



## Presidential Report ESHA 2006

2006 was a busy, straining, active and successful year for ESHA.

**Busy** because we changed after a very fruitful negotiation with our Dutch partner in Utrecht the secretariat structure of ESHA.

That means we changed the contract between Schoolmagers -VO and ESHA and started a **restructuring of ESHA**. The new contract says that the secretariat follows now the President and has to be organised by him.

The permanent siege of ESHA remains in Utrecht together with schoolmanagers VO-Raad. The ESHA Archive will also stay in Utrecht and all Financial Affairs.

This will guarantee continuity and at the same time give ESHA more financial margin.

**Straining** because Kees den Ouden and shortly after the new secretary Ingrid Tjio left the organisation and this just before the Potsdam General Board meeting.

**Straining also** because the the Executive Board had to learn to organise the work in the new structure and this new form of cooperation.

**Active** because we implemented the **Regionalisation**, decided in Potsdam, for the EB work. We co-opted now Jaume for Southern Europe, Gorica for Southeast Europe and Irina for the Eastern European Countries (Russian speaking countries) to support the EB with their regional connections and language skills.

Due to the regional origin, language skills and connections and in addition to the normal tasks of the EB Members Solveig is concerned to Scandinavia, Jorma to the The Baltic States and Poland and Chris to Great Britain, Ireland and France.

**Successful and active in meeting and communicating within our membership, representing ESHA in the European and world wide context** and evoking interest for our association in Europe and the rest of the world

1. **The GB meeting in Potsdam** was evaluated as good in continuance to Vantaa with a better proportion between clerical tasks, information, discussion and working groups. A special thank for our German member organisation. For Germany as host was it very important and successful in accepting the importance of ESHA for the German school head associations. The conference was a convincing answer to the question of the added value of ESHA.
2. **The Biennial Conference in Rome** was a big success and an excellent organisation and hosting by our Italian friends. It was since now the biggest attendance ESHA ever had in its Conferences, both for the total number ( 520 participants) and for the number of countries (30) and continents(5) represented. Not to mention the fact that speakers and workshop animators come from 13 different countries
3. **Positions of ESHA:**
  - The work groups developed the new position paper about “Autonomy“ and Quality”. The dissemination via website is very important to present in public our **European position papers**
  - **ESLN** presenting the European dimension in training programs for European school heads . We did together with GB Members a lot for disseminating and

presenting our project in different countries and articles and hope that the project will be finally accepted and financed by the EU.

- **The opening speech in Rome** with the **4 big T's (Truth, Trust, Time and Tradition)** marked our position for a human, creative and democratic school in the actual controversial world wide confrontation with government interests of controlling through ranking, testing and inspection.
- **The documentation of ESHA History and the Members' Book**

4. **Continuity** for the conferences and **GB Meetings** is decided.

We are happy to have the GB here in Luxemburg and next autumn in England. The next **Biennial Conference will be 2008 in Copenhagen.**

4. **Supporting and honouring** the work of **our member organisations and** of our **partner** in other continents through the presence of the President, EB members and GB members. (see the list of activities )

Successful also in many other areas:

1. We **stabilized the financial situation** of ESHA
2. **New Members** joined ESHA : Cyprus, Scotland an Denmark - Slovenia and Spain will apply in this session. Sweden will come back to ESHA this year.
3. The **website** is developing and we started to add the library and the documents. The next step will be the creating of an interactive website for our members
4. we are an important **partner for the European Commission** and working in the working groups following the Lisbon protocols
5. We are now well known and asked from many sides to be **partner in European projects**. We decided in the EB that the best way for ESHA is to be partner in European projects for dissemination. You can see the different projects on the agenda of theGB meeting. In a very important project about Mobility, the President of ESHA is in the advisory group of this project Complex involvement in projects like in ESLN has been absorbing a lot of time, risk and energy from us so we cannot be involved in more than one of theses projects. For the next years this will be PISA and Leadership under the lead of Schoolmanagers- VO- raad.
6. **And last but not least** let me say that the **good atmosphere, mutual understanding and friendship** are in my feeling the base for the success of our association together with the chance to enjoy the culture of different hosting countries as part of the European tradition what we have to defend against so many harrasments . **Thank you very much for your support and friendship** and I hope that ESHA will have another successful year.

Dr. Burkhard Mielke  
President of ESHA