



present:

The History of EUROPEA

**25 years of
l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole
1993 - 2018**

2019

*“There are no strangers here;
only friends you haven’t met yet.”*

(W.B. Yeats)

Preface

The articles in this publication were written for the **25th anniversary** of the birth of EUROPEA in the year of 2018 in order to gather details about its foundation and development. The research work was carried out by the EUROPEA Editorial Group and the articles were published monthly on the www.europea.org website.

In the second part the collection of “MY EUROPEA” statements can be read. With those entries we ended the jubilee year asking the founders to tell us their thoughts and feelings about our network.

*EUROPEA – Alone you go faster – together we go
further!*

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the founders who took the time and energy to help us.
Our deepest gratitude goes to (in alphabetical order):

Bertrand, Emile (BE)

de Beus, Madelon (NL)

Demeester, Georges (BE)

Dethlefsen, Henrik (DK)

Hönigsberger, Elisabeth (AT)

Kist, Evelien (NL)

Kjaer, Jakob (DK)

Krack, Georges (LU)

Logtenberg, Fons (LU)

Stok, Ton (NL)

Waach, Georg (AT)

Special thanks to **Madelon de Beus (NL)** for the very many photos she delivered.

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Articles

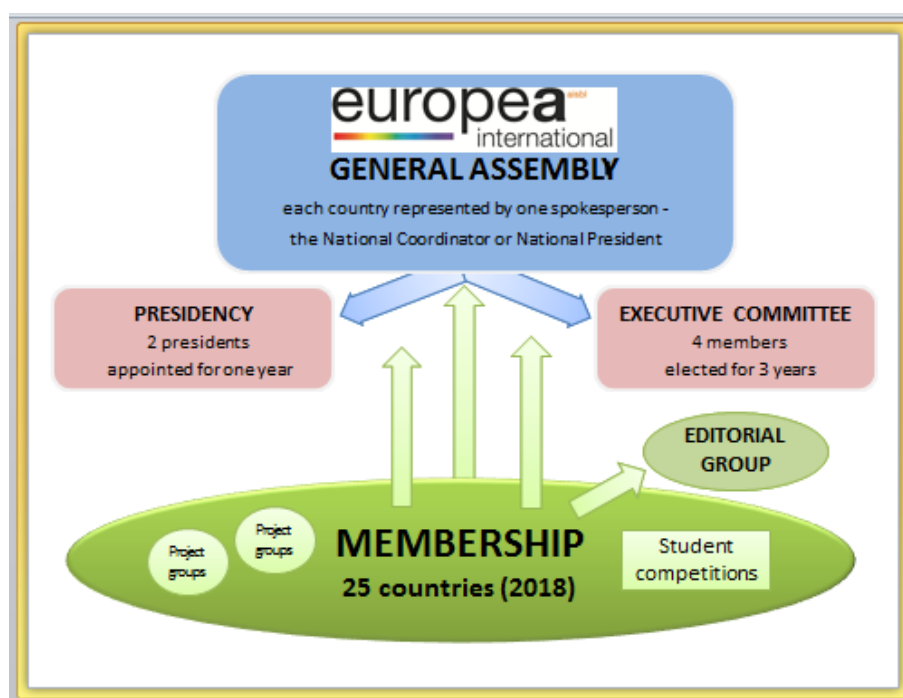
EUROPEA
l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole



2018 - Let's celebrate 25 years of EUROPEA!

25 years - a success story

What started in 1993 with 8 countries - Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal and The United Kingdom - has developed into a real European network with already 25 member countries 25 years later. After the revision of statutes in 2015 EUROPEA (1) can now rely on well-established bodies to serve its members.



The network of green vocational training institutions pursues the following aims according to art. 3 of EUROPEA statutes:

- stimulate training and exchange of agricultural and land-based students, teachers and staff members
- promote partnership between the professional world and agricultural and land-based education and advisory centres
- provide a platform for exchange of project products and of knowledge
- encourage student competitions
- facilitate intercultural exchanges
- promote continuous education
- support the development of thematic cooperation between members

- study and disseminate results and knowledge regarding changes in the agricultural and land-based world
- be involved in global cooperation in the agricultural and land-based training sector

What started with a paper newsletter in pre-digital times is now presented in numerous media providing up-to-date information to all members and the public as such.

Networks are only a foundation like infrastructure. On this basis - more can develop. If something develops, depends particularly on its members. EUROPEA members use Erasmus+ actions to exchange students and trainers, develop learning approaches and learning units, and create didactical and methodical tools and products to facilitate a modern learning process with a European dimension incorporated. EUROPEA competitions enable our students to meet fellow students from abroad and show their professional competences.

25 years of EUROPEA - time to honour the accomplishments of the past, reflect and raise awareness for future challenges, remember milestones and meet some of the founding members.

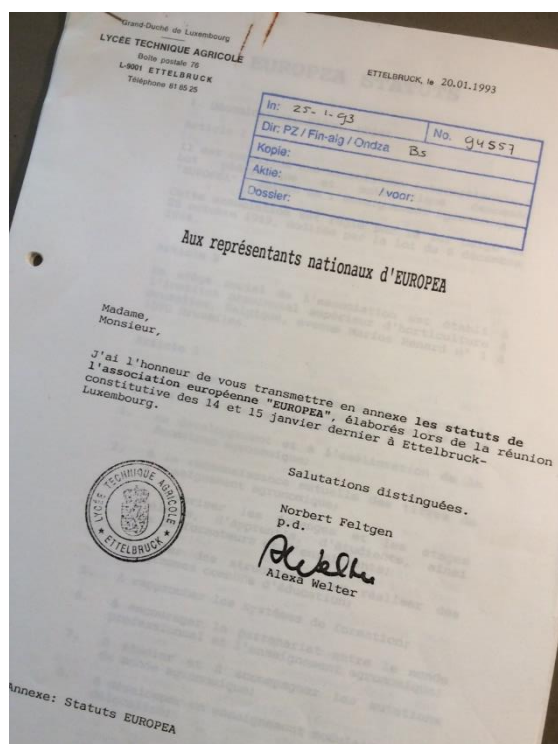
EUROPEA - Alone you go faster - together we go further!

By Elisabeth Hönigsberger, Secretary General of EUROPEA for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 2nd January 2018

Glimpse into History

14-15 January 1993 (!)

Cordially welcomed by **Norbert Feltgen**, headmaster and **Georges Krack**, president of the COE (*Comité d'Organisation EUROPEA*), a group of dedicated colleagues working in European agricultural education arrives at *Lycée Technique Agricole* in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg on 14 January 1993. They are on a mission: to create *The Statutes of EUROPEA* and establish a new kind of cooperation within the Green Sector of the continent. On the following day the document is ready, and EUROPEA (*l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole*) is in for a successful journey in the world of collaboration, professionalism, friendship and goodwill.



Exactly 25 years ago today, during the afternoon of 15 January 1993 *The Statutes of EUROPEA* was signed by 15 representatives of 8 countries: **Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal and The United Kingdom**. Also, the first Executive Committee was appointed with **Mr. Jakob Kjaer (DK)** as president. The Belgian delegation was trusted to seek official recognition of the Statutes by the Belgian authorities.

Madelon de Beus, one of the Dutch delegates recollects her memories of those two days: 'It was not easy. **Norbert Feltgen** (LU) was the president of the meeting, and **Georges Demeester** (BE), as a lawyer, explained the statutes. We spoke thoroughly about each article. As you can imagine, every country had its own opinion about how to run an association like this! But after two days we all approved *The Statutes* and EUROPEA was a fact!'

A new movement was undeniably launched, free to rise and ready for the future!
Today, 25 years after this historic event, EUROPEA is proud to unite 25 countries,
more than 1000 Green VET schools and it is stronger and hotter than ever.

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Georges, Jacob and Henrik 😊 Special thanks to
Madelon 😊 😊

Written by Judit Čović for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 15th January 2018

Crossroads of the Past

Carrefour de l'Enseignement Agricole

2018 is the year of EUROPEA! Our association is 25 years old considering the famous 1993 January meeting in Ettelbruck (LU) as the starting point when The Statutes were signed by the eight founding countries. But did you know that the idea to bring European Green VET students and teachers together dates back all the way to 1988?

Eventually, it all began with a bilateral exchange between two vocational institutions: Epe (NL) and Troyes (Champagne, FR). One of the teachers in charge from the French partner, **Jean-Luc Ravat (I)** wanted to broaden the collaboration and soon preparations for a bigger scale event started.

Meanwhile, Jean-Luc was appointed the headmaster of Vire (Normandie, FR) and slowly everything got ready for a new kind of reunion. The name **CARREFOUR (Carrefour de l'Enseignement Agricole)** came into being, and in the spring of 1988 160 students and 20 teachers got together for their very first CARREFOUR meeting held in Vire (FR).



Pic.no.1: Annie Bouatou and Jean-Luc Ravat

Participants came from 8 schools and 6 countries with their responsible teachers:

Bremervörde (DE)- **Karl-Heinz Wilke**

Brussels (BE)- **Walter Meyfroid**

Ettelbruck (LU)- **Georges Krack**

Epe (NL)- **Wim Brouwers**

Sparsholt (GB)- **John Britton**

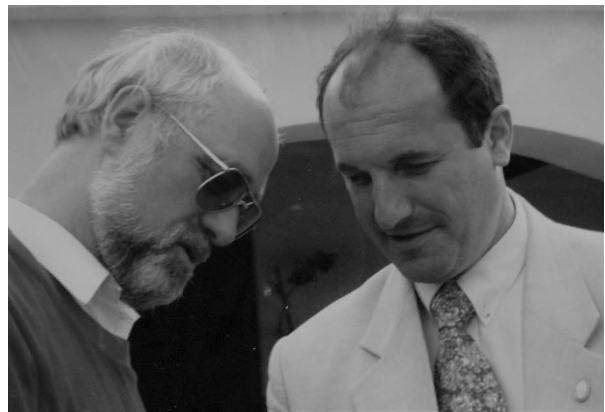
Otley (GB)- **John Pearson**

Troyes (FR)- **Annie Bouatou**

Vire (FR)- **Jean-Luc Ravat (I)**

Most of these names will later appear in connection with EUROPEA!

The event lasted a whole week, and everything went extremely well. And “*Because of the very big success of the meeting, participating teachers decided to let the story go on. **Georges Demeester**, headmaster of the Brussels school, arrived on the evening before departure to announce proudly that they are taking over the organisation of the second meeting next year. And so, CARREFOUR was born...*” admits **Georges Krack**, one of the founding fathers of EUROPEA.



Pic.no.2: Karl-Heinz Wilke and Georges Krack

Over the past 30 (!) years CARREFOUR has changed and improved. With the Comenius, Leonardo and Erasmus+ frames the organisers have had the opportunity to provide a firm financial background for the meetings.

It has run under different names (e.g. Hedges & Bridges, Water & Wind, SEM, SKILL, STEP), but it has preserved the good old CARREFOUR idea and the feeling of belonging together. What was originally meant to be a single event turned into a tradition that goes on uninterruptedly even today.

While CARREFOUR has its own delightful story, it also has a huge significance for our association since it served as a cradle for those ideas, concepts and decisions that ultimately led to the foundation of **EUROPEA (*l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole*)**.

How it actually happened? Well, stay with us throughout 2018 and learn more as we travel back in time trying to reveal all the details. Until then:

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: Thanks to **Madelon** (NL), **Evelien** (NL) and **Georges** (LU) 😊

Written by Judit Čović for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 28th February 2018

From Carrefour to EUROPEA l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole

In 1988 the first CARREFOUR meeting launched the cooperation of Green VET schools in Europe. The time was right for more great things to come.



Pic no1 – The first CARREFOUR meeting in Vire, FR in 1988

In 1989 France celebrated the *Bicentenaire*, 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. As part of the festivities, the spectacular "**Grande Moisson**" (*Big Harvest*) took place on the Champs Elysées in Paris on 24/06/1990. It was an outstanding event during which the famous avenue was turned into a huge field of crops overnight. Then, the next day it was harvested displaying ancient and modern techniques, tools and machinery in an impressive fashion.

It was a tremendous success. **The French Ministry of Agriculture**, also responsible for Green VET, decided to build on that and organize something equally spectacular in the field of agricultural education. Using the concept of a sporting event that took place during the *Bicentenaire*, the idea popped up to gather Green VET students from all the EU countries in Strasbourg in May 1992. The Ministry had several responsible persons working on the task: **Jacques Bourdreux, Françoise Arthus, Max Gotesman, Nicole Maquignon, Annie Burguet, Eric Grogner.**

Also, the already established circle of CARREFOUR friends was asked to help with the organization. Thus, the two French founders, **Jean-Luc Ravat (!)** and **Annie Bouatou** were actively involved in the groundwork. The name *Carrefour de l'Enseignement Agricole* (Crossroads of Agricultural Education) gave the basis for branding this new movement as *l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole* (The Europe of Agricultural Education) or **EUROPEA (!)**.



Pic no2: LTA (LU) students, 1991

During the next period the organising team met several times; in Luxembourg, France, Belgium and Italy in order to get everything ready for the “May 1992 in Strasbourg” project. Apart from adults, these meetings were also attended by youngsters, **Pionniers du Savoir Vert** (Pioneers of Green Knowledge).

At the reunion in Paris (FR) a supervising team named **COE Comité d'Organisation EUROPEA** (Organizing Committee of EUROPEA) was established and while Luxembourg held the EU presidency that year, **Georges Krack (LU)** was appointed the first president of COE. This way it became easier to get financial support for

the Strasbourg meeting. (A routine we still keep today with the organisation of our bi-annual seminars.)

Finally, this milestone event with the ambition to bring together 2000 (!) Green VET students and teachers officially got on its way with an opening act on 16/10/1991 in Luxembourg. Stay with us and find out more about “May 1992 in Strasbourg” in our April article 😊 Until then:

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to **Georges** (LU), our first president and **Fons** (LU), one of the pioneers who got to Strasburg in May 1992 😊

Written by Judit Covic (HU) for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 26th March 2018
Based on the documents entitled “*Europäische Projekte*” and “*EUROPEA-Historique*”
by Georges Krack available here: www.europea.org (About/History/Recollections)

Pioneers of Green VET

Reunion of 2000 young European students of Green VET

(Rassemblement de 2000 Jeunes Européens de l'Enseignement Agricole)

7-10 May 1992, Erstein (near Strasbourg), France

History of EUROPEA started in 1988, the year that saw the first reunion of the Green VET actors in Vire (FR), and the establishment of the Carrefour network. 1989-1991 was a crucial period as well for it brought us the creation of EUROPEA and its committee of organisation (COE - Comité d'Organisation EUROPEA) with the task to set the "May 1992 in Strasbourg" event.



Pic no1: Packed main square!

The idea of such a meeting was launched after the success of the **Grande Moisson** in Paris, and the decision of the French Ministry of Agriculture to organise a spectacular gathering for students in Green VET and put together an agenda that would encourage cooperation in the fields of sport, culture and professional training.

The project got on its way in Luxembourg on **16 October 1991** with the departure of the **"European Relay"**, a small object that was to be carried all around the continent symbolizing unity and belonging together. It travelled from country to country, from school to school by many different means of transport: bus, train, plane and sometimes it was even carried individually by runners just like in a real relay race.

It finally arrived in Erstein, near Strasbourg (FR), on the very day of 7 May 1992 when already the first delegations from the participating Green VET colleges started to turn up for the big event. And during the next four days, from **7 to 10 May 1992**, some 2000 (!) youngsters spent a quality time together completing a packed

programme including professional workshops, round table discussions, exhibitions, concerts, parties and sporting events.

Fons Logtenberg, our colleague from LTA (*Lycée Technique Agricole, LU*), was a student then and lucky enough to be one of the participants. *“Those were big times.”* - he explains. *“Borders fell down, we opened up towards Europe and Europe opened up for us. It was great to realize that even vocational students can travel and take part in those milestone events.”*



Pic no2: Fons with THE flag!

*“Names of my peers I can recall are **Christiane, Carlo, Ginette, Dan, Gusti, Paul** ... We were the Pioneers of Green Knowledge (*“Pionniers du Savoir Vert”*), we took part in the preparations and we were together in Erstein. However, we owe a lot to our teachers who made it possible for us to get there: **Norbert Feltgen** (principal), **Fernand Leesch** (vice principal), **Georges Krack** (president of COE), **Henri Kohnen, Jemp Steichen and Martine Hansen**.*

“It was awesome. Students from different countries mingled, made friends and had great fun together. We returned home with the overwhelming feeling that Europe is really becoming united, and I was thrilled to have had a first-hand experience of that.”

*“This journey definitely had a decisive effect on my life. Soon after the Strasbourg meeting, I was invited to work for LTA with projects on crop research, a job that I accepted and have had ever since. I am pleased to have been part of EUROPEA from the very beginnings. My special thanks to **Georges Krack**, who urged me to get to Erstein, **Martine Hansen**, who arranged the project and **Norbert Feltgen**, who offered me the job. “*

During the 2015 EUROPEA Autumn Seminar in Luxembourg **Georges and Fons** were honoured by **Mr. Fernand Etgen, Minister of Agriculture in Luxembourg** for the long time they spent in European cooperation.

And we are happy to join in and repeat the slogan of our campaign:

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: many thanks to **Fons** (LU) for the interview he gave us during the FR/UK meeting in April 2018; and **Georges** (LU) for the valuable details 😊

Photos: Fons (LU) 😊

Written by Judit Čović (HU) for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 23th April 2018

Based on the documents entitled “*Europäische Projekte*” and “*EUROPEA-Historique*” by Georges Krack available here: www.europea.org (About/History/Recollections)

LEGAL EAGLE - road to legalisation

The Edinburgh Meeting, 28-31 October 1992

After the very successful “May in Strasbourg” meeting of European Green VET students in Erstein (near Strasbourg, FR), the next milestone event in the history of EUROPEA was the reunion of COE (Comité d'organisation d'EUROPEA) members in Edinburgh (GB), which took place between 28-31 October 1992.

The triumph of the Erstein meeting led to the decision to lay the legal foundations of a comprehensive European network that would connect and tie all Green VET actors of the continent and encourage professional cooperation.



Pic: Georges Demeester, The Man of the Statutes!

During the Edinburgh meeting in October 1992 the early “EUROPEAns” analysed the reports of the “May in Strasbourg” event, talked about the future of the network and discussed the role of national organisations in it.

The Belgian team had previously got the task to elaborate the first version of the EUROPEA Statutes, which was then presented in Edinburgh. **Georges Demeester (BE)**, as a legal expert, introduced the content of the created document, and after intensive and prolific discussions a temporary version was approved by the delegates.

National coordinators were obliged to introduce the would-be statutes in their own countries and name a delegate responsible for the signing of the final legal document. The date for the next meeting was set for 13-15 January 1993 and Luxembourg was appointed as the hosting country.

Colleagues from 10 EU states - Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal - who were present in Edinburgh took on the task to fulfil those duties and meet again a few months later.

Thus, preparations were over, and the scene was set for the closing act: the birth of our association.

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: many thanks to **Emile** (BE) and **Madelon** (NL) 😊

Photo: Madelon (NL) 😊

Written by Judit Čović (HU) for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 30th May 2018

Based on the documents of Emile Bertrand (BE) available here: www.europea.org
(About/History/Recollections)

From Edinburgh to Ettelbruck and Tune

Foundation and fist seminar, 1993

Following the remarkable success of the “May in Strasbourg” meeting, the French Ministry of Agriculture urged the organisers to continue cooperation on professional basis. So it happened that in October 1992 members of the COE (Comité d’organisation d’EUROPEA) travelled to Edinburgh (UK) to prepare the statutes, and with that, we were definitely on the way to establish EUROPEA as a legally recognised European organisation.

As agreed in Edinburgh, delegates representing Belgium, Germany, Denmark, France, The UK, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Portugal gathered at **Lycée Technique Agricole in Ettelbruck (LU)** on 14th January 1993, and for two long days they worked hard discussing all the articles of the important document. In the afternoon of **15th January 1993, The EUROPEA Statutes** were accepted and signed by the eight founding countries. In that moment EUROPEA was born! And although, the formal recognition was still to be accomplished, that particular date is considered to be the birthday of our network.



Photos no1: Historic meeting in LU in Jan 1993 and the official press conference afterwards

This is how **Jacob Kjaer (DK)**, our first president, described this historic event in the initial EUROPEA Newsletter in May 1993:

“In January this year a set of statutes for the European organisation EUROPEA was agreed upon at a meeting in Luxembourg. Unfortunately, Greece, Italy and Spain were absent, and the German representative claimed that he was not able to officially represent Germany (...).

Representatives of the remaining 8 countries signed the statutes. They have been coordinated with the Belgian legislation, as the organisation will have its future centre in Belgium.

These revised statutes are now being circulated between the eight countries, and when it is terminated, we expect to have the organisation recognised by the Belgian law. This may facilitate sponsoring from EU-funds.”



Photos no2: Seminar in Tunes with a group photo in Copenhagen

While waiting for the legal recognition, the early EUROPEAns refused to sit back and relax. And although it was not possible to organize the first official *General Assembly* just yet, they set up a seminar with the topic on environmental problems and met again in the period of 16th - 18th May 1993 in Tunes (near Roskilde, DK). In addition, an informal GA was also held there. **Emile Bertrand (BE)** was named as the next president, and Zaragoza (ES) was appointed the venue of the succeeding meeting.

Stay with us and discover more with our July article. Until then:

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: Many-many thanks to **Madelon (NL)**, **Jacob (DK)**, **Henrik (DK)**, **Emile (BE)** and **Georges (LU)** 😊

Photos: Madelon (NL) 😊

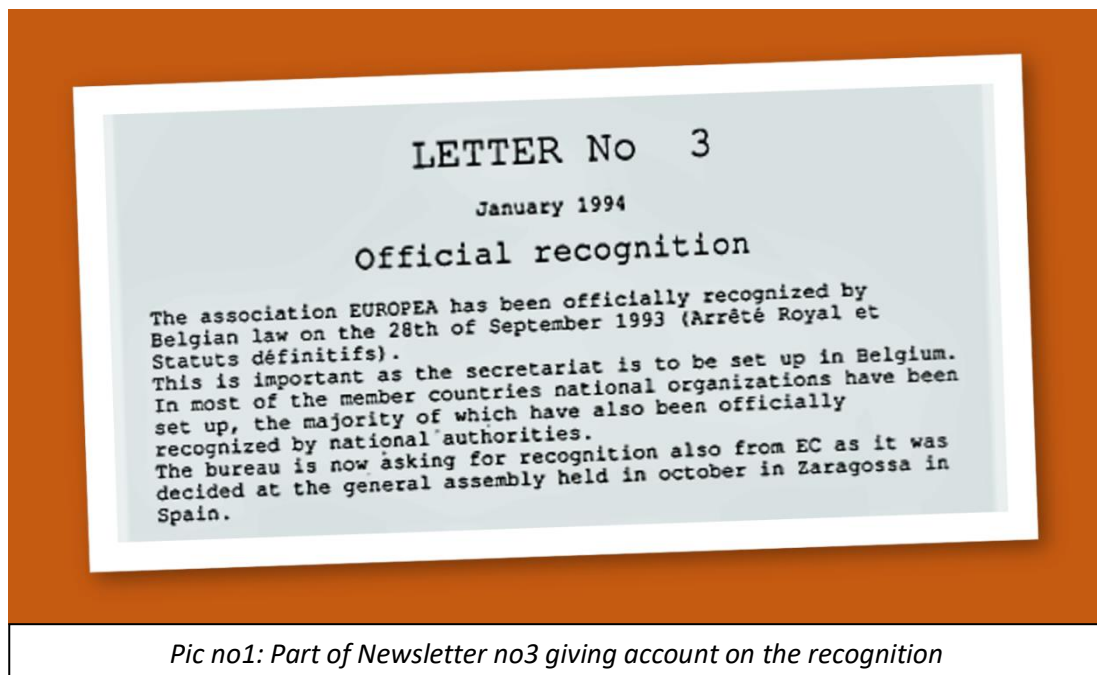
By Judit Čović (HU), for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 24th June 2018

Based on the EUROPEA Newsletters and documents available for the Editorial Group

EUROPEA - official!

28 September 1993

During the meetings in Edinburgh (Oct 1992, GB) and Ettelbruck (Jan 1993, LU) the pioneers of EUROPEA formed and accepted the first Statutes of our network, and in the second half of 1993 the official recognition was enthusiastically awaited.



On the very day of **28th Sept 1993**, the certifying **Royal Decree** and the **EUROPEA Statutes** were published in **Moniteur Belge**, the official journal of the Kingdom of Belgium. With this legal act EUROPEA was officially acknowledged and established. Alive and kicking!

Thus, it was time for the first official General Assembly, which was held in the period from 28th to 30th Oct 1993 in Zaragoza (ES), as agreed previously at the Tune meeting (DK) in May. The main objective was to elect the leaders according to the recently recognised statutes. Sticking to the idea of following the round of the EU Presidency, **Emile Bertrand** of **EUROPEA-Belgium** became president, and the rest of the leaders were appointed as follows:

Vice president: **Jacob Kjaer (DK)**
Secretary: **Annie Bouatou (FR)**
Vice secretary: **José Antonio Dominguez (ES)**
Treasurer: **Norbert Feltgen (LU)**
Vice treasurer: **Madelon De Beus (NL)**

Only a few years after the initial **CARREFOUR** reunion in Normandy in 1988, EUROPEA - as a newly recognised association - was ready for future challenges and about to launch a wide cooperation within the field of European land-based education and training.

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to **Madelon (NL)** and **Emile (BE)** 😊

By Judit Čović (HU) for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 26th July 2018
Based on the EUROPEA Newsletters and documents available for the Editorial Group

The First Fifteen

1993 - 2008

The story of EUROPEA dates back to 1988 when the first interchanges started between French and Dutch Green VET Schools. Following the milestone events in Vire (FR), Erstein (FR), Edinburgh (UK) and Ettelbruck (LU) The EUROPEA Statues got published in Moniteur Belge on 28th Sept 1993. EUROPEA was official, alive and ready for the challenges of a brand-new era.



The first fifteen years went by very quickly. EUROPEA got new members, grew bigger and stronger, and became a significant factor within the European cooperation of Green VET institutions. During those years EUROPEA started and realized several EU subsidized projects. This way it became easier to deal with the finances. **PETRA** was one of the first common projects. **CARREFOUR** was carried on smoothly. **ARION** project opened in 1994 and took EUROPEA back to France again. Then, in 1995 the second stage of the same programme was completed in the Netherlands. **PPP** project ran from 1997 to 2000 and **FANCAM** from 2004 to 2007. In 2005 **ALIE** got on her way and was immediately followed by the **ALIVE** project (2008-2010).

Meanwhile, as a result of a longer process, *the Charter of EUROPEA* was finished, accepted and signed in Somerset, England on 20th February 1999. At that moment EUROPEA boasted with 15 member-states and some 600 schools as part of the network.

Also, in 2000 some changes were introduced to the governing body of EUROPEA. In Borgo/Corsica (FR) a working group involving Claes-Goran Claesson (SE), Sukey Elstob (UK), Madelon de Beus (NL), Georges Krack (LU), Elisabeth Hönigsberger (AT) and Marie-Christine Thomas (F) prepared a proposal for establishing a post of the ***Executive Secretary of EUROPEA*** (today Secretary General). It was consented at the General Assembly on 25th October 2000, and ***Georges Demeester (BE)*** became the first to take up the new position.



EUROPEA Meetings and Seminars (1993 - 2008)

1993: Ettelbruck (LU) - Tune (DK) - Zaragoza (ES)

1994: Lisbon (PT) - Futterkamp (DE)

1995: Bordeaux (FR)

1996: Remedello (IT) - Galway (IE)

1997: Maastricht (NL)

1998: Ettelbruck (LU) - Krems (AT)

1999: Kiel (DE) - Vuokatti (FI)

2000: Serpa (PT) - Borgo/Corsica (FR)

2001: Varnamo (SE) - Bruxelles (BE)

2002: Reus/Barcelona (ES) - Odense (DK)

2003: Thessaloniki (EL) - Corzano/Brescia (IT)

2004: Luua (EE) - Vught/ 's-Hertogenbosch (NL)

2005: Ettelbruck (LU) - Bristol (UK)

2006: Maria Taferl (AT) - Tampere (FI)

2007: Sankelmark (DE) - Peso da Régua (PT)

2008: Poznan (PL) - St-Herblain/Nantes (FR)

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Madelon (NL), Elisabeth (AT), Katrin (EE), Henrik (DK) and Emile (BE) 😊

By Judit Čović (HU) for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 24th August 2018
Based on the EUROPEA Newsletters and information available for the Editorial Group

And the Last Ten

2009 - 2018

After the foundation of EUROPEA the enthusiasm of the early years has turned into a steady and firm cooperation between the member states. Thus, the following years saw a continuous growth and a safe development of our network.



The beginning of the last ten years of our history was marked by two large scale projects, which had the intention to involve all EUROPEA national organisations. Leonardo da Vinci projects **CHAVET** (Challenges of Agricultural Vocational Education and Training; 2009-2011) and **COPCHAVET** (Coping with Challenges of Agricultural Vocational Education and Training; 2011-2013) provided a stable background for a quality collaboration and made it possible for the EUROPEAns to meet several times a year at seminars, open-schools and student meetings.



Parallel to that other projects were also run with a smaller number of partners but still with the participation of EUROPEA members and actually, it has never stopped! With the new system of ERASMUS+ this trend was continued and is going strong even nowadays! ALIVE (2008-2010), AQUAP (2010-2012), AGROCUA (2012-2014), ANGIE 2.0 (2012-2014), PEAT VALLEY (2012-2014), EBBEY (2013-2015()), VITEA (2015-2017),

CAROUSEL 2.0 (2015-2017), SILVAforum (2016-2018), LOASA (2016-2018) ... to mention some of the very many. Moreover, EUROPEA partners planned and realised countless number of mobilities, study visits and of course, CARREFOUR went on uninterruptedly.

Over the years excellent student competitions got firmly established on the EUROPEA Calendar like **the European Championships in Forestry Skills** or the ever popular **EUROPEA Wine Championships**. Our students participated regularly in the cattle judging and wine tasting events at the **SIA Paris**. The recently introduced **AGROLYMPICS** has quickly grown into an impressive and admired event. And there is more to come!



Started back in 1993 with 8 founding countries, today our organisation is proud to have more than 1000 member-schools in 25 countries of Europe and the numbers are still growing. EUROPEA is 25 this year, stronger than ever and has nothing to fear about the future.

We are family.

EUROPEA Meetings and Seminars (2009 - 2018)

2009: Benešov (CZ) - Strömme (SE)

2010: Pamplona (ES) - Brussels (BE)

2011: Kaszópuszta (HU) - Pultusk (PL)

2012: Aarhus (DK) - Zaragoza (ES)

2013: Bergen (NO) - Wageningen (NL)

2014: *Baden (AT) - Locorotondo (IT)*

2015: *Riga (LT) - Luxembourg City (LU)*

2016: *Rotterdam (NL) - Piešťany (SK)*

2017: *Naxxar (MT) - Tartu (EE)*

2018: *Blainville-sur-Mer (FR)/ Guernsey (UK) - Retz (AT)*

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

By Judit Čović (HU) for the *History of EUROPEA Campaign*, 29 September 2018

Based on the data available on the EUROPEA TeamEngine platform.

Go with the Flow

From phones, faxes and newsletters to the internet and SN sites

Have you ever wondered how the founders of our network managed to communicate 25 years ago without smart phones, laptops or the Internet? Although they would still have phones and faxes, they swiftly established their very own channel that would assure the flow of information: the EUROPEA Newsletters.



The very first edition was issued in May 1993 and sent out by mail to the national coordinators who were obliged to make copies and distribute them to the membership. For long years EUROPEA Newsletters were printed 3 or 4 times a year in English and in French. They were edited by **Jacob Kjaer (DK)**, the first president of EUROPEA. After his retirement in 2001, **Georges Demeester (BE)**, the Man of the Statues, took it over. However, the electronic age was emerging, the Internet became a factor and EUROPEA had to go with the flow.



Thus, newsletters rapidly surrendered to the changes. The last edition that we know of comes from June 2005. By that time the **europea.org** website was established and **TeamEngine** intranet was introduced with the ALIE project (2005-2007). TeamEngine

proved so useful and easy to deal with that it gradually became the main platform for communication within EUROPEA, and it still is today.

The new century has brought us not only the website (which was changed and modernized several times) but also the compulsory presence on the social networking pages. Want to know more? Stay with us and read the details in our next article.

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Photos: Georges Demeester (BE), 1994 CARREFOUR Meeting in FR; Jacob Kjaer (DK), 1993 EUROPEA Seminar in DK; **Founding fathers** (from left to right): Georges Krack (LU), Fons Logtenberg (LU), Georges Demeester (BE), Jacob Kjaer (DK), Guiseppe Murolo † (IT), 2012 EUROPEA Seminar in DK

Acknowledgements: many thanks to Madelon (NL), Elisabeth (AT), Henrik (DK), Fons (LU), Jacob (DK), Georg (AT) 😊

By Judit Čović (HU) for the *History of EUROPEA Campaign*, 25th November 2018.
Based on the recollection of EUROPEAns and the EUROPEA Newsletters

Jakob and his NEWSLETTERS

The story of communication

EUROPEA (l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole), established at that famous meeting in Ettelbruck (LU) in January 1993, has always relied on the enthusiasm and voluntary work of people who believed in it.

One of them was Jakob Kjaer (DK), who created and edited the EUROPEA Newsletters, the first channel of information within our association. Following his retirement, he handed it over to Georges Demeester (BE) but times were changing and paper based information exchange was quickly replaced by online communication.



Pic: Newsletters and Jakob (DK) during the first seminar in Tüne (DK)

Henrik Dethlefsen (DK), former Secretary General on Jakob Kjaer:

“As a Dane I am particularly impressed by Jakob’s energy and commitment. Then secretary of The Danish Association of Agricultural Colleges, he was allowed by the board of that association “to spend a couple of weeks on EUROPEA in 1993”.

With this modest starting point, he involved himself in a lot of international activities among which EUROPEA was the most important. In the following years he served as president, vice president ordinary board member, etc. He was fluent in English, German, French and Italian, which removed many, many obstacles facing him.

And from 1993 till his retirement in 2001 he edited the EUROPEA Newsletters, which appeared three or four times a year in French and in English. He played a similar important role in EUROPEA Denmark, being the Secretary from 1993 through 2001.

Eagerly, he worked for the continuous involvement of Danish agricultural schools in EUROPEA, and I tend to think, that he was particularly proud, when hosting one of the first EUROPEA seminars under the so-called PETRA project. PETRA was financed by the EEC, involved Italy, France, Belgium and Denmark, and aimed at developing teacher training and teaching modules focusing on environmental issues related to agriculture. The first meeting in Denmark was located in Tøne 11-16 May 1993, that was immediately before the EUROPEA Tøne meeting (Newsletter no.1). “

Salute the founders and long live EUROPEA!

Acknowledgements: many thanks to Henrik (DK) 😊

Pics: Henrik (DK) and Madelon (NL)

Edited and completed by Judit Čović for the *History of EUROPEA* Campaign, 17th February 2019

My EUROPEA

EUROPEA
l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole



My EUROPEA

Thoughts and feelings of the EUROPEAns

EUROPEA is 25 years old in 2018! In order to finish this jubilee year in style we have asked some of the experienced EUROPEAns, former presidents, secretary generals, long-time members to share their thoughts and feelings with us. Follow our posts, stay with EUROPEA and find out what they have told us! In alphabetical order:

One of the first presidents of our network, **Emile Bertrand (BE)** was there from the very beginning:



“EUROPEA was for me a beautiful adventure that began in Strasbourg in 1990 and has been going on for 28 years. It has allowed me to participate, to manage many projects with partners that I thank, to build friendships with many people who have become friends. I hope that this adventure will continue for a long time to come.

*With all my friendships,
Bertrand Emile “*

Madelon de Beus (NL), was already there at the famous meeting in January 1993 when the EUROPEA Statues were signed, and she has been with us ever since:



“EUROPEA 25 is the proof to me that a network can exist and survive through strong connections between people. Not ‘just’ connections: these connections are strong because we have something in common: we want to make crossing border between students and teachers possible both literally and figuratively, we are curious about each other, about each other’s country, culture and traditions, we want to learn, we are open-minded, we bring and take (key-word: reciprocity), and we let EUROPEA develop in a natural way, our way.

EUROPEA 25 has grown into a stable and continuous-growing network that is supported by many excellent and committed professionals in land-based education who have the ambition of crossing borders. It was a pleasure to be in Retz (AT) last October to see this development and where we are now.

EUROPEA has brought me a lot: knowledge about the agricultural sector all over Europe, understanding about cultural differences between members and member states, a network in the Netherlands and in Europe, projects, friends and of course a lot of fun.

Up to the next 25 years!”

Georges Demeester (BE), one of the founding fathers and the man who put together our first Statutes, has sent us his most precious memories of the past 25 years:



“As one of the founders of EUROPEA I have a lot of memories of all those years. I have tried to pick the most important ones:

1/ 1988, Vire (FR): *1st meeting of European agricultural and horticultural schools of Belgium (Anderlecht), the Netherlands (Eppe), Luxembourg (Ettelbruck), UK (Hampshire), Germany (Bremervörde), France (Vire and Troyes). This event was set up and fantastic organized by my late friend Jean-Luc Ravat (FR).*

2/ 1990, The Elysée Palace in Paris (FR), *exactly on 14/07/1990: Reception at the garden party in the Elysée Palace on the national day celebration of France. The leaders of the countries, members of the “CARREFOURS” accompanied by 2 students were invited by President Francois Mitterand to attend this wonderful party!!! One of the biggest memories.*

3/ 1991, Brussels: *departure from Brussels of The European Relay of the students through the countries, partners and members of the Steering Committee of EUROPEA with a final arrival in Ernstein near Strasbourg for the meeting of 2000 European students. It was the 1st international meeting with games and exhibitions for the students and many conferences for the teaching professionals. It really was a huge gathering.*

4/ 1993, LTA Ettelbruck (LU), *Statutes of EUROPEA: The 1st official and legal statutes were adopted by the whole assembly of the 12 countries, members of EUROPEA after having deliberated in Luxembourg in a meeting under the presidency*

of my friend Norbert Feltgen (LU). It was the official birth certificate of EUROPEA; statutes written and conceived by Georges Demeester (BE).

5/ 2000, Borgo (Corsica, FR): election of the 1st Secretary General of EUROPEA aisbl: Georges Demeester (BE).

6/Several Jubilees of EUROPEA: 2002 Poitiers (FR): 500 students. 2012: 20th anniversary in Nimègues (NL) and 2018 25th anniversary.

7/ 2001 and 2010, Belgium: the Belgian presidencies of EUROPEA with education subjects, technical and cultural visits in the 3 regions of Belgium. We think that all our partners were very happy with their stay.

Through several projects where EUROPEA BELGIUM was project leader or a partner, we have tried to help to improve the agricultural education all over Europe. Some of the results of the projects were adopted by some countries. Thanks to the many student competitions the students of the EU have had the opportunity to know each other better, to learn other educational systems, to discover new people's and countries, even new languages!

Personally after 25 years and more, I have had the great chance to meet people some of whom became friends. It was also another way to learn more than education but also to appreciate new cultures and lifestyles; in other words, to develop EUROPEA friendships.

Even if nowadays some political leaders in the EU are missing the principal aims of Peace and Fraternity, it is our DUTY with our association, EUROPEA-International, to do more for the future of our EUROPEA students!!! The will and the actions of EUROPEA must be to reinforce the choice of solidarity of all our countries by implementing new projects and gatherings of students. These are my best wishes for EUROPEA.

*Let us not forget our late Friends **Giuseppe Murolo (IT)** and my best Friend, **Joël Gillet (BE)**.*

Best wishes of New Year for our partners of EUROPEA aisbl!

Bravo for your splendid work!

Georges DEMEESTER

Former Secretary General of EUROPEA aisbl, Former President of EUROPEA Belgium”

Henrik Dethlefsen (DK), former Secretary General of EUROPEA, today a happy pensioner and a proud grandfather:



“For me and my college the EUROPEA membership has always been instrumental for the internationalization of our programs, which we have pursued for decades now. Through EUROPEA the Green Academy in Aarhus became partners in projects, which opened doors for our students to international experience by means of work placements, competitions, language training and fun. And through seminars, project meetings and visits to agricultural schools, producers and industry in almost every corner of our beautiful continent, we, the teachers and instructors, became more skilled in what we are doing.

Students and teachers alike, we always learn something from being surprised: seeing things made differently from what we use to do, meeting people doing or saying things in different ways than we have seen or heard before. - In that sense, EUROPEA is a wonderful surprise for everybody with an open mind!

*Still, EUROPEA is depending on excellent people - of who I met hundreds during my years of service for the network. People who are committed and always willing to help. People who take cross border responsibility for further developing our green vocational sector. People who knows - as W.B. Yeats once put it - that **“There are no strangers here; only friends you haven’t yet met.”***

Hugs, Henrik”

What does **EUROPEA** mean to me?

A growing number of **E**nthusiastic people
taking sometimes **U**nconventional
approaches which
are always **R**ooted
in nature

Open to new
methodologies- still
repeatedly taking
Practical challenges into
consideration

It is **E**nabling our students to meet people from so many
different countries and backgrounds
to sometimes share their anxieties but always
their **A**mbitions
in order to realise the
"the sky is the limit" and
"together we go further"!

Elisabeth Hönigsberger
EUROPEA, Secretary General

Georges Krack (LU), president of COE (*Comité d'Organisation EUROPEA*, 1991), one of the founding fathers with a big heart for his students:



“As one of the founders of EUROPEA I am pleased to have the chance to witness how EUROPEA has grown over the years. We started with 8 countries and now, 25 years later, we have 25 member-states from all over Europe! And there is no stopping. New countries apply regularly, some of the old members are back after being absent for a while, and there are so many new faces around at our bi-annual meetings.

In the past 25 years EUROPEA made it possible for hundreds of schools to carry out common projects. Together we learned to apply for European financial support such as Erasmus+ and many others before. New projects, new partnerships, new competitions has been introduced year by year and I am very happy to see all that. However, the biggest achievement of EUROPEA in my eyes is that it enabled us to arrange thousands of work-placements for our students abroad. And so, they got the chance to discover completely different ways of management and production in the Green Sector. As highlights of EUROPEA I consider the many European student competitions in Forestry Skills, Cattle Judgement, AgrOlympics, HortOlympics, VinOlympics and many others.”

Fons Logtenberg (LU) was there at the very beginning as a student and he has stayed with EUROPEA ever since:



“25 years is a long time, but I keep these years in good memory.

I had my first contact with EUROPEA as a student in 1991 at the Symbolic Departure of The Steeple Run in Luxembourg. In that year I could not imagine that I would stay with EUROPEA till nowadays!

My second meeting was in 1992. Our friend Guiseppe Murolo (RIP) had the wonderful idea to invite 4 students per country to assist as members of the “Green Pioneers” at the GA of EUROPEA in Locorotondo, Italy. This trip had a bad start as the luggage from the 7 participants from Luxembourg got stolen in Paris, wherefrom we took our flight to Bari. In Locorotondo the French teacher Manuela helped us to buy new clothes so that we could dress up properly during the conference. During the GA in Locorotondo in 2014, I met friends, whom I got to know 25 years earlier at the same place! This was a tremendous experience for me.

My third meeting was again as a student at the famous meeting in Erstein, France, in May 1992, where some 2000 agriculture students from all European countries met during a week. As an adult person I became a member of EUROPEA Luxembourg, and I had the chance to assist in many more meetings. I always met nice persons, learned about interesting projects, discovered foreign traditions and took home nice souvenirs.

During these last 25 years, I truly realized that - as they say: “There are no strangers here, only friends you haven’t yet met” ... !!”

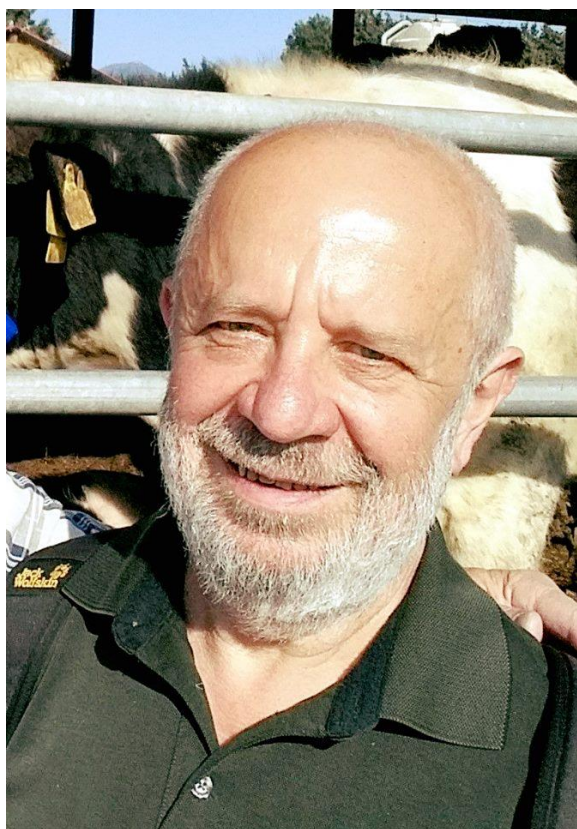
Ton Stok (NL), former Secretary General of EUROPEA, long-time member, leader of countless Leonardo da Vinci and ERASMUS+ projects:



” EUROPEA-International has brought me, not only knowledge about the agricultural education all over Europe, but also a bunch of new good friends, some of whom became friends for life. I have learned a lot about the cultural differences between the members and the member states. And I have noticed that we all respect each other’s traditions and lifestyles. This is one of the best things EUROPEA has given me. Another good thing that happened to me over the last decades was being the leader of many projects with EUROPEA members. It was a great experience for me, and we worked together on innovative challenges.

Thank you EUROPEA! Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year!”

Georg Waach (AT) is one of the long-time members and although retired, he still helps our work day by day!



“EUROPEA was one of the best, remarkable and unforgettable experience in my life as a teacher. I’ve met so many colleagues from almost all the member states. Many of them became friends for my whole life. Knowing so many people made it easy for me to start many student exchange programmes for my students and projects like Leonardo, Comenius and Erasmus. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards, Georg”

“My EUROPEA” statements were published on the website in the period of 26th December 2018 - 26th January 2019



Pic: drawing made by **Markus Engelberger (AT)** during the 2018 autumn seminar in Retz, AT

EUROPEA 25

Recognition of the first statues



MEETING

Where?

Lycée Technique Agricole,
Luxembourg

When?

14-15 January 1993

Who?

A group of pioneers of European
Green VET

Why?

Establish cooperation in Green
VET

THE STATUES



15 representatives



8 countries

BELGIUM
DENMARK
FRANCE
LUXEMBOURG



IRELAND
THE NETHERLANDS
PORTUGAL
UNITED KINGDOM

NEW MOVEMENT STARTED...

EUROPEA

l'Europe de l'Enseignement Agricole



EUROPEA

Alone you go faster - together we go further!

25 years - a success story

Started in 1993 with 8 states

Belgium, Danmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, The Netherlands and UK - has developed into a real European network with already 25 member countries 25 years later.

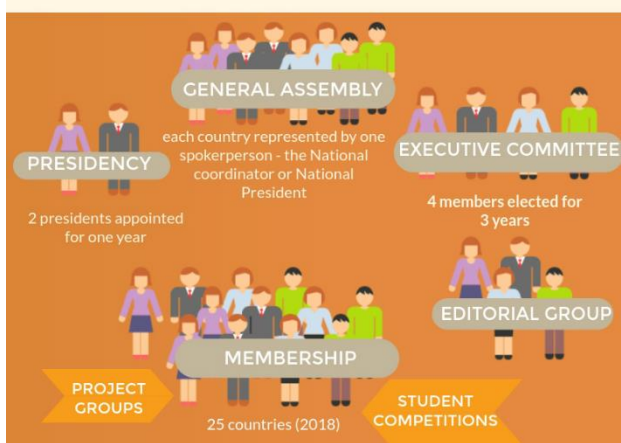
europea

"After the revision of statutes in 2015 EUROPEA can now rely on well-established bodies to serve its members."

AIMS

- stimulate training and exchange of agricultural and land-based students, teachers and staff members
- promote partnership between the professional world and agricultural and land-based education and advisory centres
- provide a platform for exchange of project products and of knowledge
- encourage student competitions
- facilitate intercultural exchanges
- promote continuous education
- support the development of thematic cooperation between members
- study and disseminate results and knowledge regarding changes in the agricultural and land-based world
- be involved in global cooperation in the agricultural and land-based training sector

Structure of EUROPEA



Modernization

What started with a paper newsletter in pre-digital times is now presented in numerous media providing up-to-date information.

EUROPEA members use Erasmus+ actions to exchange students and trainers, develop learning approaches and learning units, and create didactical and methodical tools and products to facilitate a modern learning process with a European dimension incorporated.

EUROPEA competitions enable out students to meet fellow students from abroad and show their professional competences.

25 year of EUROPEA



It's time to honour the accomplishments of the past, reflect and raise awareness for future challenges, remember milestones and meet some of the founding members

2018 - Let's celebrate 25 years of EUROPEA!

EUROPEA 1993 - 2018



Alone you go faster – together we go further!



Contents

Preface	3
Acknowledgements	4
Articles	5
2018 - Let's celebrate 25 years of EUROPEA!	6
Glimpse into History	8
Crossroads of the Past	10
From Carrefour to EUROPEA	12
Pioneers of Green VET	15
LEGAL EAGLE - road to legalisation	18
From Edinburgh to Ettelbruck and Tune	20
EUROPEA - official!	22
The First Fifteen	24
And the Last Ten	27
Go with the Flow	30
Jakob and his NEWSLETTERS	32
My EUROPEA	34
Emile Bertrand (BE)	35
Madelon de Beus (NL)	36
Georges Demeester (BE)	37
Henrik Dethlefsen (DK)	40
Elisabeth Hönigsberger (AT)	41
Georges Krack (LU)	42
Fons Logtenberg (LU)	43
Ton Stok (NL)	44
Georg Waach (AT)	45
Infographics and group photos 1998 - 2018	46

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