

# ESHA Newsletter



European School Heads Association

www.esha.org

September/October 2005

## European School Leadership Network



The conference in Budapest was a success! Only 30 participants - we had hoped 50 - but the working groups have done a lot of work, under the supervision of John West Burnham, and with the help of Petros Paschiardis, (University of Cyprus), Anne Gilleran (European Schoolnet) and Maria Szabo (University of Budapest). It was a very fruitful experience, which allowed us to study our role as a schoolleader in the CPD of our staff and the responsibility we have in our own development. We all want now to continue our work on-line, until December 2005.

## Educatec



During this big exhibition about education in Paris, we will have a conference organised by ESHA France about autonomy at school. 10 colleagues from European countries - among them many GB-members - will report about the influence of autonomy on pedagogical innovations and on learning. It will be a sort of introduction to the debate, we will have in Rome, next year!

## General Board meeting in Helsinki



The next meeting of the General Board will be in Finland on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November in the city of Vantaa. The official programme starts on Friday at 13.15 with two lectures on the Finnish educational system. Optional is the possibility to visit schools on Friday morning. On Saturday afternoon, a visit is planned to Heureka. The exhibition center on science is ESHA's partner in the projects Open Science and Ecsite.

## BBS : Project on European Dimension



ESHA has adopted an international project that was started by our colleagues from the Netherlands and that is called European Dimension. It aims at setting up the key elements for a curriculum in secondary education on European citizenship, which should be a common framework within all countries of Europe.

In this project will be participated by schools from all countries in the European Union. Members of ESHA have been asked to approach interested school leaders in their country.

## Potsdam



The first ESHA Council Meeting in 2006 will be held in Potsdam, Germany. The German Schoolheads Organisations invite you to come to Potsdam from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2006. We will have to decide on some important projects and prepare the Rome Convention. Potsdam, not far from Berlin, is the capital of Brandenburg. In Potsdam you will meet the delegations of 15 schoolheads organisations of the German "Länder" as well as the Minister of Education of Brandenburg.

Professor John West- Burnham will be the speaker of the opening session. As you can see, there are many reasons to come to Potsdam and if you have the time to stay longer it's a great opportunity to visit Berlin, a fascinating city in the middle of Europe, where East and west come together.

## ICP - The spirit of Ubuntu



ICP Convention in Cape Town  
9-14 of July 2005

Ubuntu was the motto of the 7<sup>th</sup> ICP Conference. Ubuntu is a Zulu word, that has no exact equivalent in any Western language. It carries a flavour of solidarity, togetherness, feeling of being part of a human community. As opposed to our traditional European way of thinking (an individual exists because he is distinct from any other individual), the spirit of Ubuntu can be summarized by this sentence "A person is a person through other persons". Ubuntu was everywhere in Cape Town: it was displayed permanently on the screens in the conference room; it was in all the printed materials; it was the theme of the entire opening session and of several moments in the following ones. The final speech of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu (a national hero of South Africa for his contribution to the resistance against apartheid), was deeply inspired by this feeling.

I must confess that, at the beginning, many of the Western delegates were surprised by this highly stressed climate of African spirituality. As the conference went on, an increasing number of them began to realize that Ubuntu is not a mere word, or an occasional vogue: rather it is the condition that allows a large part of Africa to survive its condition of poverty and despair. This feeling grew up during many of the parallel sessions: where the Western speakers debated about quality of education, their African colleagues were concerned with the lack of water and electricity in the school premises. An entire afternoon was dedicated to some twenty-five different "Ubuntu experiences", i.e. guided tours to some of the suburbs of Cape Town (the "townships") or to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela and many other political leaders were imprisoned for a long time. Once more, we were sceptical and we had to change our mind: only a few years ago and a few hours away from our comfortable condition of democracy and distributed welfare, another world with completely different rules had been living there.

Beyond the professional and cultural significance of the Conference, this was, in my opinion, its real added value: so many of the participants came back to their schools having experienced something that they never had expected before. From now on, terms like moral dimension of school leadership, quality of school systems, need for no child to be left behind, will remind us of the tremendous inequality of rights that still affects the world of education in this beginning of our twenty-first century. May this give us a new impulse in providing *our* students with knowledge and values able to ensure a better future for every child of this world.

A. PETROLINO, ESHA President

## New project on PISA results



After the international PISA conference in Utrecht on November 2004, the design of the new project has been discussed with the participants (ESHA members from Norway, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Hungary and the Netherlands) on a working conference in Amsterdam on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

To all GB members, think of the survey about Principals. We need your answers in Helsinki  
If you have any information you want us to publish in the next newsletter, please, send it to :  
[nellyguet@yahoo.com](mailto:nellyguet@yahoo.com) and [k.denouden@avs.nl](mailto:k.denouden@avs.nl)