



# Presidential Report ESHA 2007

The year 2007 was for ESHA a year with many challenges, activities and new developments. It was also a very successful year in many fields.

## 1. Secretariat and Financial affaires

The new orientation that the secretariat follows the President was for the work of the President very effective. I thank Jo Heinemann for her excellent support.

It was a real change in the working conditions of the Executive Board and gave more tasks and responsibilities to the Board members.

The secretarial costs could be lowered from 25.000 € to 3.700 what gave ESHA more financial margin to invest more money into our work like regionalisation etc.

On the other hand we have to admit that the experience showed that ESHA needs a

professional financial management. This cannot be done by an EB member. We all know the

results and budget problems in the past, especially because we have been confronted with

problems coming from the past i.e. projects before the actual EB was installed.

- SMC (School Managers Centre) - ESHA had to pay back 12.000 Euro for the project (2000-2003) because of not fulfilling all of the demands of Brussels
- ESLN – it is still possible that we also have also to pay back money for the same reasons

There was indeed no reason for panic reactions and I would have wished to solve these problems in a more rational way because the possibility of paying back money to Brussels was always in the risk management and the money was in reserve. This was known and always reported in the GB meetings.

With the help of AVS and VO-raad (former Schoolmanagers - VO in charge of the secretariat and bookkeeping for ESHA) a good solution was found. ESHA had no loss through EUN.

AVS took over the financial management free on charges in 2007 and from 2008 for a reasonable amount of money and guarantees by that a professional financial management for the future. We all have to thank AVS for this decision in a difficult situation. But we are concerned about the amount of countries that have not paid their subscriptions yet for 2007. This issue should be solved for the future.

The result is that we finally stabilized the financial situation of ESHA.

## **2.Representation of ESHA**

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 is an important task.

It was a successful and active year 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. You can see all activities of the EB in the activity sheet as annex to the report. The main events were

- the 2 GB Board meetings in Luxemburg and Bristol organized excellently by our friends from Luxemburg and NAHT in the UK
- the work in Brussels and during the EU summits in Berlin and Lisbon, which resulted in a remarkable recognition of ESHA as one of the ten important stakeholders in Brussels, an important partner for the European Commission and working in the working groups following the Lisbon protocols
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- Overseas ESHA was represented and engaged with workshops, speeches or in panel discussions in the following Conferences: NASSP in Las Vegas, ICP in Auckland and Washington and OPC in Toronto.
- The cooperation with and participation in the conferences of the European Confederation of Executives and Managerial Staff (CEC/CIC) and with CCEAM – the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management

These conferences contributed to the world wide recognition of ESHA and gave the possibility of an inspiring communication with these organisations and colleagues from all over the world.

## **3.The Regionalisation**

The Regionalisation Project was launched in Potsdam 2006 and continuously developed in 2007.

The Regional Representatives started some very successful work in their regions and reached the aim to make ESHA better known in their regions, to involve more school heads in the ESHA work and to get to know school heads associations who are not members of ESHA. In these conferences the language barrier was reduced because of the use in each case of the national language and interpreters for the guests.

Important events have been the

- Catalan Conference in Barcelona with the participation of representatives of all Spanish regions
- The first ESHA Balkan Conference in Ohrid in Macedonia
- The national meetings in Minsk and Sofia
- The francophone meeting of the Luxemburg and French associations

- For 2008 the first Conference of the German speaking European regions will be held in Basel in May  
The EB thanks Jaume, Gorica, Irina and Margret for their engaged work in this new and important structure of ESHA.

#### **4. New members**

In 2006 Sweden rejoined ESHA and associations from Cyprus (2), Scotland, Denmark, Slovenia and Spain joined ESHA.

This positive trend continued mainly due to the results of the regional conferences. Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia are the newest members in the ESHA family, we have contacts to Montenegro and Albania. The Balears (Spain) are also interested in becoming a member. With the help of the President of the new Bulgarian member we are trying to reactivate Romania.

The Regionalisation helped to start resolving the problem with the so called "ghost members".

The preparation of the first ESHA Conference for the German speaking regions revealed e.g. that there is no real school heads association in Austria but with the help of ESHA they will found one. And there are other associations till today unknown in ESHA such as Switzerland. I think this is the same in many other countries and there is through the Regionalisation the chance to get in contact with them and hope to interest these associations for ESHA.

#### **5. Website**

ESHA has a new website and this website tries to be more informative and continually updated.

The website is ESHA's window to the world, giving information about all ESHA activities and at the same time it is an online library in education. All members are asked to send speeches, PPP or articles to the webmaster. We are interested in contributions in different languages. The website can also be used interactively. This will be explained in our GB meeting. Finally our webmaster Oliver Weber succeeded in getting rid of the old domain, held in the USA, which costed us a lot of money for nothing. It was not easy and very risky to do this without losing our original web address.

#### **6. Continuity**

The 11 th Biennial ESHA Conference will be 2008 in Copenhagen and we are happy to have the next GB 2009 in Dublin.

#### **7. Position Papers of ESHA**

The GB work groups developed

- the new position papers about "Quality" and the result is on the website.

- Another position paper about “working conditions of school heads” was started in Luxemburg and will be finished soon.
- In Bristol the project “children rights” has been launched

## 8. Projects

With the experience of former projects we decided that there will be a risk management before joining new projects. The best for ESHA is to be partner for dissemination. It is known in Brussels that we are the most powerful association for dissemination and the chances that projects are accepted by Brussels is much better if ESHA is a partner. The conditions for ESHA within these projects must reflect this. Currently we are involved in

- LISA under the lead of VO- raad. This project meets our core business: the impact of school leaders on student’s results
- E-twinning
- -Food 4u
- Mobility ( member of the advisory group)
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## 9.Thanks to the Board

Last but not least let me say that - the exception proves the rule – the good atmosphere, mutual understanding and friendship are for me, the foundation 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 harassments.

Thank you very much for your support and friendship and I hope that ESHA will have another successful year.

Dr. Burkhard Mielke

Utrecht, March 2008



ESHA Past President