

MISSION

Whereas members aim to bring together people of different cultures, ages, and backgrounds for distinctive educational opportunities that encourage a more diverse participation; and whereas members seek to reduce the likelihood of intercultural conflicts; and whereas members commit to maintain and assure the highest principles and standards in all their activities; and whereas members seek to respond to a constantly changing world...

... the mission of Federation EIL is to facilitate its member organizations in the lifelong involvement of individuals in intercultural learning experiences. This process helps develop understanding of and respect for people throughout the world.



THE EXPERIMENT LOGO



is described as a figure of interlaced loops. Thought to be one of the oldest symbols in the world, it has been found decorating monuments at least 5,000 years old in India, Iraq, and Iran. It appeared in Egypt in the first decade of the Christian era, and in Ireland, France, Scandinavia, and northern Italy from the fourth to the 10th centuries. By the 14th century, it was being carved in marble by the Turks.

In different ages, the unbroken loops have served as good luck charms and, it is believed, have symbolized the unbroken flow of the elements, life, family, generations, and cultures. The Experiment in International Living adopted it as its logo in 1951. To us, it represents the unity of humankind — moving, meeting, passing, and returning again to the central intersections where people and cultures share deep human values. The double nature of the logo reflects a spirit of cooperation and harmony.

FEDERATION EIL

**Worldwide Network of The Experiment
in International Living**

PO Box 595, 67 Main Street
Putney VT 05346 USA
Phone +1 802 387 4210 Fax +1 802 387 5783
Email: federation@experiment.org
<http://www.experiment.org>

THE WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING



This brochure is produced with generous support from:



**WORLD
INTER
PARTNER™
CareMed International
Travel Insurance**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: GREG BOLOSKY, EXPERIMENT POLSKA,
NANCI LEITCH, SHIGERU YAMAMOTO



HISTORY

The Experiment in International Living, founded in 1932, was one of the first organizations of its kind to engage individuals in intercultural living and learning. Originating in the United States, The Experiment introduced the homestay concept to the world by carefully preparing and placing “Experimenters” in the homes of host families to study other languages and cultures firsthand.

Over the years, the organization has expanded into many countries around the globe, adding new programs along the way. Nevertheless, the original concept has remained steadfast: enabling individuals of all ages to share experiences, languages, and customs with those from different traditions, with the goals of broadening horizons, gaining lifelong friends, and advancing peace.

In 1954, Experiment national offices worldwide joined together to form Federation EIL, a Swiss-registered association, to coordinate their network of educational exchange programs. By coming together as Federation EIL, these organizations have developed — and continue to maintain — high standards of quality in the programs they conduct, and have achieved many benefits, such as greater recognition, access to partners, and the power of pooled resources for information, training, and development.



“For me, the week was all about meeting people, sharing experiences, working through issues, reaching consensus, making friends for life, and gaining a global perspective. There was always a sense of being a part of an international community.”

— Andrew, an Experimenter from Ireland on a multinational program



PROGRAMS

Federation EIL's member organizations conduct diverse programs, including:

- ~ Hosting International Visitors
- ~ Group Travel Programs
- ~ Foreign Language Training
- ~ Academic Study Abroad
- ~ Au Pair Homestays
- ~ Voluntary Community Service
- ~ Individual Homestays

In any given week, you might find a group of Japanese women participating in a homestay and cultural orientation program in New Zealand, Swiss students involved in community service projects in Ecuador, Italians studying English in Ireland, and Americans learning about the history and culture of Ghana.

All programs are not available in each country. Details and application forms can be obtained from the nearest office of The Experiment and at www.experiment.org.

AFFILIATIONS

Governed by a General Assembly that convenes annually, Federation EIL and all of its member organizations are nonprofit, nonpolitical, and nondenominational. Each member has met the standards for acceptance into the Federation and operates with autonomy. Federation EIL holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a nongovernmental organization in Category II, and with The Council of Europe. It is recognized as a Peace Messenger organization by the United Nations Secretary General. Federation EIL and its member organizations collaborate with a broad range of partners — such as schools, universities, government agencies, corporations, and fellow nongovernmental organizations — on a diverse array of projects. Please contact us to discuss how we might jointly carry out programs of intercultural learning.



People of all ages are discovering The Experiment in International Living by participating in a wide variety of educational exchange programs that are available.

