



**Number 3**  
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# OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA FEDERATION EUROPE

## International Weekend for Young People in Paris

By Anne-Miek Vroom (OIFE youth-coordinator)

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### The OIFE

- \*Represents their members on a European level
- \*Presents the problems and needs of people with OI to national and international organizations
- \*Collects and publishes information about OI
- \*Promotes research on all aspects of OI
- \*Supports member-societies by the exchange of information and experiences

[www.oife.org](http://www.oife.org)

All young people with OI from Europe were invited by the French association (AOI) to join on an international weekend in Paris. So, I went on April 27<sup>th</sup> by Thalys to Paris. That was my first train-experience and I liked it a lot. It was very comfortable and I arrived still full of energy on Gare du Nord. I was glad I took a friend of mine, Oda, with me because it was hard to get the wheelchair on the train. And of course she was great company.

In the afternoon we arrived by taxi at the FIAP. It is some kind of a youth-hotel with a few rooms for disabled people. We had dinner together and an introduction round. There were about 25 participants from Norway, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and of course France. It was great to meet one another. The next day, there was a meeting about sports in the morning.

After lunch we went to Versailles. It was a really beautiful palace, I was very impressed about it. We were so lucky that a Belgium couple and my friend and I were able to visit the gardens, too. We rent a car (like on a golf-link) and watched the garden. The weather was great and we made very nice pictures.

After this visit we went back to the hotel and had dinner at a nice restaurant. Most people went for a couple of drinks in the bar. I was very tired at the end of the day, but some of the participants enjoyed Paris till the morning. At eight we already had breakfast again and we were on a bus trip to see the most important buildings of Paris. It was great to see for example the Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower and the Arc of Triumph. Back at the hotel we had to say goodbye to everybody and a taxi brought us back to the station. All together it was a great experience with a lot of nice contacts all over Europe. It was great to see such beautiful architecture of Paris, but most important where the meetings and talks to young people from other countries. I hope we keep in touch!



Sightseeing in Paris!

## European OI Youth Weekend in Denmark 2008

Organized by the Danish Youth Coordinators with OIFE support.

### Editor:

[editor@oife.org](mailto:editor@oife.org)

Hello everybody,

As you maybe know or have heard of, we are planning a OI youth weekend in Denmark next year in August. We will send out a public invitation to all via OIFE when we have everything planned. The place will be held in Jutland, but before deciding the precise place, we have to know how many people are coming.

The plan is that people arrive on a Thursday and leave again on Sunday. There will be a

daytrip on Saturday where we will show you some Danish culture, but the main thing of the weekend, is the social time together and meeting new people with OI from Europe. The precise plan of all the events we will send to you with the final invitation.

At the weekend, there will also be some helpers and some medical students knowing the OI for some physical assistance. For those how arrive by plane we will arrange transport from- and to the airport.

The price will be approximately **130 euros pr. participant**.

**Tarifs:**

*The price will include a full package with rooms, food, visits and transportation.*

*For all the participants **neither** the cost for transport and return home or incidental expenses (phone, drinks, bears outside the meal) is included.*

**Conditions of registration:**

- *You must be aged between 15 to 30 years old.*
- *If you are handicapped and have an invalidity card, you must have your card with you at the time of the residence*
- *If you are under 18 years, an official parental authorization is required.*

If you would like to come, please send a mail to: [oife\\_denmark@hotmail.com](mailto:oife_denmark@hotmail.com) that you have interest in coming.

**Remember this is no public signup or registration - Just a help for us knowing how many people are coming and what to expect.**

Sincerely The Danish OI Youth Coordinators  
*Rune, Michael, Morten, and Mads*

## **A wonderful OI, HOI (Help OI Foundation) and OIFE-success story**

**How it began:** Moira asked for braces some years ago, she lives on the Philippines and could not walk independently - without help she would have had to stop her studies at college!

With our help she got a used wheelchair from Germany (for 42 € transport costs, the rest we organized for free), she received a little amount of money to pay for her school fees - and you can read below how lucky and happy she is today!! This shows again how much our work is worth while!!

**And here is what Moira is reporting:**

“There's so much that happened over the past years... I must say that after passing the board exam, I had a lot of expectations when it comes to finding a job, but I was wrong, I had to hurdle yet another challenge.

Despite my qualifications, I was surprised that people - especially. employers would still look at my physical disability, it really hurt me a lot. There was even a job I was applying for wherein my application was railroaded, it was so hard to convince people that I can do what I can do, but still I never lost hope.

Almost two years has passed since I graduated and still I didn't have a regular job, so I tried applying in Manila through the internet last year, and luckily there were 2 employers who were interested. I went to Manila without my mom, only my aunt who could stay with me only for a month. I would be staying with my 2 cousins, that was on late June of last year, 2006. When I had my interview the following day after I arrived in Manila, I was so relieved and thankful that I was hired immediately!! I worked as a personal accountant of a prominent family in Forbes, Makati.

But then things didn't go well with my cousins, and so after six months I decided to go back home here in Dumaguete, since the position I was applying for in our provincial government was on the works. Early January of this year I was called to process my papers, and finally last February 1, I started my current work here as accountant in the provincial accountant's office. I was greatly thankful to God because he found a way for me to be able to work and at the same time I could be with my family. I went through a lot of frustrating experiences but still God's love prevailed :)

I still have the wheelchair the OIFE organized for me but I'm planning to have a dog assistant in the near future for my independence”



Moira (middle) with her two cousins

**Blackboard:**

**Calendar:** The next Scientific OI meeting will take place in Ghent, Belgium from October 16th till October 18th 2008.