

Message from the IIC



Fifty years ago, in 1962, delegations from Newcastle-upon-Tyne (GBR) and Hamburg (GER) created the very first CISV Interchange. They had no *Interchange Guide*, no specified educational content, no fixed age groups, nor piles of forms to fill out. They were just a few CISV Junior Branch members who wanted to experience that wonderful CISV feeling that some of them had found at Village. But they discovered something even better: a meaningful understanding of one particular culture, greatly enhanced because Interchange was based within the family rather than in a camp setting. It was a great cultural dive!

The following year a second Interchange was organized between Newcastle and Oslo (NOR). Jennifer Watson was one of the delegates and you can read her account on page 3. The program gained in popularity and went through significant developments in the 1970's, described by CISV's retired Secretary General Joe Banks in his article that follows Jennifer's. You might also be interested to know that Joe also served as International Interchange Chair in the 80's.

As the Interchange program was refined, CISV—and its Founder Doris Allen—realized it provided other key benefits that were quite different from those of the Village program: the inclusion of entire families as active participants gave Chapters bigger and stronger volunteer bases because the parents had experienced CISV first-hand; and Interchange did not drain the financial resources of the hosting chapter. Interchange became an official program of CISV in 1981, and we still strive to improve its quality and integrity.

If you are interested in statistics (or even if you're not), my friend Martin Ichilevici de Oliveira (Local IC Committee, BRA) has written a wonderful piece about certain trends in Interchange (page 2). We are also grateful to other contributors: Cathy Knoop (Honorary Counsellor who is also a two-term past President of CISV International), Ana de Sampaio (former Interchange delegate and now Chair of an international committee), Sue Doris (LIC, USA), Mayra Polo (NIC, MEX), Andris Adhitra (Leader, INA), Suzy Necoechea (Leader, USA), and Kevin Candra (Junior Leader, INA). And we thank IIC member Luisa Castro Caldas (NIC, POR) for heading up the publication of this issue. Please share this special edition with all your CISV friends.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY, INTERCHANGE!

Eileen Weber (USA)
Chair, CISV IIC



"Being an Interchange leader changed my life...it was the factor that motivated me to continue to support CISV as an organization."

Cathy Knoop,
Honorary Counsellor

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Interchange in Numbers

A 50-Year Historical Overview

Since 1962, when Hamburg and Newcastle organized the first Interchange, thousands have followed it. From a slow start in the beginning, the program has grown to be one of the largest in CISV, in number of programs.

So one might ask: *How many Interchanges have happened in these 50 years? Which country took part in more programs? What has been the most common match?*

Unfortunately, the exact answers to these questions are unknown. In the past, it was not uncommon for chapters to organize programs by themselves and never report to CISV International. However, **2864** Interchanges are registered on CISV Friends, which gives us some very interesting facts.

Apart from 1976, there is little record of Interchanges prior to 1984. In that year, over **100** Interchanges took place. Then the number of programs fluctuated around the range of **90-120** until 1999, when figures started to drop. Until today, the record number of Interchanges in one year alone is **126**, in 1998. In the years since 2000, around **60-70** programs happened yearly, although growth has been seen in the last few years.

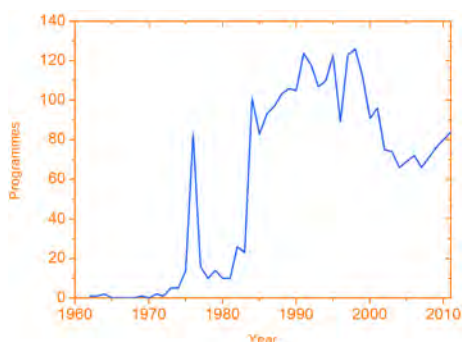


Figure 1: Number of Interchanges since 1962

Sixty-three countries have participated in Interchanges. Some don't even exist any more, such as USSR and Yugoslavia. Some participated only once, such as Guinea (with Costa Rica, 1996) and Greenland (with Poland, 1984). But the top NA is definitely the USA—it reigns as the most active, with **817** Interchanges in history. Sweden (**609**) and Italy (**568**) follow in second and third positions. Interestingly enough, together with fourth and fifth positions—Germany (**398**) and Brazil (**369**)—these five countries took part in almost half of all Interchanges in history!

COUNTRY	INTERCHANGES
United States	817
Sweden	609
Germany	398
Brazil	369
Norway	326
Denmark	296
France	287
Canada	284

Table 1: Top 10 Countries Doing Interchanges in CISV History

If we look only at the last 5 years, some positions will change, but the top countries are mainly the same. In 2007-2011, 41 countries participated in Interchanges, out of which only 26 had, on average, at least one program per year. Italy (**98**), USA (**96**) and Brazil (**63**) place as the top 3. Together with France (**60**) and Germany (**59**), these five countries also account for nearly 50% of all Interchanges in CISV's recent history!

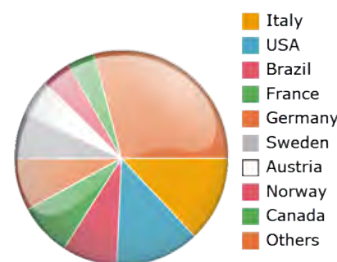


Figure 2: Distribution of Interchanges per Country, 2007-2011

Since USA and Sweden are the biggest participants in Interchanges, it is not a surprise then to find that a match between them is the most frequent in history: **119**. Tied in second are Denmark/USA and Germany/Sweden, with **75** Interchanges each. Out of the 439 different matches, around 36% have happened only once. Considering the period of 2007-2011, Germany, Italy and USA occupy the first three positions, with matches between themselves: Germany/Italy (**15**), Germany/USA (**12**) and Italy/USA (**12**). That's more than 2 every year with those partnerships!

COUNTRY 1	COUNTRY 2	INTERCHANGES
Sweden	United States	119
Denmark	United States	75
Germany	Sweden	75
Italy	United States	72
Italy	Sweden	71
Norway	United States	64
Germany	United States	59
Brazil	Sweden	55
Germany	Italy	49
Brazil	United States	48

Table 2: Top 10 Interchange Matches in CISV History

To access all the data in this article, please go to <http://bit.ly/interchange50years>

Martin Ichilevici de Oliveira, Local IC Committee (BRA)

From the 60's CISV's Second Interchange

How long is an Interchange? 4 weeks? 6 weeks? 47 years?

Perhaps you do not believe that last number! I was on the second Interchange, between Newcastle upon Tyne (GBR) and Oslo (NOR) in 1963. If you have seen my face on photographs of the first Interchange, between Hamburg (GER) and Newcastle (GBR), 1962, it is because my mother took the leadership role in Britain and so I joined in with some of the activities!

To return to my own story: after my Norwegian Interchange partner, Toril, and myself had exchanged those first visits our friendship continued to grow through 'real' letters—no email at that time and international telephone calls were too costly for anything except emergency use. When I left college in 1967, I had a travel scholarship to study in Denmark for a short time; so, of course, I travelled to Oslo first—a 40 hour trip by boat in those days rather than the short flight it is now! I have been back to Norway several times since then and have seen my Interchange partner's family grow up and take part in their own CISV activities. Every time I visit we have a big re-union of CISV friends, among them Lisbet Haaland—a member of that same Interchange and later Chair of the Interchange Committee; Arne Berge—who attended the first Village held in North East England, was also on the Interchange and later was an editor of CISV News; and Kristi Tenfjord, daughter of Jo Tenfjord, leader of the delegation from Norway to the first Village in Cincinnati 1951. We are sometimes joined by Raymond Waerdener—a participant in the first Village—and by Ketil Lehland, Nina Saugstadt and other long-term CISVers.

Due to family and work commitments, Toril has not been able to visit me as often as I have been to Norway, but she was determined to come back to Newcastle before the 40th Anniversary of our Interchange. Early April 2003 was the time when she got to see how much Newcastle has changed in the intervening years. We also managed to meet up with my brother, Roger, who lives near Oxford by arranging to meet for a day in Derbyshire, near Sheffield.

Just two years ago I went, with a cousin, on a wonderful cruise to Northern Norway. Of course we had to finish our trip in Oslo and end with a party at Toril's home and so my cousin was included in this group of special friends. I was thinking about all of them again on this past 14th August—while I was at a TTT—when they met to celebrate the wedding of CISVers from Norway and Finland.

So—a big 'Thank You' to so many members of our 1963 Interchange for your friendship over so many years.

Jennifer Watson (GBR)
Former Delegate; now Alternate Chair, Evaluation and Research Committee



Jennifer Watson, recalling lifelong friendships that began during CISV's second Interchange in 1963



Indonesian Delegation with their partners from Germany and the USA (related story on page 8)

From the 70's: Matchbox

The New System of Matching Partner NAs

In the 1970's, Interchanges were often arranged by friends in different National Associations. The older, more well-known Chapters received many offers while newer or smaller Chapters received fewer opportunities for their active Junior Branch members to participate in Interchanges.

As Vice President of the Cincinnati USA Chapter, I was attending the National Board Meeting in New York. On the plane, the Chapter President and I flipped a coin to see which of us would attend the Interchange meeting (our Chapter had experienced some problems with several of its many Interchanges), and so I was the one to complain. I should have known better, but when the National Interchange Chair asked if anyone had an idea of ways to improve the program and its administration, I said I did; and so I became a member of the CISV USA Interchange Committee.

I taught Medical Jurisprudence at the College of Medicine and heard how residents were selected by teaching hospitals. Students provided some basic information from their CV's to hospitals via a central office, while hospitals provided information about their city, as well as conditions to attract the best resident physicians. I immediately thought we could adapt this system to solve the problems in distributing Interchanges.

I hosted the National Interchange Committee at my home and we agreed to try the system to distribute Interchange invitations issued to CISV USA. The international invitations were listed by delegate age and host Chapter, and assigned a number reflecting any preference they had for a potential USA partner. The USA Chapters also assigned a number to each invitation, with the lowest number reflecting the most desired match and a zero indicating that no match was desired. The lowest mutual "score" (without a zero) when adding the two numbers together gave the best possible match. Any chapter assigning a zero had to provide a reason (bad previous experience, wrong age group, costly transportation, etc).

There was genuine excitement when the system was tried at that meeting and the USA Chapters were happy that a system of mutual selection was in place. Those Chapters who did not receive a match or who had fewer Interchanges that they wanted in round one, were noted for a second round of matches at the International Board Meeting. We notified each National Association about the system and announced that all invitations given to the USA would use this "matchbox" system.

I was invited to join the International Interchange Committee and when we met in Hamburg to draft the "new" *Interchange Guide*, the matchbox system was adopted for use internationally and approved at the International Board Meeting. At that same IBM, Interchange was approved as a "co-equal" program with standardized international participation fees. Almost at a stroke of the pen, the International budget was balanced and our new *Guide* and Matchbox System came into force. This was a major step in Interchange history, its educational content and administration, and acceptance as a quality cross-cultural activity.

Joe Banks (USA)
Retired Secretary General, CISV International



From the 80's

A Past International President Reflects

After my daughter's experience with her Interchange to Guatemala, it was easy to say yes to being a leader for my chapter's match with Finland. The two years were a fantastic experience and we still keep in touch with my Finish family. Interchange gave everyone in our group a chance to truly experience the Finish culture since all of the families really made an effort to immerse in their way of living.

We all came away with knowledge of family, arts, food and recreation, as well as a feeling for what it was like to be a Finish citizen. Hopefully the USA families also gave our partners the same sense of what it is like to live in Miami County Ohio—definitely a small-town experience!

Being an Interchange leader changed my life; it had a huge impact on the youth in our delegations; and it was the factor that motivated me to continue to support CISV as an organization."

Cathy Knoop (USA)
Former President of CISV International,
Honorary Counsellor



Interchange Fans:
Cathy Knoop,
Ana de Sampaio
and Doris Allen

From the 90's

What Doris Thought About Interchange

Have you ever wondered how our Founder viewed the various CISV programs? After all, it was the flagship program, Village, that Doris Allen worked so hard to make a reality. The other programs came about in various ways, and they all sprang from the creative minds of active CISVers who wanted to broaden the experience and offer even more opportunities for others. Some of the programs faded away or transformed into different versions of themselves. We cannot know what Doris would say about some that have become official since her death in 2002, but we do know what she thought about Interchange.

Interchange is the second oldest existing CISV program, so Doris had lots of time to watch it develop. She saw the huge impact it had on the organization, involving families far more intensely than any other CISV program and strengthening their chapters because of that involvement. She spoke positively about Interchange many times, but one statement sums up the idea that Interchangers get a one-on-one experience unlike that offered by the other programs...

At the 1997 national board meeting of CISV Canada, she simply said: "Interchange allows you to get personal."

Eileen Weber (USA)
Chair, CISV IIC

From the 80's

A First CISV Experience

I was going through my albums looking for old photos to help put together a DVD for CISV's 60th Anniversary when I came across some pictures from my very first CISV program back in the 80's: an Interchange! We were matched with the USA and I remember well the day one particular photo was taken, the last day of the first leg, when we said good-bye after spending a month in Jacksonville. We still had one year ahead to prepare for the second leg of the Interchange, when the USA delegation would come to Portugal. Those were exciting times!

I posted that photo on Facebook and tagged everyone. The comments and "likes" started pouring in and we soon realized the picture was taken 23 years ago! Wow...that is a long time.

After that first experience in the Interchange (1987-88) I continued to participate in CISV, stayed involved with CISV Portugal for many years and later got involved with CISV International. I had many wonderful experiences but I have especially good memories of that first Interchange that opened my eyes to a new world where the possibilities were endless: new friends, a new family, living in a different country and culture. And the little things (a sliding car door or going canoeing in the Ichetucknee River) helped make the whole experience unforgettable.

Ana de Sampaio (POR)
Chair, Resources Development Training Committee

From the 2000's Mexico and Portugal

In this interchange I could share the best of me, of my culture and my country. I knew closely and understood better the culture and lifestyle of another country by being part of a family. The people I met and what we shared together will be for sure a life lasting experience. But apart from the good memories, the learning and the personal growing this experience brought me, the best things are the friends I made—more than that, they are like family.

Mayra Polo (MEX)
Leader in 2008, now NIC



Delegations from Mexico and Portugal, 2008

Since 2010: Interchange as a Great Tool

Getting the Community Involved

Here (bottom of page) is a picture from our Interchange with Portugal in the summer of 2010. It was taken at the start of our Mini-camp, just a few days after the Portuguese delegation arrived.

I'm sharing this particular picture with you because it reminded me of a very generous Portuguese/American woman who made and donated the food for this meal. The woman was a business acquaintance of one of our parents, and when she heard that a delegation of Portuguese children would be coming to the Brandywine Valley (near Philadelphia, USA), she immediately offered to make a traditional Portuguese meal for our whole group. She thought that if anyone was feeling homesick, some comfort food might help.

Although I don't remember her name, or the names of food dishes she so lovingly prepared, I do remember her kindness and I believe that it was during this meal that the bonds between our delegations took root. The kids had a magical time that summer, and I believe that many of the friendships that were made will be life-long.

I'm thankful to be involved with this amazing program and look forward to each year's new Interchange experience. Congratulations to CISV for reaching this 50-year milestone!

Sue Doris (USA)
Local Interchange Chair



Delegations from Portugal and USA enjoy a traditional Portuguese meal prepared by a non-CISV community volunteer in the USA

Since 2010: Four Interchanges, One Chapter

Editor's Note: As we put the finishing touches on this newsletter, the Cendrawasih Chapter of CISV Indonesia is putting the finishing touches on four Interchanges, all 2011 matches that began last June-July. All four of their partner chapters hosted first, and now Indonesia is finishing their hosting of four delegations during December 2011-January 2012. The following articles and photos were submitted while those hosts phases were still in progress, by very busy leaders and LICs. Wow!

Part 1: France and Indonesia

For three weeks in December 2011/January 2012, the Chapter Cendrawasih Chapter of CISV Indonesia hosted 6 delegates from CISV Alsace—Strasbourg, France. This was the continuation of the Interchange program in Strasbourg on July-August 2011.

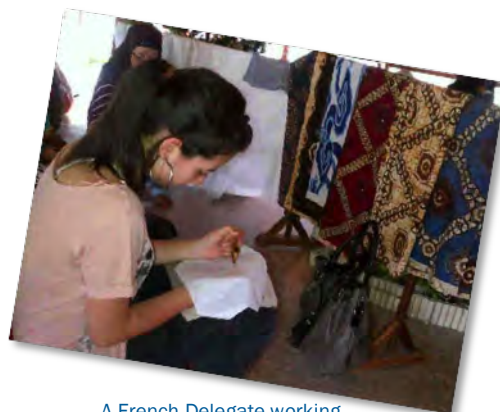
The French delegation visited Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, a spot built as Indonesia Miniature park, where they learned about the culture of Indonesia. Together with their partners the delegation visited Bali pavilion and learn Balinese dancing. After, the delegation visit Yogyakarta pavilion and had a chance to see Wayang Kulit (The Shadow Puppet Theatre of Indonesia). To be involved even more on learning the local and tradition of Indonesia, they visited cultural center, and learn "Saman Dance" from Nagroe Aceh Darussalam, the northernmost part of Indonesia (listed as one of the UNESCO Heritage Sites of Indonesia), and they wore traditional Indonesian clothes.

Cultural activities are becoming one of the main activities of the hosting program of CISV IC Chapter Cendrawasih Indonesia. In addition, the delegation will also have a social program with the youth community in Indonesia.

Andris Adhitra (INA)
Adult Leader



Delegates and Leaders from France model some traditional Indonesian clothing during their travel phase

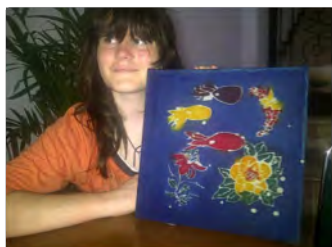


A French Delegate working on her Batik design



Since 2010: Four Interchanges, One Chapter

Part 2: Indonesia and USA



A USA Delegate proudly shows her use of the Batik technique

As I write this (December 2011), the second phase of the San Francisco/Jakarta Interchange is in full swing. I am happy to announce that all delegates are enjoying their time together to the fullest, sharing their cultures with one another and learning about the routines of daily life.

The San Francisco delegation arrived in Jakarta on December 17th with min-camp beginning on December 20th in Bandung. In addition to engaging in a variety of peace-education games and activities, the delegates visited 'Tangkuban Perahu' Crater where they soaked their feet in the hot springs, sampled boiled eggs, and took a hike through the forest. Following that, the delegates visited Bandung's 'Tree Top' ropes course, where they bonded and encouraged one another to face their fears.

The second day of mini-camp included a day of swimming and a visit to Saung Udjo, where



A USA Delegate tackles a ropes course during his Mini-camp in Indonesia

delegates learned about the process of making Angklung instruments out of three different types of bamboo. At Saung Udjo, delegates also got the opportunity to enjoy an Angklung concert with dance performances, as well as playing songs and learning traditional Indonesian dances.

As we move toward the end of our stay in Indonesia, both delegations are continuing to learn about each other's cultures and traditions, making lasting global friendships that will help to create peace today and for our future generations.

Suzy Necochea (USA)
Adult Leader

Since 2010: Four Interchanges, One Chapter

Part 3: Leaders' Family Week

It's quite astonishing that there were 4 interchange programs happening in an overlapping manner in CISV Indonesia in 2011-12: matches with France, Germany, Sweden and USA. The hosting Leaders from Indonesia used this rare opportunity to have a trip to Tidung Island with all the leaders while the delegates were enjoying their 5 days of Family Week.

So why did we choose Tidung Island? It is the largest island in the group called the Thousand Islands. The island has an area of about 109 ha and a population of about 5000 people. The name Tidung means a shelter, because the island is often used as a place of refuge from pirates.

The trip was amazing for all of the leaders that were involved. We were able to experience the uniquely simple lifestyle of the local people, like the way food was served, types of food available, and the way we ate our meals—naturally, with our *bare hands!* The people around the island were really warm and nice. We managed to do many different fantastic activities there, and the best was *snorkeling*. During snorkeling, we managed to see the beauty of the coral reefs and fishes that gave us a sense of peace and serenity. We also did other water activities, like jumping off the Bridge of Love (that's how the local people called it). It was a bridge of around 10 meters high; we really had a good time jumping from it to the sea.

For some of the leaders, the last 3 days and 2 nights were tough and difficult; they had to adapt to the lifestyle and foods of the local environment. At the same time, at the end of the day, we had come to an understanding that what happened had made each of us a more 'rich' person in terms of knowledge and experience. We love CISV –INTERCHANGE.

Kevin Candra (INA)
Junior Leader



Leaders from France, Germany, Indonesia, Sweden and the United States enjoy time together during their mutual Family Weeks



Your International Interchange Committee, ready to party in celebration of 50 years of our favorite CISV program—
(top row, left to right): Barbara (USA), Micha (GER), Ilza (BRA), Semira (ITA), Luisa (POR), Yulia (INA)
(bottom row, left to right): João (BRA), Christine (FRA), Ayat (EGY), Eileen (USA), Manu (GER)