

## ICASSI 2001 Elspeet, The Netherlands

The story of ICASSI 2001 has an unfortunate beginning. When the participants gathered at the closing dinner in Zuoz in the summer of 2000 they were shown a wonderful presentation announcing the next ICASSI site: a kibbutz in Israel. ICASSI was planned to take place at the Ramat Rachel Hotel on a hilltop south of Jerusalem from July 15 to July 28, 2001. Participants and faculty were really keen on ICASSI returning to Israel after more than twenty years, the booklets describing the Israel ICASSI ready for the printer. By October 2000 it was clear that ICASSI could not safely go to Israel for 2001. In late September the world heard the news about the second intifada, and the ICASSI Board and Chairpersons had to cancel ICASSI 2001 in Israel. A last minute alternative location needed to be found.

How can one find a site for more than 250 people in the few months that were left until summer 2001? A place suitable for a conference like ICASSI, with an auditorium, classrooms and enough rooms for all the participants?



ELSPEET! A small village in the Netherlands with the Mennorode congress center situated in a forest: peaceful, silent, modern, and able to fulfill most of the needs for ICASSI – This was made possible by Theo Joosten, from the Netherlands, one of the ICASSI co-chairs. Once the site was confirmed, a whole new booklet needed to be printed..

Many of the participants who come to ICASSI regularly, and have stayed on different ICASSI sites all over the world, agree that Mennorode is one of the best locations for ICASSI.

A big tent was set up between the buildings which hosted the Bloc I presentations and Bloc IV activities. Classrooms and accommodation were close together, and participants could easily enjoy taking a break between the courses by going to their rooms or a walk in the lovely woods surrounding the center. The food was wonderful, and particularly special for most of the participants was the terrace: situated between two wings of the building. The terrace was a step from classrooms, accommodation, the dining hall and the bar, with light furniture easily moved. It was a lovely setting for chatting or having a cup of coffee or tea after dinner. A further delight was the wonderful warm evenings with singing on the terrace, led by Catherine Conway and the musicians from Puerto Rico and Turkey. Next to the big group from Puerto Rico of eight people who were encouraged to come by Mary Alice Lausell, was a group of five teachers from Turkey, mostly joining ICASSI for the first time.



The intimacy of the venue at Mennorode led to an intense learning experience, and to mention a few of the well known faculty we had Zivit Abramson, Rachel Shifron and Yoav Shoham from Israel, Yvonne Schürer, Nani Wirth and Erika Echle from Switzerland, Lotte Rosenberger, Gerhard Baumer and Helmut Heuschen from Germany. They taught classes on parent education, the use of early memories for determining career choices, cooperation in school, self awareness, couple counseling, and encouragement. Roy Kern held his Leadership and Management Institute, and Anita Ehlers and Elli Planta helped the participants with their translation.