

European Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools

(Association européenne des Ecoles d'Hôtellerie et de Tourisme)

ACTIVITY REPORT
Academic year 2016/2017

1. 29th AEHT Annual Conference in London (UK)

1.1. General aspects

The Annual Conference is the AEHT's flagship event and is held once a year in a different country; the programme includes meetings of the Presidium, the Executive Board and the General Assembly, as well as a series of contests, which enable students to compete with each other in a variety of disciplines.

The 29th Annual Conference of the AEHT was held in London between 23rd-28th of October in 2017 with the participation of 544 guests from 23 countries. The conference was hosted by Docklands Academy London (DAL), a higher education institution of tourism and hospitality with an English school, located in Canary Wharf, the financial hub of London, and working in collaboration with partner restaurants, TAS, HAZ and HAZEV group, which support the activities of the Academy in providing targeted work experience for students within the hospitality and tourism sector.

The Conference started with an opening ceremony with dances and music all over the world in the glamorous venue of Church House, the headquarters of the Church of England dating back to the 1880s and located next to the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey, which are both World Heritage sites.

All participants stayed at the spectacular four-star Guomon Hotel at Tower Bridge, which is only a short walk from the historic World Heritage site of the Tower of London, the castle of her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress.

The competitions were held in 10 categories on the premises of DAL and Redbridge College, a partner school which provided its excellent kitchens and venues for most competitions.

Master classes were held for both kitchen and non kitchen students and the organisers offered a variety of workshops on "Cocktail Making", "Wine Tasting", "Cognac Project", "Effective Teaching & Class Management" and "EU Funding". Significant number of participants attended the workshops. The workshop on EU Funding given jointly by the Principal, Aysegul Yesildaglar and the Academic Head, Murray Cooper, of DAL, subsequently yielded to implementation of joint projects between DAL and some member schools of AEHT. One good example was a project titled "General English and Teacher Training Programme with CLIL methodology for Teachers", which was successfully implemented by DAL as the host school and Istituto Superiore Magnaghi as the visiting school. The organisers believe that member schools should be increasingly encouraged to develop projects with respect to training and work placement between each other. The organisers also think that the future annual conferences should include activities or workshops to facilitate and develop this collaboration.

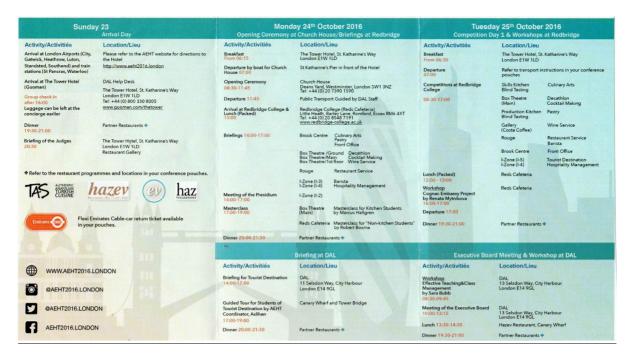
The organisers provided participants with Oyster cards, a travel card enabling them to use the public transport, the most efficient way of commuting in a city like London, and to see the main attractions, with a guide prepared by the organisers. Therefore, the participants had a chance to move around and enjoy London fully at their own pace without experiencing the hustle of the city. The organisers also arranged a boat tour taking the participants from the Hotel to the Opening Ceremony giving them the chance to see most of London on the first day of the Conference. The participants were also provided a cable ride allowing them to see remarkable landmarks and developments such as O2 Arena.

The Conference was mainly sponsored by the registration fees received from the participants; however, the partner restaurants of DAL, TAS HAZ and HAZEV restaurant group, sponsored meals at their venues and also at Redbridge College throughout the Conference. Alongside the partner restaurants of DAL, a number of local sponsors such as Redbridge College, Zenith

Hygiene Group, Shining Dance Academy, Emirates Airlines, Guoman Tower Hotel, Centre for Turkey Studies (CEFTUS), T-Vine, Drury as well as AEHT sponsors, Villeroy&Boch and Cognac Embassy, supported the Conference.

The Conference ended with a Gala Dinner, which lasted until the early hours of the morning. Most of the participants expressed their satisfaction with the Conference giving good and encouraging feedback to the organisers.

1.2. Programme





1.3. Statistics

The event attracted 544 participants in total from 104 schools located in 23 European countries as follows:

Total from AEHT schools	450
• Students	277
Teachers	118
Directors	62
Partners and other guests	43
Total from DAL Organising Committee	94
Students	2
Teachers	10
Directors	3
AEHT coordinators	10
External Partners	18
Guests	51
TOTAL number of participants	544

Participation in the competitions

During this AEHT Annual Conference, competitions were held in 10 categories :

*COMPETITIONS	PARTICIPANTS
Culinarty arts - A2	45
Decathlon - A2	22
Pastry - A2	31
Barista - B1	16
Cocktail bar - B1	21
Wine service - B1	14
Restaurant Service - B1	28
Front Office - B2	21
Tourist Destination - B2	26
Hotel Management - B2	10
TOTAL	234

Participation at the AEHT Annual Conference					
Year	Location	Organising country	Schools	Countries	Participants
2016	London	United Kingdom	104	23	544
2015	Cervia	Italia	118	29	603
2014	Belgrade	Serbia	94	28	569
2013	Savona, Barcelona, Palma, Ajaccio, Marseille	AEHT Head Office	112	33	721
2012	Ohrid	Rep. of Macedonia	117	30	575
2011	The Hague	The Netherlands	109	32	617
2010	Lisbon	Portugal	143	29	652
2009	Dubrovnik	Croatia	132	30	690
2008	Kuressaare	Estonia	130	32	660
2007	Jesolo Lido	Italy	137	33	650
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	The Netherlands	115	23	596
1996	La Rochelle	France	101	19	814
1995	Gothenburg	Sweden	107	20	620
1994	Portrush	Northern Ireland	75	16	393
1993	Sciacca	Italy	75	15	500
1992	Antalya	Turkey	(71)	17	300
1991	Herk de Stad	Belgium	(64)	(16)	(332)
1990	Setubal-Troia	Portugal	(51)	(16)	(273)
1989	Anavyssos	Greece	39	16	(220)
1988	Strasbourg-Illkirch	France	25	16	(80)

1.4 Financial Report – AEHT Annual Conference 2016

EXPENSES	in £
Accommodation	£ 265,124.50
Transfers	£ 27,787.50
Opening Ceremony	£ 4,684.51
Catering	£ 47,250.00
Gala Dinner	£ 31,958.70
Staff Costs	£ 30,500.00
Competition Venues & workshops	£ 6,158.00
Cultural events and excursions	£ 3,580.00
Welcome pack gift	£ 5,000.00
Insurance	£ 885.42
Other expenses	£ 1,046.78

TOTAL:	£ 423,975.41

INCOME	in £
Registration fees	£ 326,355.00
3rd party Sponsors	£ 3,500.00
Tas Group Sponsorship	£ 94,120.41

TOTAL:	£ 423,975.41

2. Head judges' working group

A few years ago, the organisational guidelines committee had been replaced by a head judges working group bringing together all head judges of the competitions taking place during the Annual Conference.

The head judges meet several months prior to the Conference to inspect the venue/facilities of the forthcoming competitions and to set up the programme and the official guidelines with the organizing team.

This way these documents are earlier available to the participating schools, allowing them to prepare well in advance to the various competitions.

In 2017, the composition of the head judges' working group has slightly changed and no country is any longer represented several times in this group. The members of this group met on the occasion of the AEHT Executive Board meeting on 25th March 2017 in Ostend (BE).

Composition of the head judges' working group			
_	Coordinator: Vice Pres	sident Remco Koerts	
Competition	Competition Head judge E-mail address		
Pastry	Ronny Thill	ronald.thill@education.lu	
Wine service	Theo Verhofstadt	t.verhofstadt@derooipannen.nl	
Cocktail	Thomas Gasteiner	thomas.gasteiner@hltsemmering.ac.at	
Barista	Alfio Rivalta	alfio_rivalta@libero.it	
Tourist destination	Asdis Vatnsdal	asdis.vatnsdal@mk.is	
Front office	Helena Cvikl	helena.cvikl@vsgt-mb.si	
Management	Theo Verkoyen	theo.verkoyen@vives.be	
Decathlon	Marcus Hallgren	marcus.hallgren@koping.se	
Culinary arts	Alexandre Ferreira	alexandre.ferreira@turismodeportugal.pt	
Restaurant service	Guillaume Staquet	Guillaume.Staquet@ac-versailles.fr	

3. AEHT events calendar

HEG international seminar focusing on "Sea, sun & culture" in Lisbon (PT)

The 8th HEG seminar focusing on 'Sea, sun & culture' organized by the hotel schools from Douro-Lamego and Estoril and scheduled for spring in Lisbon was postponed to the last trimester of 2017. We will report on it in our next Annual report.

General overview of AEHT events organized under the aegis of the AEHT

Date	City	Event	Participants	
	2016			
4 th - 9 th October	Maribor (SI)	Seminar for The WSET® (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) Level 1 and 2 Awards in Wines and Spirits, Maribor (SI)	21 participants from 11 AEHT member schools from 5 countries	
9 th – 12 th November	Prešov (SK)	Eurocup 2016 – 24th edition of the Junior bartenders competition	37 competitors from 10 AEHT member schools from 6 countries and 27 participants from non-member schools	
4 th – 10 th December	San Benedetto del Tronto (IT)	25th edition of the Christmas in Europe event	More than 95 participants from 17 AEHT member schools from 11 countries	
		2017		
28 th – 30 th March	Bled (SI)	12 th Bartender Competition G&T Cup	16 participants from 6 AEHT member schools from 4 countries	
3 rd – 6 th April	Castel San Pietro Terme (IT)	19 th edition of the Bartolomeo Scappi International Competition (bar, sommelier, pastry, cooking competitions)	101 participants from 17 member schools from 8 countries + 5 participants from non-member schools	
2 nd – 6 th May	Famagusta, Chypre du Nord	5 th AEHT Youth Parliament on the theme "Slow Tourism and Mass Tourism: Can the two Meet?".	24 participants from 10 AEHT member schools from 7 countries	
22 nd June – 1 st July	Ponta Delgada, île São Miguel (PT)	10 FEST ACORES 2015 – 10 days, 10 chefs	7 participants from 4 AEHT member schools from 4 countries	

4. 2016 Christmas in Europe

From 4th to 10 December 2016, the Institute IPSSEOA Buscemi of San Benedetto del Tronto located in the province of Ascoli Piceno, in the March region of Central Italy has hosted and organized the 25th edition of Christmas in Europe whose origins date back to 1992 in Kaysersberg (France). Each year, this flagship event of the AEHT allows for a multitude of facets to be shown thanks to the participation of schools arriving from all over Europe. For the 2016 edition, nearly hundred participants have participated in this beautiful Christmas in Europe event co-financed by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, devoted to the spirit of Christmas and organized according to four intangible principles:

- each school presents the regional gastronomic specialties of Christmas at a fair
- participates in a folkloric parade,
- prepares some delicacies for the European buffet
- and makes a performance at the cultural show.





The delegations came from 11 countries, namely from Armenia (1), Belgium (1), Croatia (1), Czech Republic (1) Spain (1), Italy (3), Latvia (1), Luxembourg (1), Continental Portugal (2) and the Azores (1), Slovenia (2), and, last but not least, Sweden (2) – that is a total of 17 schools with more than 95 headmasters, teachers and students (not counting those of the host school). And

indeed they were a fine bunch of delegates, representing the diversity of Europe in a spirit of friendship and festivity.

Don't miss the fascinating report by our journalist Jo Laengy published on our Internet site www.aeht.eu under the Christmas in Europe rubric as well as the article in the December 2016 edition of the AEHT newsletter.

Year	Town	Participants	Countries	Schools
2016	San Benedetto del Tronto	95***	11	17
2015	Diekirch	120****	14	23
2014	Prešov	103	13	19
2013	Marseille	99 *	13	16
2012	Budapest	100	14	19
2011	Zagreb	96 ***	15	20
2010	Ponta Delgada	76	11	16
2009	Poznan	115	18	25
2008	Chinon Castle	90 **	13	17*
2007	Semmering	69	12	15*
2006	Orebrö	81	13	16
2005	Fundaõ	7	11	15
2004	Bad Ischl	86	16	18
2003	Senigallia	135	16	22
2002	Kuresaare	70	12	14
2001	Poznan	150	19	20
2000	Rhodes	300	17	18
1999	Bonneville	72	10	12
1998	Podebrady	70	12	13
1997	Espoo	92	14	15
1996	Budapest	90	11	13
1995	Barcelona	70	10	13
1994	Copenhague	88	13	19

^{*} except organising school / ** number to be confirmed by organising school / *** except Croatian schools who came to help the organisers of the event / **** only a delegation of 5 persons form the organizing school have been taken into account.

5. Observation periods for teachers

Observation periods with the PESTENA Hotels & Resorts group

In substitution to the collaboration with STARWOOD Hotels, the AEHT has intensified its cooperation with the Portuguese hotel group PESTENA Hotels & Resorts by signing an agreement on May 17th, 2016 expanding the range of its observation periods for AEHT teachers to further regions.

The group, that has a total of 51 hotels in Europe, Africa, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and the United States, has offered to provide AEHT teachers with placements of one week to 10 days in October and November 2017 as well as between January and May 2018 in unities located throughout mainland Portugal, Madeira as well as in North and South Africa. It is planned to expand the program in the future to South America and other European countries. Further information will be as usual published on the AEHT website (www.aeht.eu), as it became available. Enthusiasts, roll-up.

Travel expenses will be as usual born by the teachers participating in the programme, but the AEHT will reimburse up to €200 per person upon receipt and approval of the placement report; an administrative fee of €80 will however be deduced for most countries to cover organisational costs. Accommodation at the hotel and meals taken with the staff will, in this case, be provided free of charge by the host company.

Placement officer responsible for the coordination of the observation periods with this new partner will in 2017-2018 be again:

Magdalena Waglowska-Krzciuk Zespół Szkół Hotelarsko-Turystyczno-Gastronomicznych Nr 1 ul. Krasnołęcka 3 00-734 Warszawa Pologne/Poland

Fax: +48 22 840 48 97 E-mail: mwaglowska@wp.pl

6. Meetings

Meetings of the Presidium

October 24 th , 2016	London (UK)
March 24 th , 2017	Ostend (BE)
September 15 th , 2017	Luxembourg (LU)

A meeting was also held on March 23rd, 2017 in Ostend between the founder of the Christmas in Europe event Christiane Keller and the Presidium members, Remco Koerts and Nadine Schintgen to update the guidelines of the event and to introduce new activities.

Meetings of the Executive Board

October 25 th , 2016	London (UK)
March, 25 th , 2017	Ostend (BE)

Reports covering these meetings may be consulted under the 'Meetings and reports' rubric on the AEHT web site www.aeht.eu .

General Assembly

October 26 th , 2016	London (UK)	

Reports covering the General Assembly are available under the 'Meetings and reports' rubric on the AEHT web site.

Several illustrated reports covering the Executive Board and Presidium meetings in various countries have been published in the AEHT newsletters and may be consulted at the same website.

7. Representation

As far as possible, the Presidium has accepted invitations and represented the AEHT at events organized by member schools under the aegis of the AEHT or other entities. Some Presidium members met also with key third-party stakeholders.

Date	City	Event	AEHT Representative		
2016					
October 11 th	Luxembourg (LU)	Meeting with the Honorary President of the European Commission Mr Jacques SANTER	Nadine SCHINTGEN		
October 23 rd – 28 th	London (UK)	29 th AEHT Annual Conference	All members of the Presidium		
December $4^{th}-10^{th}$	San Benedetto del Tronto (IT)	25 th Christmas in Europe	Remco KOERTS Ana Paula PAIS Nadine SCHINTGEN		
		2017			
January 17 th	Ostend (BE))	Meeting with the organizers and first inspection of the facilities hosting the competitions of the AEHT Annual Conference 2017	Remco KOERTS		
January 25 th	Riga (LV)	International conference on work-based learning « Baltic Alliance for Apprenticeships for Innovative VET » - Erasmus+ project (WBL-Balt)	Neeme RAND		
February 7 th	Douro-Lamego (PT)	Visit of Escola do Turismo de Portugal // Douro – Lamego	Remco KOERTS		
March 10 th	Helsinki	Meeting with CESIM (developer of the game to be used at Hospitality Management Competition)	Remco KOERTS		
March 25 th	Ostend (BE)	Executive Board meeting	All members of the Presidium, except Klaus ENENGL		

2017 (continued)			
May 18 th	Luxembourg (LU)	« Jugendpräis (Youth award) 2017» evening rewarding the most significant and innovative projects among a series of transnational youth projects with an impact on Luxembourg, including the Christmas in Europe 2015 project.	Nadine SCHINTGEN
September 15 th	Luxembourg (LU)	Meeting at the House of the European Union with Mrs Yuriko BACKES, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg	
September 15 th	Luxembourg (LU)	Meeting with Mr François KOEPP, General Secretary of the Federation of the Hotel and catering Industry	Presidium

8. AEHT database and publications

8.1. AEHT database

Currently (20.09.2017), the AEHT database counts 336 member school accounts. This number includes active (300) and inactive (36) accounts. The later are accounts of new members that have not yet paid their annual fees. Besides, there are 3 professional member accounts and 5 sponsor accounts.

What changed with the new database, which is operational since early 2014, is that member schools can use it to register directly to the AEHT Annual Conference. Furthermore, account managers can include contact information of several persons of their school. Each one of them will automatically receive all official emails sent by the AEHT Head Office. Every school is supposed to check its data at least once a year!

What also changes with this new system is that *member schools are now responsible for updating* their account information. Previously, this task was provided by the AEHT Head Office.

The AEHT database can be accessed at: https://www.aeht.eu/db.

8.2. Use of Office 365

AEHT officials have decided in 2017 to switch to the Office 365 platform to stay professional and updated with the IT development of our times. The implementation will occur in several phases:

- 1st step: AEHT Head Office will start using Office 365 during the second semester of 2017.
- 2nd step: Beginning 2018, all Presidium members will start using it.
- 3rd step: From second half of 2018, all members of the Executive Board will be required to use it.

According to Ahti Paju, the AEHT web master, there are many other platforms, but Office 365 offers, with one single account, a lot of interrelated platforms and various efficient tools (mail server, SharePoint, Online Office application, One Drive for Business - 1000 GB by user, Skype Business, Microsoft teams), that will make work much easier and more efficient. Using Office

365 will take fewer operations to handle documents and allow several people to work on the same document. Moreover, this platform is much more secure and supports many languages (training material exists in almost all EU languages).

Moreover for the AEHT, Office 365 Education is free of charge and its licence is unlimited.

8.3. AEHT Newsletter

A total of three AEHT newsletters have been issued in the period 2016/2017 and published on the AEHT website (www.aeht.eu) and Facebook account.

8.4. AEHT Facebook account

The Facebook account is available at the following address: https://www.facebook.com/aeht.eu.

The total number of 'likes' rouse by 328 units (15 %) in one year; from 2'186 likes on July 14th, 2016 to 2'514 likes on September 20th, 2017.

8.5. AEHT website

During the first semester of 2016, a new website has been put online by the webmaster of the AEHT, Ahti Paju, together with Vice-presidents Klaus Enengl and Neeme Rand. As the use of mobile phones (smartphones) and tablet computers has increased significantly, the IT team of the AEHT is creating a platform facilitating access to the site from these media. This platform is now fully operational.

Below you will find an overview of the characteristics of the web site audience between July 2015 and July 2016.



Language	Sessions	% Sessions
1. en-us	6,094	25.98%
2. ru	2,085	8.89%
3. it	1,309	5.58%
4. fr	1,207	5.15%
5. nl	1,156	4.93%
6. en-gb	1,144	4.88%
7. it-it	1,084	4.62%
8. pt-pt	933	3.98%
9. nl-nl	832	3.55%
10. ru-ru	665	2.83%

9. Electronic communication

During the academic year 2016/2017, the AEHT Head Office has sent out some 60 official mailings to member schools on various subjects.

10. Composition of the AEHT Presidium

Elected members of the AEHT Presidium for the period 2014 – 2017						
Forename	Surname	Function	Tasks			
Ana Paula	PAIS	President	Official representation and coordination of AEHT's affairs			
Klaus	ENENGL	Vice-President	Annual Conference and Competitions and the financial sustainbility of the AEHT (sponsoring)			
Neeme	RAND	Vice-President	IT Solutions & AEHT website			
Remco	KOERTS	Vice-President	Coordination of competitions at the Annual Conference			
Bogusława	PIENKOWSKA	Vice-President	Occasional events, EU educational programmes and coordination with the OIF			
D	Designated members of the AEHT Presidium for the period 2014 – 2017					
Forename	Surname	Function	Tasks			
Klaus	ENENGL	Treasurer	AEHT's finances and accounts			
Nadine	SCHINTGEN	General Secretary	Day-to-day management			

11. Elections

In addition to the electronic messages listed in the table at section 9, a call for candidates was sent out by e-mail in spring 2017 (deadline for application was May 20th) as part of the process of the election of National Representatives; and the members in countries with more than one candidate were invited to cast their votes

electronically on September 19th, 2017. Despite several successive invitations, certain countries have unfortunately not replied to the call and, as a result, the AEHT is still without national representative. Potential candidates should contact the AEHT Head Office. In addition, there is a tie at the second round in Ireland and therefore, the Irish elections have not yet ended. The status of these elections is summarized in the attached table. The election of a new Presidium from among the National Representatives will take place at the next meeting of the Executive Board in November 2017, and the newly elected members will be confirmed in their posts the following day at the General Assembly. In this context, a call for candidates will be sent out by email in October 2017.

Pays/Country	Name of the National Representative
ALBANIE, ALBANIA	Flutura Vaqarri
ALLEMAGNE, GERMANY	Sibylle Weber-Pohl
ARMENIE, ARMENIA	Artur Ghazaryan
AUTRICHE, AUSTRIA	Klaus Enengl
BELGIQUE, BELGIUM	Sanne Huygens
BULGARIE, BULGARIA	Vacant
CHYPRE, CYPRUS	Michael Charlistos
CROATIE, CROATIA	Vesna Baranašic
DANEMARK, DENMARK	Mie Heinfelt-Hansen
ESPAGNE, SPAIN	Nuria Montmany
ESTONIE, ESTONIA	Neeme Rand
FINLANDE, FINLAND	Marja Hemmi
FRANCE, FRANCE	Didier Leder
GRECE, GREECE	VACANT
HONGRIE, HUNGARY	Márta Gyömbér
IRLANDE, IRELAND	EX-AEQUO - 3rd round necessary
ISLANDE, ICELAND	Helene Pedersen
ITALIE, ITALY	Paolo Aprile
LETTONIE, LATVIA	Silva Ozolina
LITUANIE, LITHUANIA	Audrius Kurlavicius
LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG	Michel Lanners
MACEDOINE (ARYM), MACEDONIA (FYROM)	Zoran Nikolovski
MALTE, MALTA	VACANT
MONACO, MONACO	VACANT

Pays/Country	Name of the National Representative
MONTENEGRO, MONTENEGRO	Zoran Klikovac
NORVEGE, NORWAY	VACANT
PAYS BAS, THE NETHERLANDS	Remco Koerts
POLOGNE, POLAND	Boguslawa Pienkowska
PORTUGAL, PORTUGAL	Ana Paula Pais
REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE, CZECH REPUBLIC	VACANT
ROUMANIE, ROMANIA	VACANT
ROYAUME-UNI, UNITED KINGDOM	Aysegul Yesildaglar
RUSSIE, RUSSIA	Elena Vasina
SERBIE, SERBIA	Slavoljub Vicic
SLOVAQUIE, SLOVAKIA	Jozef Šenko
SLOVENIE, SLOVENIA	Cvikl Helena
SUEDE, SWEDEN	Caterina Higgins
SUISSE, SWITZERLAND	Charles Victor Barras
TURQUIE, TURKEY	VACANT
UKRAINE	Hanna Balushchak

12. "Erasmus+" Programme

In 2017, the AEHT participated for the second time in Luxembourg in the contest 'Jugendpräis (Youth award')', this time in the 'Erasmus + 2014 - 2016' category with its project 'Christmas in Europe 2015 - Made in Luxembourg' (project No **2015-2-LU02-KA105-000161).** The project has been selected, but not awarded. The main aim of the 'Jugendpräis' consist in offering a showcase for promotion to the most significant and innovative transnational projects in the field of youth, which have had an impact on the local, regional or national community



The project proposal (No **2016-2-LU02-KA105-000248**) submitted on April 21st, 2016 at SNJ - Service National de la Jeunesse, the Luxembourg Agency at that time in charge of youth mobility projects within the "Erasmus+" programme, to obtain a EU co-funding for the Christmas in Europe event held in 2016 in San Benedetto del Tronto (IT) was approved mid-July 2016. A preparatory meeting for the event took place during the AEHT Annual Conference in London (UK).

The project itself was carried out according to the criteria of the programme and the requirements of the call for tender 2016, recommending the integration of disadvantaged young people (from a social, economic, medical, educational, cultural and / or geographical point of view) to the group, and the promotion of European citizenship and tolerance among young people by encouraging their socialization with a very divers group of students and their encounter with a very cosmopolitan population with different ways of life and customs.

This event has enjoyed great popularity and good coverage in several media (articles in newspapers, Internet sites and Facebook pages, aso.). The final project report was filed February 14th, 2017 with the Luxembourg Agency and was approved on March 2nd, 2017.

On April 5th, 2017, the General Secretary submitted a new proposal No **2017-2-LU01-KA105-023935** with the programme "Erasmus+" at the newly responsible Erasmus Plus Agency, Anefore, this time to co-finance the Christmas in Europe event taking place in December 2017 in Fatima (IPT).

On July 12th, 2017, the Agency informed the AEHT Head Office that the project had been refused. The reasons given by the evaluators, e.g. the irrelevance of the objectives of the project with those of the program, the requirement of adding further exchanges per year to the programme, etc., seem aberrant given the project's acceptance for the last six years and the number of participants involved. On the other hand, the evaluators require a greater involvement of the young people in the elaboration of the project and a better use of the Youthpass. The General Secretary has already contacted the program's technical assistants for

further explanations with a view to rewriting the project according to evaluators' suggestions and program selection criteria. A meeting will be soon scheduled.

The community grant represents a significant source of financial support both for the organizers and participants of the event and the AEHT officials will do their utmost to recover this source of funding.

Diekirch, October 9th, 2017

Ana Paula PAIS AEHT President Nadine SCHINTGEN AEHT General Secretary

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