

## NEWSLETTER

**April 2020**

### Foreword

The writing of this newsletter feels different than usual. There is a lot going on in the world right now and the recent developments in regards to the Corona virus have shown us how vulnerable we are. It affects everybody one way or the other.

For our school, the past few weeks have also been very hectic. Strict measures have been taken by the Dutch government, which have a major impact on education as well; schools are closed down and a lot of hard work is being done to ensure that the lessons for our students can continue as much as possible; with the modern digital resources that are available to us today, this can (for a big part) be done remotely. Unfortunately, exams here in the Netherlands had to be cancelled and that has major consequences for everyone involved: teachers, students, parents.

What is striking is that in this crisis, which affects the whole world, every country chooses its own approach to fighting the virus. We have asked some of our members about the situation in their country and in which circumstances they are working and living at this moment. You can read some of their responses later in this newsletter.

Due to the Corona virus a lot of meetings have been cancelled. That also applies for the General Assembly, which was scheduled in May. A lot of preparations with the help and support from our Bulgarian colleagues already had been made, but it would not be wise to continue under these circumstances. We of course have to wait and see how things will evolve and when our agenda's will all be back to normal. Until that time the General Assembly is postponed until further notice; we hope to set a new date in the autumn of this year.

We do not know what the future is going to bring and what the aftermath of this crisis will be, but at some point all this will be behind us. We hope for the best and stay safe everyone!

With kind regards,

Mr. H.A.L. (Arjen) Mintjes  
President of the EDINNA board



## **EDINNA board meeting**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April an EDINNA board meeting was held. This time the meeting could not be organized in Breukelen in the Netherlands, as is normally the case. Although we have all kinds of digital resources, the meeting via Skype unfortunately did not run very smoothly. But in the end we managed to discuss what was needed. It is important for the board members to stay in touch with each other on a regular basis and to continue to represent the interests of EDINNA to the best of their abilities.

## **Everyday life in difficult times**

All over the world countries are taking strong measures to fight the Corona virus. Although, there are very different views on how to deal with this crisis and there is no certainty about which measures work best. Within Europe Italy is the worst affected country at this moment, followed by Spain. Italy is in a total lockdown, like Spain and France. In a speech on television, French President Emmanuel Macron even talks about being 'at war'. Some countries are closing their border like Germany and Austria for example. In a lot of countries only supermarkets, pharmacies and banks are allowed to open their doors and people are urged not to go outside without a valid reason. Schools, theatres, cinema, restaurants, shops etc. have all closed down; public life has been shut down. It is tough on everybody and this crisis brings a lot of uncertainty. We asked a few members about the situation in which they are living at this moment. Here are a couple of responses we received.

Mr. Pascal Roland from the L'Ecole Polytechnique de Huy in Belgium says that: "Personally, my family and I are fine. As far as school and training are concerned; the school is closed and training courses are suspended. We have to restart school after the Easter holidays; only if the situation is not deteriorating of course".

Mrs. L. Putz from the University of Applied Sciences in Austria declares that: "We have switched to distance learning – it is already in the 6<sup>th</sup> week now. Research projects are following the time plans and distance learning requires us to come up with new ideas (e.g. how to deal with exams, in particular the final exams before graduation). However, everything works better than expected. Until now, it looks like this semester only mandatory courses in laboratories could be held at the campus."

Like the University of Applied Sciences, most educational institutions have switched to distance learning. Fortunately, this way of teaching is possible thanks to online learning platforms. One of these platforms is REWWay. It offers learning material, free of charge, about inland navigation from a logistics perspective. If you are interested you can check out their website: [www.rewway.at](http://www.rewway.at) Such websites make remote teaching a lot easier.

Mr. K. Paulus from the Schiffer-Berufskolleg Rhein in Duisburg mentions: "In Germany, schools have been closed since mid-March. About half of our students were able to complete the exercises and in-depth exercises posted daily by the teachers in the e-learning portal. The remaining students were scheduled by the companies to manning the ships in order to guarantee the minimum manning levels. When and in which steps the schools will be reopened after the Easter holidays has not yet been published."



### **Digital consortium meeting**

Due to the Coronavirus the meeting of the COMPETING consortium in Slovakia was cancelled, but on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March an online gathering was organized instead. During this meeting it was made clear that some results are coming in now and a lot of progress has been made on the various work packages, in particular by the larger institutes. We hope to continue this progress and we keep working on the European harmonization of inland navigation education with the aim of increasing labour mobility in the inland shipping sector.

### **News from the CESNI secretariat**

The consolidated version of the European Standard for Qualifications in Inland Navigation (ES-QIN), edition 2019 is now available on [CESNI's website](#). The publication is available in English, French, German and Dutch.



### **We like to hear from our members!**

With the EDINNA newsletter we want to keep in touch with all of our members. It is one of the ways in which EDINNA as an association can keep its members informed of developments and important announcements. But it is also nice to know what our members are doing and therefore we would like to hear from you as well! So, if you have some news which you would like to share with our EDINNA members, regarding your school, developments on education and training for example, or maybe you want to share some ideas, please send us your input.



### **Spread the word**

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