Berger, Boer & Croon, ORMIT, Grolsch, Loyens & Loeff, Stibbe, etc. If any alumni are pondering about their future, take a look at our website (www.van-zwieten.nl) and contact us.

Are you still involved in SIFE and in what way?
Yes, I am currently working together with a number of alumni advising the Board of SIFE Netherlands on financial issues. Besides having the perk of eating dinner at the Unilever-headquarters or having drinks in the new Ebbinge-offices (getting my competitive edge), it really gives me a chance to give something back to the organization.

Is there something you want to share with the active Dutch SIFE students?
Truly realize that you are member of a unique organization where you have the full right to initiative. Try to maximize this great chance you are offered by realizing your wildest ideas to match your ideals.

See you at the Nationals!

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DO YOU HAVE A STORY? SUBMIT IT TO: l.planjyan@sife.nl

- Check out the new SIFE Global website by searching to www.sife.org
- Check the website of SIFE the Netherlands to register for the National Competition
- Invite potential interested parties to the National Competition of SIFE