

AEHT ACTIVITIES REPORT

for the 2006/2007 academic year

1. 19th Annual Conference in Killarney, Ireland, November 7th – 12th 2006

Fáilte Ireland in association with the Irish Institutes of Technology organized and hosted the 19th annual conference and competitions of the AEHT in Killarney from 7th to 12th November 2006.

Once a year, always in a different country, we hold the Annual conference of the AEHT, consisting of student competitions in various disciplines. During the Killarney event there were 9 competitions: Pastry, Culinary Arts, Cook/Serve, Restaurant Service, Bar, Hospitality, Front Office, Tourism and Management. A Hygiene award was also presented for the first time.

Main Objectives:

The main objectives of the 2006 AEHT Conference was to promote a European outlook among hotel and tourism schools by, among other things:

- Providing a showcase for the professionalism, skills and careers in Tourism
- Enhancing the image and professionalism of hospitality education in Ireland
- Encouraging contacts between schools throughout Europe
- Promoting better knowledge of the Irish education system
- Facilitating networks of teachers and students
- Sharing teaching methods, materials, skills and knowledge.

A further objective was to ensure that all delegates would have an opportunity to experience at first hand the very best of Ireland's cultural, sporting and social activities.

The 19th Annual conference attracted 660 delegates: 130 Directors, 227 Teachers and 285 Students from 136 Schools from 32 Countries.

Parallel to the competitions, a careers exhibition was organized and this attracted approximately 800 young students and pupils from the secondary schools in the Cork/Kerry region of Ireland.

The participants stayed at the Brehon Hotel and Gleneagle Hotel and Apartment Complex in Killarney, and the competitions were held at both the INEC (Irish National Event Centre) in Killarney and the Institute of Technology in Tralee.

The opening and closing ceremonies were held in the INEC.

Several excellent seminars were held in the Brehon Hotel next to the INEC. Dame Geraldine Keegan led the seminar on 'Implementing and sustaining Change within the Education Sector', Ben Tiggelaar on 'Creating change in Education and Industry' and John McKenna (Food writer and critic) and the NCCRI (National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism) on 'Challenges of Working in a Culturally Diverse Workforce'.

Guided walking tours, excursions, visits to various hotels and spas as well as set dancing workshops and gaelic sports demonstrations were provided with evening social events for students and teachers alike. Threaded throughout the duration of the conference was exposure to authentic traditional Irish music, song and dance.

The organisation of this conference and competitions was a big challenge for Fáilte Ireland and the Institutes of Technology, but at the same time it was an opportunity to promote the professionalism of the hospitality and tourism industry in Ireland in the 21st century.

The organizers are convinced that this conference has made a major contribution to the promotion of Killarney and Ireland as a tourist destination and that it was an event in which all of the organizers took great pride.

(Extract of the final report of the organizing committee)

A. Statistics:

- There were **660 participants** from **136 schools** located in **32 different European countries**, distributed as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| - Total number of participants: | 660 |
| • Directors | 130 |
| • Teachers | 227 |
| • Students | 285 |
| • Accompanying persons and other invitees (interpreters, journalists, ACCOR, AEHT head office staff, etc.) | 18 |
| - Organising committees: | 180 |
| • Teachers | 30 |
| • Collaborators | 12 |
| • Students | 130 |
| • Administrative and technical staff | 8 |

Comparison with previous years:

| Year | Location | Organising Country | Schools | Participating Countries | Participants |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2006 | Killarney | Ireland | 136 | 32 | 660 |
| 2005 | Antalya | Turkey | 130 | 31 | 646 |
| 2004 | Bled | Slovenia | 135 | 34 | 620 |
| 2003 | Copenhagen | Denmark | 140 | 28 | 564 |
| 2002 | San Remo | Italy | 139 | 29 | 705 |
| 2001 | Linz | Austria | 105 | 33 | 601 |
| 2000 | Berlin | Germany | 120 | 23 | 641 |
| 1999 | Luxembourg | Luxembourg | 127 | 24 | 940 |
| 1998 | Faro/Vilamoura | Portugal | 123 | 21 | 640 |
| 1997 | Zandvoort | Pays-Bas | 115 | 23 | 596 |
| 1996 | La Rochelle | France | 101 | 19 | 814 |
| 1995 | Göteborg | Sweden | 107 | 20 | 620 |
| 1994 | Portrush | Northern Ireland | 75 | 16 | 393 |
| 1993 | Sciacca | Italy | 75 | 15 | 500 |

Participation in the events mentioned below:

| | |
|--|------------|
| • Taste of Ireland, a dining experience in Killarney Restaurants | 709 |
| • Traditional Pubs | 640 |
| • Muckcross Gardens | 15 |
| • Walk on “Old Mining Trail” | 120 |
| • Killarney “Spa Town” | 40 |
| • Set dancing | 80 |
| • GAA Sports demonstration | 40 |
| • Make, Bake and Taste | 140 |
| • Excursions: | |
| - Full day Dingle Peninsula | 470 |
| - Walk in National Park | 20 |
| - Walk on Rossbeigh Beach | 30 |
| - Participation in the Competitions: | |
| - Number of competitors: | 282 |
| • Bar | 34 |
| • Restaurant Service | 40 |
| • Culinary Arts | 65 |
| • Pastry | 28 |
| • Front Office | 36 |
| • Management | 16 |
| • Tourism Promotion | 35 |
| • Cooking/Service | 20 |
| • Hospitality | 8 |

B. Financial Report:

| | in EUROS (€) |
|---|-----------------|
| Income: | 435.835 |
| Conference fees | 339.835 |
| AEHT Contribution to interpreting costs | 3.000 |
| Sponsors | 93.000 |
| Expenditure: | 448.019 |
| Accommodation (full board) | 329.156 |
| Airport transfers | 12.670 |
| Competition costs | 46.084 |
| Cultural activities | 43.601 |
| Seminars and meetings | 16.508 |
| Difference (shortfall): | - 12.184 |

NB. : The shortfall was met by contribution from Fáilte Ireland

Don't miss Jo Laegny's amazing report of the event, lavishly illustrated by his photographs, available now on the AEHT's website at www.aeht.eu.

Our very warm thanks for their personal commitment go to Fáilte Ireland Team

Anne Dearey
Mary Owens
Kevin Moriarty
Eckhard Gogsch
Pauline Lyne

and to the students and staff of the Killarney Fáilte Ireland Training Centre, as well as to the Institutes of Technology in Ireland along with their directors and staff, in particular to the Tralee Institute of Technology Team, Faculty and Students, especially Mary Rose Stafford Head of Department and Brian O'Connor Head of School.

The Competition Committees including 40 staff members chaired by Eoin McDonnell from the Irish Panel of Chefs made us proud.

Our very special thanks go to all sponsors of the competitions for their invaluable financial and material support. Many thanks also to the Irish National Events Centre Management Team, especially Breffni Ingerton and Patrick O Donaghue.

2. Competitions Sub-committee

Following discussions about arrangements for the competitions which took place during the San Remo Annual Conference, the AEHT Presidium set up a competitions sub-committee with the remit of revising the competition rules which are an integral part of the AEHT's House Rules (article 17.1.4).

Membership of the sub-committee consists of Anne Dearey, committee chair (Fáilte Ireland, Dublin), Asdis Vatnsdal (Kopavogur, Iceland), Romana Bauer (Bad Leonfelden, Austria) and Helena Cvikl (Maribor, Slovenia); the committee refined the rules a first time in Senigallia in December 2003 and proceeded to a second revision at the Bled Annual Conference in October 2004; the final revision was carried out after the Killarney conference in November 2006.

In order to provide the most relevant guidance to the Jesolo Lido conference organisers, the sub-committee travelled there in February 2007 at the same time as the Executive Board. The sub-committee's presence there turned out to be extremely useful, since the organisers were offered a lot of advice enabling them to avoid certain recurrent problems, as well as answers to many questions of a practical nature. We should therefore plan for the sub-committee to take part each year in the conference preparation meeting in February/March (the same date as that of the Executive Board) which generally takes place at the organising school.

However, at its meeting in Ponta Delgada in the summer of 2007 the Presidium took the opportunity to refine certain parts of the competition rules. The new version of the rules is now available on the AEHT website, www.aeht.lu. The organisers of the Annual Conferences are requested to adopt this new set of rules, while retaining their prerogative of adapting their competitions to local customs and conditions.

It has been decided to rename the competitions sub-committee 'Event Guidelines Committee' and to ask the committee not only to undertake the on-going review of the competition rules, but also to contribute to the drafting of organisers' guidelines for seminars and other events organised by AEHT member schools.

3. Seminars

Seminar entitled ‘White Truffles – from Traditional to Contemporary Culinary Arts’, Porec, Croatia

This seminar is scheduled to take place at the "ANTONA STIFANICA" hotel and tourism school in Porec on September 26th-29th 2007 – so had not yet taken place by the time this report was written. The programme contains several lectures on the subject of white truffles, visits and practical workshops relating to the truffles and their use in the kitchen from ancient times to the present day, as well as excursions to places of historical and/or cultural interest. There are still places available.

Workshop entitled ‘On the Trail of Tasty Game’, Rzeszow, Poland

This seminar is scheduled to take place at the ZSG hotel and tourism school in Rzeszow on September 26th-30th 2007 – so had also not yet taken place by the time this report was written. The organisers have planned several excursions and visits (guided tour and lecture on culinary traditions relating to wild boar at Lancut castle, visit to a vodka factory, visit to historical sites and museums, boat trip, etc) as well as a presentation and tasting of dishes based on wild boar prepared by students, practical sessions relating to the theme, etc. Roll up, roll up!

4. Conferences and other events

‘Eurocup 2006’ competition for young bar staff, Prešov, Slovakia

71 participants including 42 participants from 13 AEHT member schools in seven different countries competed in the 14th international competition for young bar staff, Eurocup 2006, which took place on November 21st-23rd in Prešov. The event closely followed the advertised programme.

The winners of the Eurocup 2006 competitions are as follows:

- Short drink
 1. Ildžová Ivana (ZSŠ J. Andraščíka Bardejov)
 2. Domin Rastislav (SOU SD Jednota Námestovo)
 3. Miščík Ľubomír (SOU SD Jednota Prešov)

- Soft drink
 1. Hirjáková Zuzana (ZSŠ hotelových služieb Humenné)
 2. Ferenčíková Ivana (HA Námestovo)
 3. Dunajová Dominika (SOU spol. stravovania Horný Smokovec)

- Overall winners in the ‘individual’ category:
 1. Domin Rastislav (SOU SD Jednota Námestovo) – putovný pohár riaditeľa HA Prešov
 2. Marjová Miroslava (ZSŠ hotelových služieb a obchodu Michalovce)
 3. Korenková Júlia (SOU spol. stravovania Horný Smokovec)

- Overall winners in the ‘team’ category:
 1. ZSŠ hotelových služieb a obchodu Michalovce – putovný pohár primátora Prešova
 2. SOU spol. stravovania Horný Smokovec
 3. SOU SD Jednota Prešov

- Miss Eurocup 2006: Wróbel Katarzyna (ZSP Pionki)
- Nestlé Prize for the best garnish: Pavol Krajňák (HA Prešov 1)
- Slovak Barman Association Prize:
Petruľáková Mária (ZSŠ hotelových služieb a obchodu Spišská Nová Ves)
- President of the County of Prešov's Prize: Miščík Ľubomír (SOU SD Jednota Prešov)
(the best individual contestant from Prešov County apart from those who have already received prizes)
- Prize for the best foreign team: ZSG Rzeszow
(prize donated by Stanislav Kubánek, a Slovak member of parliament)
- Prize for the best foreign individual entrant: Makosa Jacek (ZSP Pionki)
(prize donated by Stanislav Kubánek, a Slovak member of parliament)

Another edition of the prestigious Eurocup competition will take place in Prešov on November 14th 2007. Don't forget to register!

2nd and 3rd International 'Antonio Nebbia' Hot Food Competition, Cingoli, Italy

Two editions of the International 'Antonio Nebbia' Hot Food Competition took place in Cingoli (Italy) during the last academic year on the theme of 'Farmyard Animals: an ancient source of wealth, a highly prized main meal and an alternative protein source in a modern diet'. The 2006 competition (the second version of this contest) took place on October 27th–November 3rd 2006, while the third version took place on February 25th-28th 2007. The AEHT provided a subsidy for the 2006 version, although despite the great success of this event it was unable to do so in 2007 because of limited financial resources and the need to distribute subsidies fairly. Nevertheless the Head Office has always provided logistic support to the organiser and has sent out information about this event to the AEHT membership via e-mail and via the website.

'GASTRO2007' Gastronomy Competition, Vodice, Croatia

The Croatian schools' national gastronomy competition 'GASTRO 2007' took place on March 22nd-24th in Vodice (near Sibenik) on the northern Dalmatian coast in a beautiful coastal resort. The event was organised by the Sibenik hotel and tourism school, which has recently become an AEHT member. The event could not be co-financed by the AEHT since the school was not yet an Association member when the 2007 subsidies were allocated.

The two-day programme included many contests, bringing together 400 students, teachers and directors from 34 Croatian schools and from six AEHT schools in other countries. The contests were between school-based teams, and the students had to demonstrate their practical knowledge in culinary arts, food service, flambé work, bar, front office and tourism.

The candidates were expected to bring their own equipment and ingredients, and were free to prepare the dishes of their own choice, seeking inspiration from the specialities of their own regions. In addition to the menus prepared and served by each school for a table of six, there were exhibitions of cold and hot dishes. The event is subsidized by the Croatian government and has achieved increasing success over a period of more than ten years. Several years ago it was opened up to AEHT member schools from other countries.

‘Springtime in Gastronomy 2007’ Festival, Budapest, Hungary

The concept of ‘springtime in gastronomy’ is modelled on that of Christmas in Europe; this fourth version took place on March 26th-31st 2007 at the Giorgio Perlasca hotel school in Budapest.

Six delegations from four countries, including five AEHT member schools from four different countries, travelled to Budapest to take part in this event, a special version because it coincided with the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Budapest school.

The participants were the teams from Bonneville (France), Porec and Split (Croatia), Örebro (Sweden) and Prešov (Slovakia) and the students from the Italian partner school in Abano Terme near Padova together with their Hungarian counterparts. They took part in:

- The exhibition of tables decorated according to the Easter traditions in their respective countries
- The gastronomic spring buffet
- The modest cultural programme related to the central theme of springtime.

The participants also enjoyed the guided tours of Pest, Buda, the Dreher brewery and a memorable excursion to one of the most beautiful of the Danube bends (Duna in Hungarian).

The AEHT was represented by its president Louis Robert who participated in part of the programme and thanked the organisers most warmly in his speech at the closing dinner.

Fourth Annual Festival of Gastronomy: Sport and Health in Faro, Portugal

The fourth version of this event, on the theme of tennis, took place on April 18th-21st 2007 in Faro, Portugal and received a subsidy from the AEHT. 31 participants from eight member schools in three countries (Italy, Portugal, Spain) attended the event, which consists of three parts: 1: culinary arts and food service tests, 2: a seminar and 3: sports activities relating to the main theme. Members of the AEHT Presidium have had the privilege of participating in one of the versions of this festival and have thus seen at first hand the high quality of the organisation and content; the Presidium is therefore concerned about the low attendance from countries outside Portugal and would like to encourage as many schools as possible to attend the event next year. In order to give members of foretaste, the Presidium has decided to include in the next edition of the CD-ROM yearbook a shortened version (to be provided by the organisers) of the video made at the event.

Culinary Festival on the theme of ‘European Springtime Culinary Traditions’ held at the Sunny Beach resort, Bulgaria

The purpose of this festival, which took place on April 24th-28th 2007, was to present the participating schools’ typical national traditions of table setting and decoration, and to present dishes, tastings and assortments of foods as well as cocktails from their respective countries. The programme also enabled participants to get to know the culinary and historical heritage of Bulgaria and of the Black Sea region in particular. Because of budget constraints the AEHT was unable to co-finance this event, although it provided logistical support to the organisers.

Competition for Hotel Reception Employees, Giulianova, Italy

A new concept is born in Giulianova! A skilful combination of applied pedagogy, flair at organising events and a meeting of young people engaged in a common project, this competition, created by the IPSSARCT ‘L. Di Poppa’ in Giulianova, has all the makings of a new concept.

From May 10th – 13th 36 delegations from 11 countries (Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and 17 Italian schools) took up the challenge and made their way to Giulianova, a prestigious resort on Italy’s Adriatic coast to take part in this third competition for hotel reception employees, and in the first ‘tourism in town’ competition.

The opening ceremony followed AEHT tradition with flags, the European anthem, the inaugural parade with participants' national anthems and finally an elegant dancing display performed by students.

The following day the delegations were active behind their stands in the streets of Giulianova, handing out documents, showing off hand-made produce and giving polished presentations – in the AEHT's languages – giving dancing displays in traditional costume and offering their regional speciality food and specially compiled CDs: all of this was intended to persuade the local inhabitants, passing tourists but especially the international judging panel of this first tourism competition, to choose the students' particular region as their next holiday destination!

Following AEHT traditions the results of the two competitions were announced in a highly animated atmosphere. Special commendations went to:

- Natalya Inkina from Nizhny-Novgorod, Russia and Marc Caspersen from Copenhagen, Denmark for reception;
- Suzanna DeJuan from Palma de Majorca, Spain for tourism.

The winners of the reception competition - Homage to Lady Dina Migliori - were:

- 1st prize: Slobodan Bognovic - Porec – Croatia;
- 2nd prize: Melissa Rossi - Brescia – Italy;
- 3rd prize: Adela Stiber and the team from Pula – Croatia.

The winners of the tourism prize - Homage to Luca Gabrielli – were:

- 1st prize: Malin Danielson from Leksand - Sweden
- 2nd prize: Laima Guste and the team from Riga - Latvia
- 3rd prize: Jessica Di Fiume and the team from Arma Di Taggia - Italy

This school also won the first prize awarded by the citizens of Giulianova.

In addition a Gold Cup was also awarded to the student who performed best in both the reception and the tourism competitions. Thus seventeen-year-old Ainsì Davide Alfonsi from the Pinerolo school in Italy, won a course at a foreign language school and his school was awarded a trophy which will be competed for each year. In view of the success of the competition the organisers plan to repeat this outstanding event in 2008. Remember to register early!

5. Christmas in Europe in Örebro, Sweden, December 9th – 14th 2006

To mark the 15th version of Christmas in Europe – an event which is now a well-established AEHT tradition – 81 enthusiastic students and teachers from 16 schools in 13 European countries made their way to Örebro, about 200 kms from Stockholm, from December 9th-14th 2006:

1. AL 01 - Tirana
2. A 01 – Bad Ischl
3. A 07 - Semmering
4. B 19 – Rance
5. EE 01 - Kuressaare
6. F 02 - Marseille
7. F 80 - Château Chinon
8. GR 01 - Crete
9. H 01 - Budapest
10. I 02 - Panzini
11. I 113 – Reggio Emilia
12. L 01 - Diekirch

13. PL 02 – Poznan
14. P 01 - Mirandela
15. SLO 01 - Bled
16. S 04 - Örebro

As soon as they arrived the delegations made their way to the brand new sports hall of the organising school, the Virginska Skola in Örebro, to set up their exhibition stands under the watchful gaze of Sheila Nordström, the international coordinator, and of Björn Sterner, head of the school's hospitality studies department. A few hours later each stand boasted a carefully dressed Christmas tree, a tailor's dummy presenting the country's or region's traditional costume, a table decorated in traditional Christmas fashion and a display of Christmas specialities of the country represented.

On Sunday December 10th the inaugural parade set off in the late morning from the City Hotel to the school, passing through the pedestrian area with the AEHT and Swedish flags carried at its head, followed by 'Mother Christmas' (Christiane Keller) flanked by Alfonso Benvenuto and Klaus Enengl, two AEHT vice-presidents.

The official inauguration of the event took place in the school's entrance hall in the presence of Staffan Werme, mayor and president of the city of Örebro. The exhibition was an enormous success: according to the organisers it attracted 1,600 students as well as many individual visitors from Örebro and the surrounding area.

For organisational reasons the cultural contributions which each delegation has to present during their stay were divided into two. The first part took place in the Virginska Skolan's auditorium on Sunday December 10th at around 22.00, the second part on the evening of December 12th following the gargantuan medieval banquet served at the Gällerstas Forngård. The finale of the evening was a beautiful conga around the room, a fine demonstration of the AEHT's spirit of fraternity and peace.

Monday December 11th was partly taken up with preparations for the famous European buffet, which as in previous years gave participants the opportunity to engage in a gastronomic Grand Tour, taking in the culinary traditions relating to Christmas festivities across Europe. Those savouring the delicious buffet were joined by the chief administrator of all Örebro schools, the Reverend Bengt Ericsson as well as some of the sponsors of the event.

The closing ceremony took place on Wednesday December 13th in the presence of school administrator Johan Suedmark and of the event's sponsors. A group imitating the famous ABBA group starting playing before the parade of students who were the evening's kitchen and service teams. After the speeches each delegation was called to the platform to receive the official attendance certificate. For the ceremony of handing over the AEHT flag to the 2007 organisers, the whole of the Semmering team came onto the platform, led by Jürgen Kürner, director of the Semmering hotel school.

Christiane Keller reminded her audience of the challenge of ensuring the continuity of Christmas in Europe, whose objective is to build bridges between the different countries of Europe.

Jo Laegny's detailed report, illustrated with his photographs, may be seen on the AEHT website at www.aeht.eu.

Comparison with previous years:

| Year | Venue | Participants | Countries | Schools |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 2006 | Örebro | 81 | 13 | 16 |
| 2005 | Fundaõ | 74 | 11 | 15 |
| 2004 | Bad Ischl | 86 | 16 | 18 |
| 2003 | Senigallia | 135 | 16 | 22 |
| 2002 | Kuressaare | 70 | 12 | 14 |
| 2001 | Poznan | 150 | 19 | 20 |
| 2000 | Rhodes | 300 | 17 | 18 |
| 1999 | Bonneville | 72 | 10 | 12 |
| 1998 | Poderbrady | 70 | 12 | 13 |
| 1997 | Espoo | 92 | 14 | 15 |
| 1996 | Budapest | 90 | 11 | 13 |
| 1995 | Barcelona | 70 | 10 | 13 |
| 1994 | Copenhagen | 88 | 13 | 19 |

6. Gastronomy for Peace

At the General Assembly in Copenhagen in October 2003 a declaration of intention was signed by around 140 people (the number of signatories has increased since then); the aim was to unite all the AEHT member schools in a common project to promote world peace and combat crimes against humanity, to coincide with the Holocaust Memorial Day: the development of tourism and gastronomy depends to a large extent on world peace.

At the end of 2005 the AEHT Presidium considered the outcome of the first of these events which took place in March 2005. The schools needed more time and flexibility in order to organise this type of action. Louis Robert, who had instigated the project, suggested that he should reflect on the way forward and draw up a set of guidelines; unfortunately there has been a delay in completing the guidelines because of his other commitments as AEHT President.

7. Teacher Placements in Units of the ACCOR Group in 2007

Since 2007 the day-to-day management of these placements has been carried out by Renata DLUGASZEK, a teacher at the ‘SZKOLA POLICEALNA NR 13’ in Warsaw (Poland). A request was sent out to hotels of the ACCOR group in the spring of 2007 by Frédérique Poggi and her colleague Céline Jeantet-Gorre – both working in the Human Resources directorate of ACCOR hotels. This year 69 hotels agreed to host a teacher from an AEHT member school for a ‘period of observation’ of one or two weeks.

As of June 30th the situation was as follows; the final figures will be presented to the next General Assembly.

As of this date 34 teachers from 21 schools in 14 countries had registered for an ACCOR placement:

Countries sending participants:

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| • Austria | 3 |
| • Croatia | 2 |
| • Czech Republic | 1 |
| • Finland | 1 |
| • France | 2 |
| • Greece | 3 |
| • Italy | 2 |
| • Poland | 6 |
| • Portugal | 3 |
| • Romania | 3 |
| • Russia | 5 |
| • Slovenia | 1 |
| • Sweden | 1 |
| • Turkey | 1 |
| • TOTAL | 34 |

Almost 88.2% of participants were female; compared with last year a greater proportion of females were interested in the ACCOR placements. While the proportion of language teachers has remained much the same as last year (55.9%), the proportion of teachers of professional subjects has fallen by 9% (more than 29.4%).

Receiving hotels:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| • Ibis | 7 |
| • Mercure | 12 |
| • Novotel | 11 |
| • Sofitel | 4 |
| • Others | 0 |
| • TOTAL | 34 |

The Mercure and Novotel chains were those which hosted the largest numbers of teachers.

Countries in which the placements took place:

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| • Austria | 4 |
| • Belgium | 1 |
| • France | 10 |
| • Germany | 6 |
| • Luxembourg | 1 |
| • Netherlands | 1 |
| • Spain | 1 |
| • Switzerland | 1 |
| • United Kingdom | 8 |
| • TOTAL | 33 |

Almost a third of teachers were received by hotels in France (30.3%), and around a quarter (24.2%) by hotels in the United Kingdom.

Departments where teachers were placed:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| • Housekeeping | 8 |
| • Food production | 9 |
| • Front Office and Rooms division | 27 |
| • Restaurant | 11 |
| • Groups department and marketing | 0 |
| • TOTAL | 55 |

Please note that most teachers were placed in several departments; around half of the teachers were allocated to the Front Office and Rooms division.

Conditions applying to participating teachers:

- Free accommodation in a single hotel room;
- Free meals if these are taken with the staff; 50% reduction on meals taken in the hotel's restaurant;
- Travelling expenses reimbursed by the AEHT up to a maximum of €200;
- The teacher is present in the hotel as an observer and is not obliged to work;
- In order to cover administrative costs the AEHT makes a charge of €80 per application received, with the exception of applicants from Eastern countries which are not EU members ; this administrative charge is deducted from the travelling expenses reimbursement.

8. Meetings

Meetings of the Presidium

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| November 8 th 2006 | Killarney, Ireland |
| February 16 th 2007 | Jesolo Lido, Italy |
| July 5 th -8 th 2007 | Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal |

Meetings of the Executive Board

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| November 9 th 2006 | Killarney, Ireland |
| February 17 th 2007 | Jesolo Lido, Italy |

General Assembly

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| November 9 th 2006 | Killarney, Ireland |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|

Several illustrated articles have been written about Executive Board and Presidium meetings held in various countries – these may be read on our website at www.aeht.eu.

Council of Europe: Grouping of Education and Culture INGOs

On June 26th 2007 the General Secretary Nadine Schintgen attended the spring meeting of the Grouping of Education and Culture INGOs at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. An AEHT representative must attend at least once per year to enable us to retain the status of INGO with consultative status with the Council of Europe.

At this spring meeting the main topics for discussion were the development of the structures and operation of the INGO conference and of the groupings, as well as the reports of their activities, which are very varied and include the Council of Europe's cultural orientation ; the

conference of Education Ministers held in Istanbul; history and education, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and education in the media. A white paper on intercultural dialogue is currently being drawn up and a draft may be consulted on the Council of Europe’s website at www.coe.int.

9. Representation

Whenever possible the Presidium has assigned one of its members to represent the AEHT at the various events organised by its member schools – see table below:

| OCTOBER 2006 | EVENT | REPRESENTATIVE |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| October 27 th – November 3 rd | : 2 nd International ‘Antonio Nebbia’ Hot Food Competition entitled ‘Farmyard Animals: an ancient source of wealth, a highly prized main meal and an alternative protein source in a modern diet’, Cingoli (Italy). | Alfonso BENVENUTO |
| NOVEMBER 2006 | | |
| November 7 th -12 th | : AEHT Annual Conference in Killarney, Ireland | All members of the Presidium |
| November 21 st 23 rd | : ‘Eurocup 2006’ young bar staff competition, Prešov, Slovakia | - |
| DECEMBER 2006 | | |
| December 9 th -14 th | : Christmas in Europe, Örebro, Sweden | Alfonso BENVENUTO Klaus ENENGL |
| FEBRUARY 2007 | | |
| February 25 th -28 th | 2 nd International ‘Antonio Nebbia’ Hot Food Competition entitled ‘Farmyard Animals: an ancient source of wealth, a highly prized main meal and an alternative protein source in a modern diet’, Cingoli (Italy). | Alfonso BENVENUTO |
| MARCH 2007 | | |
| March 22 nd -24 th | GASTRO 2007 gastronomy competition, Vodice (near Sibenik), Croatia | Louis ROBERT |
| March 26 th -31 st | Springtime in Gastronomy: colours, smells and tastes at the table at Easter and Whitsun, Budapest, Hungary | Louis ROBERT |
| APRIL 2007 | | |
| April 18 th -21 st | 2007 Sport and Health Festival and Contest (on the theme of tennis), Faro, Portugal | Ana Paula PAIS |
| April 24 th -28 th | Culinary Festival, Sunny Beach-Black Sea, Bulgaria | - |
| MAY 2007 | | |
| May 10 th -13 th | Third Competition for Hotel Reception Employees, Giulianova, Italy | - |

SEPTEMBER 2007

- September 26th-29th 'White Truffles – from Traditional to Contemporary Culinary Arts', Porec, Croatia Klaus ENENGL (planned attendance)
- September 26th-30th Workshop entitled 'On the Trail of Tasty Game', Rzeszow, Poland Bogusława PIENKOWSKA (planned attendance)

Whilst in Paris for the Georges Baptiste 2007 Cup, Louis Robert held a meeting with Mr Hurstel at the Grand Marnier head office; the meeting was a very promising start to a fruitful exclusive collaboration between the company and the AEHT. In addition, at the Killarney conference in November 2006 and then at a meeting at the AEHT head office on December 20th 2006 Louis Robert and Nadine Schintgen negotiated with Mr Sevaux, the group's external relations director, a 'privileged partnership' agreement with the AEHT. The General Secretary travelled to Senigallia (Italy) in May 2007 for a meeting with Marco Esposito of the Casa della Divisa company, in order to maintain contact with this longstanding professional partner. Thanks to collaboration with this company and to the link which has been set up on the AEHT website, AEHT members are able to take advantage of very favourable prices and simplified access to information about the range of professional uniforms available.

In order to set up an innovation transfer project within the Leonardo da Vinci programme, the President and the General Secretary have had several telephone contacts and meetings with Roger Guir of ARDEMI ('Association pour la Recherche-Développement de l'Enseignement Multimédia et Interactif' – Association for Research and Development of Multimedia Interactive Education) based in Ecully (France); Mr Guir is the designer of 'Weblingua', a programme consisting of multimedia resources for on-line training in oral communication in five European languages (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish) for nine different professions within hospitality and tourism – the purpose of the project; they have also met Viviane Bisenius of 'European Concepts – Education and Integration' based in Luxembourg. These two people are very experienced in managing Leonardo da Vinci projects and if the application is successful they will be active participants in the innovation transfer project.

On June 26th 2007 Nadine Schintgen attended the spring meeting of the Education and Culture grouping of INGOs at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (for further details please see above).

In order to carry out her task as Vice-President responsible for ACCOR placements, Bogusława Pienkowska has been in regular contact with Frédérique POGGI from the Human Resources Directorate of ACCOR Hotels. In the spring of 2007 Ms Poggi visited Ms Pienkowska in Warsaw to discuss, among other matters, the proposal to send AEHT teachers to the ACCOR Academy in Evry (France). In view of the difficulty of integrating our teachers into training programmes designed for working professionals, it will be necessary to provide programmes specially organised for our teachers. Alfonso Benvenuto is also in the process of negotiating with the Barilla Academy to obtain preferential rates for our members to attend their training programmes.

Since 2005 John Rees Smith has represented the AEHT on the Leonardo da Vinci pilot project entitled 'VIRTEX' (VIRTual EXperiences: foreign language training for students preparing to undertake professional placements in hotel and restaurant units). He attended project partner meetings in Antwerp (Belgium) on December 7th-10th and in Egmond aan Zee (Netherlands) on May 24th-28th (please see 'Leonardo da Vinci projects' section below). He has also reported

on the project's progress at the various Presidium and Executive Board meetings throughout the year.

10. Publications

- **Website:** www.aeht.eu

A new website, www.aeht.eu, on which we can place promotional material from our professional partners, has been in operation since the summer of 2006. The site was created by Ahti Paju who is in charge of information technology at the Kuressaare Ametikool in Kuressaare (Estonia) and is periodically updated by the General Secretary who adds information about all the AEHT's activities. Since 2004 we have undertaken, thanks to the contributions of our national representatives, an updating of the data relating to national education systems in general and in particular to training for the hotel, restaurant and tourism professions. The Presidium requests the national representatives to check the details from time to time and to inform the AEHT Head Office of any changes required. We are currently developing a system which will enable the General Secretary and the Treasurer to update more easily members' details on the website.

Articles by the AEHT journalist Jo Laengy, on a variety of subjects, particularly the Annual Conference and Christmas in Europe, may be read on the website. We should also like to record our thanks to Christiane Keller, Louis Robert and John Rees Smith who, through their articles or their translations have greatly contributed to making the website more attractive.

Every AEHT member is invited to visit our website regularly in order to see the latest information about the AEHT's activities and any planned changes. The 'News from our Members' rubric enables each member to announce and describe activities which may be of interest to the whole Association. Views and suggestions about the form and content of the website are always welcome, and should be addressed to the AEHT Head Office.

- **AEHT 2007 Yearbook on CD-ROM**

On March 1st 2007 a new edition of the yearbook on CD-ROM, containing material for promotion of the AEHT, was sent out to the National Representatives so that they could send it out to their national membership together with the new AEHT brochure. This CD-ROM contains three sections:

- A video presentation of the association;
- Reports and a selection of photographs showing the AEHT's activities;
- An up-dated membership list and a list of the members of the new Executive Board (2006 – 2009).

Any member who has not yet received these items (CD-ROM and brochure) is requested to inform the Head Office (secretariat@aeht.lu). Any changes to contact details as published on the CD-ROM should also be notified to the Head Office as soon as possible.

- **Mail sent to AEHT members in English and French**

- Following the financial savings instituted by the Presidium at the end of 2005, mail sent by post has been replaced since that date by electronic communication (see next paragraph).

In March 2007 the only item sent out by post was the yearbook on CD-ROM and the new AEHT brochure, despatched to the National Representatives, with the request that they forward a copy of each to their national membership.

In addition, in view of the low number of AEHT members in Spain, Spanish hotel and tourism schools in that country were sent a letter encouraging them to join the AEHT.

| Date | Sent to | Contents |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| October 4 th 2006 | Members of the Executive Board | Invitation and agenda for the Executive Board and General Assembly meetings held in Killarney on November 9 th . Other appended documents: candidate slips for the elections to the Presidium, financial statement and profit and loss table. |
| March 1 st 2007 | AEHT National Representatives | New AEHT brochure and yearbook on CD-ROM including the AEHT 2007 membership list, a video presenting the association and illustrated reports of events organised by members over the last few years. Also included was a form to be used for updating member schools' contact details to be returned to the Head Office if necessary. |
| April 30 th 2007 | Spanish hotel and tourism schools | Letter and documents presenting the AEHT and inviting membership applications. |

11. Electronic Communication

Because of the budget cuts and the urgency of certain communications, the use of electronic communication has become essential. For this reason it is vital that the AEHT has a working e-mail address for all of its members. *Any member who has not received the communications listed below is requested to check that the AEHT has an up-to-date e-mail address, and that their server does not classify as 'spam' the grouped e-mails sent by the AEHT. If the mails are being treated as spam, please ensure that the system recognises secretariat@aeht.lu as a trusted sender.*

During the 2006-2007 school year the following e-mails were sent to members of the AEHT:

| Date | Sent to | Contents |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 2006 | | |
| September 21 st | All AEHT members | 2005/2006 AEHT Activities Report |
| October 3 rd | Executive Board members | Invitation and agenda for the Executive Board and General Assembly meetings to be held in Killarney on November 9th 2006. Other appended documents: activities report, financial statement and profit and loss table. |
| October 4th | All AEHT members | Invitation and agenda for the General Assembly meeting to be held in Killarney on November 9th. Other appended documents: activities report. |
| October 4th | All AEHT members | Invitation and other documents relating to EURO CUP 2006 to take place in Prešov, Slovakia |
| October 11th | All AEHT members registered for the Killarney Annual Conference | Document aimed at identifying names on a list of unidentified senders of payments received by the organisers. |
| October 13th | All AEHT members | Special offer to AEHT members from 'Casa della Divisa', an Italian professional member: mail-order sales of professional uniforms at advantageous prices. |

| Date | Sent to | Contents |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 2006 | | |
| December 19 th | All AEHT members | Marketing letter from 'Casa della Divisa', an Italian professional member. |
| December 20 th | All AEHT members | New Year greetings |
| December 28 th | Executive Board members | Invitation and agenda for the Executive Board meeting to be held in Jesolo Lido in February 2007. Various documents appended. |
| 2007 | | |
| January 22 nd | All AEHT members | Newsletter n°1 |
| March 13 th | All AEHT members | Newsletter n°2 |
| April 24 th | All AEHT members | Information about the seminar entitled 'Return to the Ice-Age – Traditional Italian Ice-Cream Making' in Senigallia, Italy; and about the workshop entitled 'On the Trail of Tasty Game' in Rzeszow, Poland |
| April 27 th | All AEHT members | Information about the teacher placements in units of the ACCOR group. |
| June 7 th | All AEHT members | Newsletter n°3 |
| July 2 nd | All AEHT members | Programme and registration form for the seminar entitled 'White Truffles – from Traditional to Contemporary Culinary Arts', to take place in Porec, Croatia on September 26 th -29 th 2007. |
| Jul 11 th | All AEHT members | Special offer to AEHT members from 'Casa della Divisa', an Italian professional member: mail-order sales of professional uniforms at preferential prices. |
| July 13 th | All AEHT members | Reminder of the deadline for early bird registrations for the Jesolo Lido conference, and information on the dress code to be observed at the various evening events arranged during the conference. |
| August 2 nd | Executive Board members | Invitation and agenda for the Executive Board and General Assembly meetings to be held in Jesolo Lido on October 17 th and 18 th 2007. |
| August 2 nd | All AEHT members | Invitation and agenda for the General Assembly meeting to be held in Jesolo Lido on October 18 th 2007. |
| August 8 th | All AEHT members | AEHT activities report 2006/2007 |

12. Leonardo da Vinci Projects

The latest call for proposals for the **Leonardo da Vinci programme** closed on March 31st 2007.

- **'VIRTEX' and 'TRANSVIRTEX' projects**

The AEHT is already a partner in the VIRTEX pilot project (VIRtUal EXperiences, providing linguistic preparation for students carrying out hotel and restaurant placements in a foreign country) submitted in 2004 by Horizon College, Alkmaar (NL); the Association has continued its collaboration with the project by agreeing to be a potential partner in the innovation transfer project involving the TRANSVIRTEX products submitted by the Budpaest-based IBCNet (Internet Business Centre) group, a provider of IT solutions.

May we remind you that the VIRTEX project, which lasts for three years, has now entered its last contractual year. The promoter has requested an extension of the contract from September 30th to December 1st to enable a presentation of the final product at a workshop during the Annual Conference in Jesolo Lido. The main aim of the project is to create language-learning materials intended for preparing students for placements in companies in the HORECA and tourism sectors in other countries. Several AEHT member schools are also involved: Bad Leonfelden (Austria), Pocerbrady (Czech Republic), Kuressaare (Estonia). The other partners are from Belgium, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands and the UK. The AEHT was represented by John Rees Smith, who attended two key VIRTEX partner meetings:

- a meeting which took place on December 7th-10th 2006 in Antwerp, Belgium. The objective of the meeting was to complete a series of sound and video recordings and to work on the student guide;
- the final VIRTEX meeting which took place on May 24th – 27th 2007 in Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands. The objective was to receive feedback from teachers who had tried out a test version as part of their teaching programme, and to incorporate final changes to VIRTEX following these pilot studies.

For further information please consult the VIRTEX project website, which may be accessed via the AEHT website.

- **‘E-LINGUA : Hotel & Tourism’ project**

On March 30th 2007 the AEHT also submitted an application, as promoter, for funding for the ‘E-LINGUA: Hotel & Tourism’ project; the objective is to transfer Europe-wide the ‘Weblingua’ programme, a bank of on-line multimedia resources for oral communication training in five European languages (English, German, Spanish, Italian and French) for nine different hotel and tourism professions (45 modules representing 140 hours of training) and containing exclusively professional scenarios relevant to each profession. The E-lingua product was developed between 2004 and 2006 as part of the Leonardo da Vinci II programme and received a European languages award in 2006.

E-lingua was initially developed for training employees in western European companies, but the AEHT was attracted by the high quality of the product and its potential to provide linguistic preparation for job mobility among young people engaged in initial training in its member schools. If successful, the project will consist of trying out the programme’s resources in new countries with students who are following an initial training programme and whose native language is not one of the five offered by the software. In the first phase we will pilot the programme in partner schools in four Eastern countries (Estonia, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia) and in one Western country (Luxembourg); then the use of the product will be extended to all of the member schools of the countries concerned. On completion of the project the AEHT wishes to enable all its member schools to make use of the product by making it available via its portal (www.aeht.eu) as well as through the distribution of copies of the CD-ROM. The AEHT will be in a position to let you know by the end of September 2007 whether the application has successfully passed the European Commission’s rigorous selection procedures.

- **GEMS project**

The AEHT has also made a considerable contribution to the Europe-wide dissemination of information on the products of the GEMS (Guidance for Educators, Mentors and Students)

project. The aim of the project is to develop a process for quality improvement and enhancement of the learner's experience in a workplace environment within the hospitality and food sectors across Europe.

The project will follow a series of stages: initial desk research to establish existing workplace learning practices; creation of quality indicators and a guidebook for trainers and learners; production of a training programme for identified trainers, implementation of a pilot study to test the process, evaluation, amendment and launch of final product.

Further information is available on the GEMS Internet site, which may be accessed via the AEHT website. We plan to arrange a presentation about the project during the forthcoming Annual Conference in Jesolo Lido.

13. Promotional Material

A new version of the AEHT 'pin badge' was created in 2006. May we remind you that ties, fashionable scarves and other items bearing the AEHT logo are on sale via the AEHT website. You can download an order form and send it to the AEHT General Secretary (secretariat@aeht.lu). Some items may also be purchased during the 2007 Annual Conference in Jesolo Lido.

August 2007

Louis ROBERT
AEHT President

Nadine SCHINTGEN
AEHT General Secretary

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