

ESHA

European School Heads Association



P.O. Box 1003, 3500 BA UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Internet www.esha.orgDublin, September 14th 2017

Dear President Fiona and Council members.

I'm very sorry that I am unable to attend Conference in Capetown. I have the happiest memories of previous visits to South Africa and Capetown in particular so I know delegates will have a wonderful visit and a great conference. The timing of the conference means that unfortunately no member of the ESHA Executive Board is able to join you but I want to thank you for the opportunity to update you on the work of ESHA through the good offices of my Irish colleague, Paul Byrne, a past-President of NAPD, member of the ESHA General Assembly and delegate to your Council.

The ESHA Board met in Utrecht on the 24 August last. Chief items on the agenda were the review of the last General Assembly meeting which took place in Mallorca where ICP were represented by Peter Kent and planning for the next meeting which is due to take place in Sicily in October. A key policy for the Board is the establishment of the ESHA Academy to promote and strengthen school leadership by international learning and sharing but which could be funded by the Erasmus+ programme. When operational the academy will offer high quality international courses for school leadership teams to improve their leadership competence and network with other school leaders. At the start the Academy will offer various 4 day programmes in a number of member states. The programmes will be based around strategic management, conflict management from a leadership perspective, characteristics of effective schools systems and principal leadership for school improvement. The Ontario Principals' Council, the International School for Social and Business Studies, Slovenia and in Dialogue which specialises in leadership and organisational development will offer courses on the programme. The deadline for applications will be announced after the October Sicily meeting but the deadline for applications to the Erasmus+ funding programme will be February 2018.

Job shadowing is also a priority for the current Board and a pilot programme involving Scotland, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Slovenia is being finalised with a view to being rolled out further next year. Job shadowing opportunities usually last 3 or 4 days. Members are hosted by their opposite number and the programme is usually worked out by the participants in advance. In addition to the above, ESHA is participating in or is about to commence work on a number of projects which are funded through the European Commission as a partner in a number of consortia.

European School Heads Association

International Bank Account Number (IBAN)

BIC or SWIFT code

Bank account number ESHA

Name of the Bank

Address of the Bank

Country

NL 30 SNSB 096 285 3046

SNS BNL 2 A

96 28 53 046

SNS Bank

Utrechtseweg 1 – 3811 NA Amersfoort

The Netherlands

ESHA

European School Heads Association



P.O. Box 1003, 3500 BA UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Internet www.esha.org

ESL++ is a project on early school leaving which ends in summer 2018. The key deliverables will be successful strategies to combat the problem. Over 30 associations contributed to this process at the Mallorca meeting. Breaking the Silence is another project which was discussed in detail at the Mallorca meeting. The focus of the project is combating child abuse and the key deliverable is designing training kits for teachers and parents and designing community awareness material. Intercultural Training to help migrants integrate is the focus of another project which will end towards the end of 2018. An Open School in Open Societies is a school that imports external ideas that challenge existing views and beliefs is at the heart of a 4 year project, OSOS, which is due to end in 2020. The goal is to encourage schools to develop a model that seeks to promote an innovative and experimental culture. Later in October, ESHA will be represented at starter meetings of projects designed to enhance the performance in schools of newly arrived migrant children and dealing with inclusion, segregation issues, racism etc and also at a meeting to develop the teachers' competences to prevent and fight cyberbullying.

Because of its extensive links throughout Europe, ESHA is frequently asked to participate in projects because of its dissemination capacity. Each request is carefully vetted to ensure it is compatible with our ethos and is relevant to school leaders. Normally the success rate for applications for funding is less than 10%. This year our rate is over 25% which could put pressure on the ESHA office to carry out the necessary work to make the project a success. It is envisaged then that additional personnel will be employed for contracted periods to ensure the success of a new project on developing entrepreneurial mindsets to create social innovators and social entrepreneurs throughout Europe.

ESHA will also participate in a new project to create a coaching and mentoring programme for newly-appointed school leaders. The final successful application was for a project to develop a selection of resources to promote peace education and prevent violent radicalisation of our people as we strive to create democratic values in our communities.

So as you can see there is a lot going on with the challenging agenda before us over the next few years. The next ESHA General Assembly will take place in Syracuse in October and I hope the ICP can be represented there. Best wishes for a successful Council meeting and a wonderful Conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clive Byrne'.

Clive Byrne

President European School Heads Association (ESHA)

European School Heads Association

International Bank Account Number (IBAN)

BIC or SWIFT code

Bank account number ESHA

Name of the Bank

Address of the Bank

Country

NL 30 SNSB 096 285 3046

SNS BNL 2 A

96 28 53 046

SNS Bank

Utrechtseweg 1 – 3811 NA Amersfoort

The Netherlands