

08 - 2009

Dear Members

The board of the EOE, that was elected at the last European conference held in Wales at Trinity College in September 2008, so far has had three meetings: in Carmarthen in September 2008, in Paris in December 2008 and in Marburg in July 2009. The main discussions and energy have concerned with questions on strategies of the institute's work and on ways of financing the network, the web-site, the future conferences and new publications. The board would like to thank Andy Williams and Nic Tucker and the other staff at Trinity College, University of Wales for hosting the 8th European conference on Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning, titled: *Landscape, Youth and Outdoor Education: What are we doing? What should we be doing?* The successfully organized conference gathered around one hundred participants from all over Europe. The board members are also very grateful to all the participants presenting and sharing their work and to all of you for the contributions by responding, questioning and also bringing in new ideas into the audience. The board members are now pleased to confirm to you that the 9th European conference will be held in Ueckermünde, Germany already in September this year - on the 23th to 26th. This time the theme will be

focused to: *Water – Space for Experiences. Youth and Outdoor Education in Europe* (see information below). The board will already



Responsible for this Newsletter:
Jochem Schirp
Board Member

now thank bsj Marburg and its outdoor centre "Zerum" for preparing this coming event. The board is also very happy to recognize that the work of the EOE seems to reach ever new individual members and institutions, and that two of our new membership organizations have taken the initiative to organize future European conferences. The first one will be organized by the Slovenian partners in CSOD - Center of School and Outdoor Education, represented by Irena Kokalj and her colleagues, most probably in September 2010 while the second conference is planned to be hosted at the University of Stockholm, represented by Erik Backman and Johan Arnegård. The board is very looking forward to working together with the Slovenian and Swedish partners. Constantly the board is looking for new possibilities of also sharing experiences and reflections on outdoor educational practices through publications. We are looking forward to the completion of the proceedings containing the presentations held at the Trinity-conference while at the same we will recommend the 10th anniversary book *Other Ways of learning*,

published in 2008 and edited by Peter Becker and Jochem Schirp (see more detailed information below).

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**European Seminar Announcement and
Call for Workshops:
Water–Space for Experiences. Youth
and Outdoor Education in Europe**

In partnership with the German association bsj Marburg the European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning (EOE) is organizing its 9th conference from 23th-26th September 2009 in Ueckermünde, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany.

This seminar will bring together approximately 80 practitioners and academics from around Europe, interested in outdoor and experiential education linked to informal youth work from various field of practise and also interested in building up networks of practical cooperation and knowledge transfer. The seminar will focus on the one hand on sharing and examining current practice and its theoretical underpinnings and on the other hand on discussing about the bodily and sensuous potentials of experiences in and around water. With a special focus on the cultural dimensions of the natural space of “water” the seminar will examine diverse approaches of

the relationship between youth and outdoor education and how this relates to the lives of young people, their current lifestyles and biographical perspectives. Lectures and practical workshops which focuse on the use and understanding of water-spaces (sea, rivers, coasts, banks) and the role of outdoor education in a range of youth work and youth care issues (informal education, health prevention, early childhood education, environmental education, youth at risk, transition between school and labour market, inclusion in the field of special needs etc.) will form the context for inspiring debates about a bodily and sensuous education in the outdoors.

Keynote Speakers will include John von Düffel (German Novelist), Dr. Robbie Nicol, (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Dr. Peter Dehne (University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg).

Lectures and Workshops already confirmed by Andy Ashworth (Venture Trust), Prof. Dr. Barbara Humberstone (Bucks New University), Ralph Westphal (Norwegian School of Sports Sciences), Dr. Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt (Norwegian School of Sports Sciences), Dr. Chris Loynes (University of Cumbria), Kari Anne Joergensen (Vestfold University College), Alain Kerjean (Assoc. Apprendre par L’experience), Eric Backman (University of Stockholm), Stephen Hannon (Galway Mayo Institute of Technology), Christine Weber (bsj Marburg) and Johan Reinert, Sebastian Preuss and Daniela Gollatz (all from Zerum Ueckermünde)

Call for Participation, Workshops and Papers

We are currently inviting proposals for 30minute lecture/workshop presentations or just to participate at the conference. If you wish to offer a workshop or presentation, please complete and return the proposal form by 10th August 2009, ensuring that your proposal is relevant to the theme of the seminar. You will be notified as soon as possible after this date whether your proposal has been accepted for the seminar.

Fees

The seminar is supported from the European Union. There are 50 subsidised places for partner organisations, which already have been invited through the organisers, bsj Marburg und the European Institute.

Fees for all other delegates will be 150.00 EURO (this includes student hostel accommodation and meals). Alternatively, there is also a wide range of hotels available in and around the harbour town of Ueckermünde.

Booking

If you just want to participate to the conference, please send an email to Christine Weber (weber@bsj-marburg.de). To make a proposal for a lecture/workshop presentation please complete the proposal form and return it by Christine Weber (weber@bsj-marburg.de).

A Visit of CSOD in Lubljana

From 5th to 8th of July Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, Jochem Schirp and Peter Becker – acting for the EOE board – were visiting CSOD in the Slovenian capital Lubljana.

CSOD, which means Centre for School and Outdoor Education, is an organization of the ministry of education, which primarily provides Out of School Activities in the natural sciences and sports for Elementary Schools. Within a year about 40 000 pupils (60%) visit the programs. To fulfill their task, the organization runs 23 outdoor centres, which are located between the Alps and the Mediterranean Sea, in the Pannonia basin and the Dinaric Mountains.

CSOD has offered the opportunity to organize a conference together with EOE in 2010. Our visit was meant to discuss the title of this conference, to visit the places where the conference can take place and to speak about possible forms of organization. We agreed on the following main title **“Encountering, Experiencing and Exploring Nature”**. A centre in the Alps could be the place to hold the conference. School teachers, university staff and colleagues working in youth work should be the vocations which are addressed. A more detailed description of the idea of the conference and more informations will follow. We would like to give thanks to Irina Kokalj and Ida Kavcic, who organized the program of our visit, to the manager of CSOD Matjaz Zajelsnik, who chaired the meetings and to Irena Skorjanc, who – with excellent

knowledge – showed us the beautiful city of Ljubljana.

First announcement of the 11th European Conference - Stockholm 2012

The board of the EOE is happy to bring forward the first announcement of another European conference to be held in 2012. PhD-candidate Erik Backman and Associate Professor Johan Arnegård at the University of Stockholm have agreed to host a research conference on outdoor adventure education and experiential learning in Stockholm, most probably during the fall of 2012. The conference will be organized in collaboration with the EOE and the planning process will start in near future. This means that both the actual dates and main themes of the conference will be discussed during fall this year. Updated information will be announced on the web-site www.eoe-network.org.

Other Ways Of Learning. The European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning 1996-2006 (Paperback, 375 pages, Marburg 2008, bsj Marburg, ISBN: 978 – 3 – 940549 – 03 -7)

The European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning (EOE) was founded in October 1996 in Spital/Pyhrn in Austria and is the first Europe-wide cooperation between experts working together on further developing a pedagogical

practice that uses the educational sensory potential inherent in adventure in challenging natural situations. The title of the book, *Other Ways of Learning*, corresponds with the conceptual basis of the European Institute, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006. Peter Becker and Jochem Schirp from Germany edited this publication.

The contributions illustrate the various stages of the development of the Institute and discuss the central conditions of the other way of learning in outdoor adventure education and experiential learning practice. The articles show the range of those topics and questions that the Institute was concerned with between 1996 and 2006 and which are among the key issues of our times: such as the question of the consequences of globalisation and technological development, ecological responsibility and sustainability and of the cultural differences of outdoor adventure education, among many others. With contributions from Barbara Humberstone, Chris Loynes, Roger Greenaway, Robbie Nicol, Peter Higgins, Peter Becker, Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, Steve Bowles et al.

The price for the book including packing costs and postage is 23.00 EURO. Paying methods: Bank transfer in advance or after invoice Address for purchase orders: bsj Marburg, Mrs. Schnell, Biegenstr.40, 35037 Marburg, Germany, postmaster@bsj-marburg.de

Entrepreneurial Education through Outdoor Education in Romania (2009-2011)

In the frame of the national program for the development of Human Resources, financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) the project *Edu-Antreprenor* puts together three universities (Bucarest, Brasov and Craiova) and the French Association *Apprendre par l'experience - APE* (www.experientiel.com). The objectives, for the *Outdoor Education* part, are to design a system of development and certification of entrepreneurial key competencies (self-confidence, taking risk, creativity...) through a curriculum *Entrepreneur Award*, as proposed by the transnational partner; to create an excellence center, to train Romanian OE facilitators and to organize courses in Carpatian mountains for 500 students. The program will be generalized later at the national level. Colleagues from the Faculty of Physical education & Sport of Brasov, and also the Centre for Experiential Education through martial arts in Bucarest, bring their own vision and practices into the project. Alain Kerjean, EOE board member, is the initiator and the French coordinator. Together with Martial Dutailly, president of APE, and his Romanians partners, he will present this project, patroned by EOE, in the next European conference in Ueckermünde in September.