

**[ACEEPT]**

**Association des Centres Européens d'Éducation Professionnelle en Tourisme**  
**Association of European Training Centres in Tourism**

**[International, Professional & Educational]**

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## **ACEEPT – European Network of Universities of Applied Sciences in Tourism**

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- **[ACEEPT: European Network]**
  - **[International, Professional & Educational]**
  - **[Record of Achievement]**
  - **[Project Week]**
  - **[Members]**
  - **[Visitors]**
  - **[Board Members]**
  - **[Information]**
-

- **[ACEEPT: European Network]**

ACEEPT, the **A**ssociation des **C**entres **E**uropéens d'**E**ducation **P**rofessionnelle en **T**ourisme' ('Association of European Training Centres in Tourism') is a European network of Universities of Applied Sciences in Tourism. Currently, ACEEPT consists of ten partners. The official language of the association is English.

- **[International, Professional & Educational]**

ACEEPT is an international organization which brings together students, teachers and professionals from ten European Universities of Applied Sciences in Tourism. ACEEPT runs every year a short-term intensive programme based on a specific theme related to tourism. As an international organization, ACEEPT develops partnerships between several European Universities of Applied Sciences and encourages mobility of students and teachers. It strengthens partnership in organizing joint European projects.

As a professional organization, ACEEPT aims at reaching the highest level of professionalism and proficiency. Every year in a different European country, professionals from several institutions or organizations are invited to share their knowledge and expertise with students and teachers. Students get the chance to improve their personal and professional skills, and teachers and trainers get the opportunity to develop joint curricula or establish networks for mobility. Reaching professionalism and proficiency are pivotal to a successful career in a highly competitive world.

On an educational level, ACEEPT is a strong network of Universities of Applied Sciences in Tourism. ACEEPT believes that the exchange of knowledge and expertise between several Universities of Applied Sciences from different European countries is extremely valuable. ACEEPT encourages students to broaden their network in order to enhance their future employability. Finally, through various contacts with professionals, students develop an awareness of the importance to attend life – long learning programmes.

## ○ **[Record of Achievement]**

L'Institut Université de Quimper took the initiative to start a cooperation between different Bachelor Tourism Schools or Universities of Applied Sciences in Tourism in Europe in 1996. The aim was to give added value to the existing training programmes in the different tourism schools. ACEEPT aimed at a common goal: to bring students, teachers and professionals from different nationalities together and to let them think, work and exchange ideas on a tourism related subject.

The first working partners were the IUT de Quimper (France), the Ecole Suisse de Tourisme in Sierre (Switzerland), the Merkur Akademie in Karlsruhe (Germany), the Ostrobothnia Polytechnic in Jakobstad (Finland), the Swansea Institute of Higher Education (U.K.) and the Mechelen University College in Mechelen (Belgium). Mr Hervé Chauvel of the IUT de Quimper was the driving force behind this new association. Some years later, the University of Applied Sciences Inholland in Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and Huesca Business School in Zaragoza (Spain) became members of the association.

Every year, Universities of Applied Sciences from different foreign countries are invited to attend the project week. Yasar University (Turkey), Kaunas College (Lithuania) and the Instituto Politécnico (Portugal) will be invited to attend the ACEEPT project week in 2009.

## ○ **[Project Week]**

Every year, one of the participating partners organizes a project week in which students work in mixed groups from different nationalities on a particular theme. They work under the guidance of lecturers and professionals. Students may also get an assignment prior to and after the project week. Excursions and other international events can be arranged as well. Each University of Applied Sciences selects maximum 12 students who will take part in the ACEEPT project week. As a result, about 90 to 100 students from 10 different European countries have the chance to experience an exciting and challenging international and educational week in a multi-lingual context.

The following themes have been dealt with so far:

- Tourism and Environment (1998, FRA),
- Event Tourism (1999, FRA),
- Business Travel (2000, BEL),
- Tourism and Local Products (2001, CHE),
- Tourism and Technology (2002, DEU),
- Nature and Adventure Tourism (2003, FIN),
- Risk Management in Tourism (2004, FRA),
- City Marketing (2005, NLD),
- Destination Management (2006, BEL),
- Rural Destination Management (2007, FIN),
- Innovation in Alpine Tourism (2008, CHE).

The next project week will be organized by Merkur International University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe, Germany. The theme is **Increasing MICE Tourism by using ART - Using regional distinctions to increase business travel: how a destination's ART sources can specifically help the exhibition and convention sector** and will take place from November 22, 2009 – November 28, 2009.

ACEEPT believes that events such as these open up invaluable opportunities for discussion, for working with peers and professionals, for working out new projects, and for making what may very well turn out to be productive international contacts.

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#### o **[Board Members]**

Cecilia Gielen (Belgium, President)

Arjen van Tol (The Netherlands, Vice-President)

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ACEEPT Website

[www.khm.be](http://www.khm.be) > English > Projects > ACEEPT