



I. V. Z. W.

## EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF MUSEUM & TOURIST RAILWAYS

Fédération Européenne des Chemins de Fer Touristiques et Historiques  
Europäische Föderation der Museums- und Touristikbahnen

### **UPDATE NR 29 September 2016**

#### **WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE HERITAGE RAILWAYS AROUND EUROPE NEWS ♦ VIEWS ♦ ARTICLES ♦ CURRENT EVENTS ♦ OPINIONS**

*If you would like to receive your copy of Update in English please let Josef Sabor know (contact details on the last page).*

*Si vous souhaitez recevoir une version française de Update, veuillez le notifier à Josef Sabor (coordonnés en dernière page).*

*Wenn Sie das Update auf Deutsch erhalten wollen, wenden Sie sich bitte an Josef Sabor (Kontakt siehe letzte Seite).*

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This year's annual congress was one of FEDECRAIL's most successful to date, due in no small part to the hard work of our organizers, the diversity of the visit programme in Austria, Germany, France and Switzerland and the significance of the presentations given during the business sessions, which covered secondary spend (or how to increase your income from sales of refreshments and souvenirs) and the threat to the use of coal.

As if the Paris Accord was not enough, this last topic has been given added urgency by proposals made by the Irish Government to ban all use of coal from autumn 2018. FEDECRAIL policy on coal was formulated by Council in collaboration with WATTRAIN and endorsed by members attending the AGM as follows:

#### **FEDECRAIL - European Federation of Museum & Tourist Railways**

#### **WATTRAIN - World Association of Tourist Trams & Trains**

#### **USING COAL for HERITAGE PURPOSES**

*Current policy statement of FEDECRAIL and WATTRAIN*

*WATTRAIN and FEDECRAIL are committed to campaigning to ensure that their members continue to enjoy the right to use coal as the traditional fuel in locomotives operated by*

*them, on the basis that the impact of their omissions on the world's carbon footprint is minimal*

*Despite this, both bodies will continue to explore actively ways to reduce further these infinitesimal emissions.*

*This policy was adopted at meetings of the WATTRAIN Board of Directors and of FEDECRAIL Council at Dornbirn, Austria on 20<sup>th</sup>. April 2016 and was subsequently endorsed by members of FEDECRAIL at their General Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016.*

*Support for this policy will also be sought from other organisations representing the interests of transport and engineering heritage.*

We are now developing a strategy to implement this policy but it will be up to individual operators how or whether to adopt this strategy which we hope will offer a variety of options for ways to reduce emissions, especially when lighting up.

Next years FEDECRAIL Congress will take place in or near Bruges (Brugge) in Belgium from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017, when we hope to have presentations on the coal issue.

This year we saw the retirement of Livius Kooy as our Honorary Secretary, a role he has performed with distinction since FEDECRAIL was founded in 1994. Apart from his linguistic skills which spanned all our working languages, as well as our official language, Dutch, his input has been impressive. I would certainly have come adrift without him and on a personal basis, I owe him a huge debt of gratitude. I am pleased to report that he has agreed to continue working for FEDECRAIL as our archivist and as liaison officer to NERHT (the New Europe Railway Heritage Trust). I am also delighted that another Dutchman, Kees Wijn Nobel, has taken on the role of Honorary Secretary as his successor. Kees has also agreed to take over the chairmanship of the Strategic Plan Eorking Group, which also includes Heimo Echensperger, our Treasurer and German Vice-President, Jaap Nieweg of HRN, Gordon Rushton and Guido Rossi its secretary, who was formerly a member of FEDECRAIL Council.

Lastly, we continue to attend meetings with the European Rail Agency (ERA) and the UIC, so that our sector is not overlooked by legislators when addressing the needs and requirements of the modern transport sector or industry.

**David Morgan**  
**President**

## **Louis Poix "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"**



The award ceremony of the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur insignias to Louis POIX, Unecto President, took place in Les Hôpitaux Vieux, the village of which Louis Poix is Mayor. The ceremony happened on 9th July, and the insignias were presented by Claude Jeannerot, French Ambassador to the International Labour Office in Geneva, a former Senator, and a former President of General Council of the Doubs region.

In front of an assistance of some 300 people, a number of speeches have underlined the work done by Louis Poix in the areas of volunteering and service to the population. Claude Steinmetz, the Unecto Vice President (and also the Veolia Transdev Rail Dept Director, and the Président of the Association Française du Rail ) highlighted the work of "Loulou" in support of tourist and heritage railways. - Five members of the Unecto Council attended the ceremony.

### **FEDECRAIL "Belgium 2017" Conference**

Preliminary notice that the 2017 Conference and General Assembly will be held on Friday 5.05 – Saturday 6.05, preceded on Thursday 4.05 meetings of our Working Groups and and Opening Reception in the evening. Our base will be the historic city of Bruges/Brugge in Belgium. A post-conference tour programme Saturday 6.05 - Wednesday 10.05 will include visits to a range of heritage railways, tramways and museums in Belgium, including the new SNCB/NMBS Train World Museum in Brussels. More detailed information of business themes and visit programme will be available in early/mid autumn.

### **Bids for Europa Nostra Award 2017**

Europa Nostra Awards have been offered every year since 2002. What is available is one of the most prestigious prizes in the field of European cultural heritage. The deadline for

applications for 2017 is 1st October this year. Up to 30 honorary awards are conferred for projects or initiatives and up to seven prizes are given out of €10,000 each. Heritage railways are eligible. ([www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org))

### **Conference and Study Programme at Lake Constance**



#### **Bregenzerwaldbahn**

In April 2016, Fedecrail in cooperation with the Verband Deutscher Museums- und Touristikbahnen (VDMT - Association of German Museum and Tourism Railways) held its annual conference in three countries around Lake Constance; Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The host was the Austrian umbrella organisation of museum and tourism trains (OEMT). Thanks to its informative business programme, the general assembly and the study programme that followed, the always popular event attracted some 130 delegates. They were first based in Dornbirn, Austria, and moved at the end of the main conference programme to Lausanne.



## Blonay - Chamby

After a special programme of visits throughout the region for the partners at the beginning, the excursions took the delegates first to the nearby Bregenzerwaldbahn, then to the Rheinregulierung and its train in Lustenau for a cruise on the paddle steamer „Hohentwiel“ on Lake Constance. In Germany, the VDMT members „Bahnpark“ Augsburg and the „Öchsle-Schmalspurbahn“ (Öchsle narrow gauge train) in Warthausen were on the programme, before the delegates made a side trip to Switzerland to visit amongst others the new Fedecrail member „SBB historic“.

Seven well-known speakers contributed to the business programme at the Kulturhaus in Dornbirn with current topics including strategic planning for railways museums and the optimisation of their income as well as the interoperability of trains across Europe, the training in the skills needed to look after a steam loco or an update on the growing problems concerning coal usage. Furthermore „Rail Events“ from the US reported on their activities in Europe and the association Kaltenleutgebener Train (Austria) presented its successful work for railways tourism.



Conference. Photos: John Crane

Speakers were Chris Walton (Heritage Business Consultant, Chichester Brand Services), Fabian Köhazy (President of the Kaltenleutgebener train), Hugh Harkett (Managing Director, North Norfolk Railway, board member HRA), Chris Le Marshall (Vice president Wattrain), Ralph Müller (DB Netz AG), David Madden (Wattrain Chief Executive Officer, HRA Business Committee) and Jeff Johnson (Rail Events Development Manager).

Next year's conference is planned for Spring 2017 in Bruges, Belgium.

**FEDECRAIL CONFERENCE THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> April 2016 – WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> April 2016  
DORNBIRN AUSTRIA**

**REPORT BY STEVE WOOD**

This year we were based for the main conference in Dornbirn in the Vorarlberg state of Austria, organised in collaboration with VDMT and ÖEMT, the German and Austrian umbrella organisations respectively. In all there were representatives from 18 different countries.

The Heritage Operations Group (HOG) met following the Fedecrail council meeting on Thursday afternoon, see Albert Wolter's separate HOG Group report.

The opening reception was held in the main conference hotel the Hotel Krone. Following this there was a free evening to explore the Dornbirn area.

### **Friday Business Sessions Day**

The business sessions were held at the Kulturhaus Conference Centre Dornbirn. The sessions are summarised as follows:

President David Morgan welcomed all delegates, Clive Moore from Australia, and Jeff Johnson from Rail Events USA, who have generously provided sponsorship for the conference.

He also reported that following an illness Vice President, and Council member Sten Erson Wester is now out of hospital, and wished him well for a full recovery.

An address was given by Martin Ruepp, Stadt Dornbirn Vizebürgermeister, who explained that Dornbirn was a town of 50,000 inhabitants, and although primarily an industrial town, played host to tourists and conferences, the local landscape, the proximity to the Bodensee, and local attractions such as the Rolls Royce museum making an ideal area to visit. He hoped we would enjoy the area over the next few days.

Lastly a joint welcome was given from joint hosts Gottfried Aldrian of ÖEMT and Johannes Füngers of VDMT. Gottfried noted that the proximity Dornbirn area to three countries, and is in an area of natural sights and beauty. Johannes talked about the recent Chairman's meeting. VDMT has over 100 members, with many different types of vehicles. He also emphasised the importance of Santa specials to German tourist railways.

### **Session 1 – Generating Sustainable Income from Secondary Spend**

Chris Walton, who is a Heritage Business Consultant from Chichester (UK), explained that this is anything not related to the core activity. 17% of visitors spend additionally in the shop, while 30% of visitors use catering facilities. Quality stock should be marketed, changed little and often with good margins. Do a little well and focus on the core activity. Sometimes no shop is better, just a basic catering outlet. It is about profit not turnover.

### **Session 2 – “Kaltenleutgebenerbahn” – Working to create a successful Tourist Railway**

Fabian Köhazy the 23-year-old General Manager of the line gave a description of the line and its location which starts in the Wien suburbs. The line was opened in 1883, passenger services ceased in 1951, and freight in 2010.

The aim is to preserve, and restore the line as cultural heritage.

During 2007-2009 ÖBB restored the track. During 2011-2013 15 specials were run carrying 500 passengers.

Costs include rolling stock/staff and access charges. Income includes fares/services/catering and donations.

The line was closed in January 2014, however in 2015 the local Council leased the line.

The short term aim is to create a heritage railway; in the longer term it is hoped to run commuter services into Wien.

### **Session 3 – Strategic & Business Planning – Common Sense Essentials**

Hugh Harkett, Managing Director of the North Norfolk Railway, and HRA Board member, gave practical advice concerning strategic and business planning, particularly in the area of costs against revenue. Advice on practical implementation was also given.

#### **Session 4 – Corporate Sponsorship**

This was in the form of a video presentation by Chris Le Marshall, the WATTRAIN Vice President, based on experiences in setting up a new heritage railway venture in Western Australia's wheat region.

#### **Session 5 – DB Classic Railbus Interoperability – How Europe tries to catch up!**

Ralph Müller is a senior manager with Deutsche Bahn. He is also a fellow colleague at the Group of Representative Bodies which meets in Brussels, and HOG attends.

Ralph gave an in depth presentation of how Interoperability works with reference to the European bodies such as the European Railway Agency (ERA). He concentrated particularly on the relationship regarding heritage operations, particularly Germany's example with the heritage "Schienenbusse"

The second part of the presentation concentrated on a technical viewpoint of the ex DB "Schienenbusse", covering everything from brakes to ride quality. This information was to be invaluable later during the week on the study tours.

#### **Session 6 – The Future of Coal**

David Madden, WATTRAIN Chief Executive Officer, gave an update on the situation regarding coal since the WATTRAIN conference in Tokyo. The situation regarding the Republic of Ireland is a principal area of concern, as they plan to cease burning of coal in 2018. A meeting has taken place with the World Coal Association in London. It is hoped a case for exemption can be made in respect of heritage steam locomotives, which use minute quantities of coal when compared with power-stations.

#### **Session 7 – Expanding in Europe – and other developments Rail Events Inc.**

Jeff Johnson introduced new colleagues who will be promoting events in Europe, including Jenny Nunn from the HRA Board. Jenny had hosted a very successful Polar Express event at the Seaton Tramway in the UK last Christmas.

Jeff expanded on other themes that may be introduced in Europe such as Chugginton and even The Wizard of Oz.

Finally, a promotional video of the Durango and Silverton Railway was shown

#### **Session 8 – BESTT Boiler & Engineering Skills Trust**

A new interesting video was shown which featured many contributions from the apprentices themselves regarding their experiences on the scheme, and the benefits accrued by individuals.

It was noted that all participants of the scheme had subsequently found full time employment.

David Morgan then gave details of the next phase of the scheme.

### **Conference Dinner**

This year's conference dinner was held in the Karren Panorama Restaurant, which is on top of the local mountain reached by cable car. The location offered spectacular views of the Bodensee, Dornbirn and the surrounding mountains.

Following a drinks reception on the terrace, dinner was enjoyed in the restaurant before descending by cable car.

Once again this year's dinner was sponsored by Rail Events Inc. for which Fedecrail is very grateful

### **AGM - Saturday morning 23rd April**

President David Morgan welcomed everyone to the AGM. He reported that Louis Poix, UNECTO President (F), and Jaap Nieweg from HRN (NL) have been honoured by their respective countries.

Jaap also thanked the conference for the good wishes sent to him whilst undergoing surgery last year.

### **Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 18th April 2015 in the Centro Civico d'arte e cultura Alinate/San Gaetano Padova (I)**

These were approved and signed.

### **Membership Application:**

Application for membership SBB Historic (CH)

SBB Historic was founded in 2001, to preserve, document, and archive material. There is a large archive and library. The library contains 30,000 books, and every timetable since 1864.

Rolling stock consists of 9 steam locomotives and 29 electric locomotives.

There are 24 employees.

The Conference study tour will visit their premises at Windisch later in the programme.

The Council have admitted them provisionally, subject to ratification by the AGM.

The meeting approved the application.

### **Report of the Council for the year 2015:**

This had been circulated and carried nem con.

### **Financial Accounts:**

Heimo Echensperger presented the accounts and reported that there was nothing specific of concern. He also explained the small loss.

### **Report of the Auditors:**

The auditors said there was nothing of concern with the accounts.

The accounts were approved, and the Council were discharged from financial and criminal liability. Carried nem con.

### **Election of two Auditors:**

Jean-Paul Lescat (F) was elected for a further year. Paul Roodbol has stood down. He was thanked for his hard work. HRA proposed Guido Rossi (I) for election as the second auditor. Carried nem con.

Approval of the budget for 2015 and the level of financial subscription:

Heimo Echensperger presented and explained the budget for the year. The budget was approved nem con.

### **Election of Council Members:**

It was noted that Sten Erson Wester has been unwell and best wishes were sent to him Jaques Daffis (F), and Josef Van der Perre (B) were re-elected for a further three years. Livius Kooy has retired as Secretary after twenty-two years. David paid tribute to Livius's work, and said he could not have done it without him. In recognition of his work Council presented him with a one month Inter Rail pass.

In view of Livius's retirement a new Secretary Kees Wijn Nobel (NL) has been approved by Council to take over the role. He was elected to the Council by the meeting nem con.

Report of the Working Groups:

#### a) Heritage Operations Group

Steve Wood reported that Albert Wolter, HOG Secretary had decided to stand down from this AGM. Albert has been the Secretary since the group's inception. Steve thanked Albert for all his hard work over the years, and for his personal support to the Chairman. David Morgan presented Albert with a Fedecrail plate in recognition of all his efforts.

A new Secretary has been appointed initially on a year's trial. This is Jonas Svartlok (S), who until recently had been Chairman of JHRF. Steve welcomed Jonas and said that he looked forward to working closely with him.

Steve then gave a summary of the year's activities;

- Ian Leigh will be assisting with Brussels meetings, particularly in connection with the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package.
- Andres Wedzinga has been attending the Train Drivers Directive working group at ERA, and produced an excellent report, which was presented to the HOG meeting last Thursday.
- Progress on the ERTMS simplified system from Thomas Joindot (F), and Edwin Bottelier (NL). Anders Dorge (DK) was also able to give the latest news from Denmark, hopefully with a possible source of funding.

- Thomas Joindot had given a presentation to HOG concerning new regulations regarding heritage trains on the main line in France. This was an excellent piece of work by UNECTO resulting in SNCF granting most of UNECTO's proposals.
- We have continued to attend GRB Plenary meetings in Brussels.
- Steve attended the ERTMS conference in Lille, at which Thomas Joindot had given a very good video presentation (If anybody would like to see this please contact the Chairman or Secretary of the group). Highly recommended.
- Ian Leigh also attended an ERTMS conference in London.
- Ian Leigh and Heimo Echensperger attended the European Railway Awards ceremony in Brussels.
- We will attend the next GRB meets Josef Doppelbauer event in Brussels on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

b) Youth WG

Marco Meusburger gave an update on youth matters. He explained the principal of establishing the Fedecrail Youth Group, its aims, what they are proposing to do, and members of the team

This year's youth camp is to be held in Germany 29/7 – 7/8.

c) Tramway Operations Group

This is a new group. Thomas Lange explained all appropriate organisations will be circulated with a view to setting up a meeting soon.

d) Strategic Group

This group met last Thursday, and discussed amongst other things, the business plan.

e) Environmental Group

This group has been re-formed following the concern over coal.

**EU Funding Opportunities:**

John Jones reported that the Sibiu railway had managed to gain some ERDF funding. 2018 is the year of Heritage funding.

It is hoped to obtain some funding for the 2017 youth camp.

**Europa Nostra:**

Fedecrail continues to be involved in Europa Nostra affairs. Peter Ovenstone is now Secretary of one of their committees.

**WATTRAIN:**

David Madden re-emphasised the importance of the present coal problem.

Any Other Business:

None

**Next Meeting:**

Brugge (B)

We look forward to reconvening in April 2017 - dates to be confirmed, plus visits

programme

### **Saturday Afternoon / Evening – 23rd April**

After a brief break we reassembled for a coach trip to Bezau. This is the terminus station on the former 35km Bregenzerwaldbahn. We had a guided tour of the engine shed with wine and cheese included.

Then we went on a special steam train for a return trip to the far end of the line at Schwarzenberg, where we were able to view the small museum. Part of the line had been washed away, but the bridge subsequently was restored. A delightful line through charming landscape, it is just a shame the full line is not still open.

On arrival back at Bezau we transferred to another cable car to ride up to the Bezau Panorama restaurant. Here we had dinner. The programme promised us watching the sunset over the mountains, the reality was a very unseasonable blizzard! Well I prefer the latter. After dinner it was back on the cable car, and coach back to Dornbirn.

**Steve Wood,  
UK FEDECRAIL Representative,  
Ravenglass**

### **Conference and Excursions at Lake Constance**

In April 2016, Fedecrail in cooperation with the Verband Deutscher Museums- und Touristikbahnen (VDMT - Association of German Museum and Tourism Railways) held this year's conference around Lake Constance in the three countries Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The host was the Austrian umbrella organisation of museum and tourism trains (OEMT). With its informative business programme, the general assembly and the following excursions the always well attended event attracted 130 delegates. They first took accommodation in Dornbirn, Austria, and changed at the end of the main conference programme for Lausanne.

After a special visiting programme in the region for the delegates' partners at the beginning, the excursions took them first to the nearby Bregenzer Waldbahn, followed by the Rheinregulierung and its train in Lustenau for a cruise on the paddle steamer „Hohentwiel“ on Lake Constance. In Germany the VDMT members „Bahnpark“ Augsburg and the „Öchsle-Schmalspurbahn“ (Öchsle narrow gauge train) in Warthausen were on the programme, before the delegates made a side trip to Switzerland to visit amongst others the new Fedecrail member „SBB historic“.

Seven well-known speakers contributed to the business programme at Kulturhaus in Dornbirn with current topics including strategic planning for associations of museum trains and the optimisation of their income as well as the interoperability of trains across Europe up to the training around a steam loco and a view on the growing problems with coal supply. Furthermore „Rail Events“ from the US reported on its activities in Europe and the association Kaltenleutgebener Train (Austria) presented its successful work for the tourism train.

Speakers were Chris Walton (Heritage Business Consultant, Chichester Brand Services), Fabian Köhazy (President of the Kaltenleutgebener train), Hugh Harkett (Managing Director, North Norfolk Railway, board member HRA), Chris Le Marshall (Vicepresident Wattrain), Ralph Müller (DB Netz AG), David Madden (Wattrain Chief Executive Officer, HRA Business Committee) und Jeff Johnson (Rail Events Development Manager).

Next year's conference is planned for Spring 2017 in Bruges, Belgium.

### **Tax Allowances for Cultural Heritage sought**

In a letter to the European Historic Houses Association Fedecrail, as representative of 650 museum railways as well as rail museums from 27 countries across Europe, confirms the action of the association and also Europa Nostra in a request to the European Commission to encourage member states to introduce a zero or reduced Value Added Tax rate for investments in the conservation of cultural heritage. The European Historic Houses Association Foundation has declared as its main aim reaching favourable measures for the maintenance of cultural heritage in terms of inheritance tax as well as a low rate of Value Added Tax alongside stopping illegal trade in cultural property.

### **Crowdfunding Project Renault railcar ABH X 201 in France**

Crowdfunding Project of FACS (Fédération des amis des chemins de fer secondaires) for the transport of a Renault railcar ABH X 201 from Corsica to France, where it should be restored by MTVS association (Musée des tramways à vapeur et des chemins de fer secondaires français).

Information about railcar: <http://www.trains-fr.org/actualites/souscription-abh-x201>

**Crowdfunding: <http://www.trains-fr.org/content/souscription-abh-x201>**

Several members (and members of members) have advised FEDECRAIL of crowdfunding campaigns to fund their projects, asking us to share information about it through our media. We are happy to do so but advise readers that they should carry out the appropriate checks to ensure the bona fides of any claims made and the practicability of any aspirations declared. This is not because we have any doubts about the veracity of such appeals but we are, of course, unable to vouch for any one appeal, of which we have little knowledge or information.

### **BESTT also training outside Great Britain**

BESTT, the Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust, is extending its already available training offer in key qualifications for boiler maintenance outside Great Britain. Old skills must be kept up if steam operation is to have a future. Now BESTT, which started out with a full-time training course, is offering alongside short seminars in Great Britain the same elsewhere if there is sufficient interest. Instruction will be in English. The training offer can be altered to fit particular demand. ([www.bestt.org.uk](http://www.bestt.org.uk))

### **Crowdfunding in Entroncamento**

The Portuguese National Railway Museum in Entroncamento has celebrated its first anniversary and started its first crowd-funding campaign. This is how it intends to meet the

€5000 costs of transporting a diesel shunting locomotive, which is significant in terms of railway history, from Guifões in the north of the country to the museum in central Portugal. If the campaign, which runs until 24 June 2016, succeeds, the engine will be exhibited once it has been refurbished. It is the first project of this kind at Entroncamento.

### **New Secretary for FEDECRAIL**



Council members and officers 2016

At his own wish and after 22 years, Livius Kooy has given up office as secretary of Fedecrail by not putting himself up for re-election. Kees Wijn Nobel from the Netherlands was elected as Kooy's successor at the Annual General Meeting in April 2016 which took place in Dornbirn in Austria. FEDECRAIL President David Morgan said goodbye to Livius Kooy (Netherlands) with warm words of thanks for his continued activity for the European association for over two decades. His tireless involvement began in 1989 at the first international conference of museum and tourist railways held in the Netherlands and continued with the next conference in Hameln (Germany), which eventually led to the formation of the European Federation of Museum and Tourist Railways (FEDECRAIL). Livius Kooy will support his successor in his new task as required over the next year. As well as this change, both Jacques Daffis (France) and Jozef van der Perre (Belgium) were re-elected for a further three year period.

### **FEDECRAIL “Belgium 2017” Conference**

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visits to a range of heritage railways, tramways and museums in Belgium, including the new SNCB/NMBS Train World Museum in Brussels. More detailed information of business themes and visit programme will be available in early/mid autumn.

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## **Europa Nostra meets Jean-Claude Juncker**

Plácido Domingo as President of Europa Nostra, the association of non governmental heritage organisations based in The Hague, has congratulated President Jean-Claude

Juncker for the declaration by the European Commission that it will take on the organisation of 2018 as European Year of Cultural Heritage. At the same time he assured the Commission President at the meeting held in May that Europa Nostra, to which Fedecrail also belongs, stands ready to make its contribution to successfully implementing this initiative. In the written presentation it is clear that such a year of cultural heritage would have the potential to develop the urgently needed energy and cohesion between local authorities and citizens throughout Europe. This assessment should be shared among the 36 networks including Fedecrail which are members of European Heritage Alliance 3.3.

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## **Current Training and Study Offers**

Two unique training and study offers are available right now; short courses on boiler maintenance in Great Britain and comprehensive training and education for railway experts in Austria.

„Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust“ (BESTT) is an initiative in Great Britain which enables key qualifications in boiler maintenance in a recognised professional training context so providing a sustainable future for the sector. BESTT was established by a consortium of heritage railways, traction engines and steam ships. To date BESTT has offered a one year full-time course. Now there is a shorter training module, including also riveting. The contact address for further information about costs, timetables and training locations is [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk)

The St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences in Austria is offering an overall railway technical education, which in its combination of academic study and hands on training is unique. The syllabus of the Bachelor and Masters courses provides an integrated understanding of rail-related content hence its complex systems. The study units will offer a thorough professional grounding. For information see [www.fhstp.ac.at](http://www.fhstp.ac.at)

### **Hiring young volunteers and work placement students - Study & Work International**

Fedecrail members usually know me as one of the conference translators. Today I would like to inform you about something on my own account. Financed by the Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Science and the Arts and the Association of Bavarian Industry I am in managing the project Study & Work International. The objective of the project is to facilitate the search for work experience abroad for Bavarian students from public and church universities (both of applied sciences and the more research oriented). For this we are building up a jobs board, in which companies, institutions and institutes can post positions outside Germany from one to twelve months. This service is for free.

We are looking for opportunities, that allow the students to use their theoretic knowledge (bachelor's and master's studies) and get practical experience. These may be compulsory

work placements (four months or longer), additional work experience (up to one year) or students wanting to do their Bachelor's or Master's dissertation in cooperation with your business. Students are far enough into their studies that you will be able to entrust them with their own tasks. The students come from 19 universities of applied sciences, 10 research oriented universities and all subjects and levels.

You could gain a prospective engineer to support you with the restoration of a steam engine, students of business administration for a Bachelor's dissertation on how to optimize your business, create bilingual marketing material and website with the help of students in language sciences, appoint a student of history of arts as museum educator... There are no limits to your ideas. Within Europe students are supported by Erasmus funds. Nevertheless a contribution to their board and lodging would be appreciated. You are welcome to contact me with questions and job posts.

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<http://www.study-work-international.de/en/>

Just one small tip: I would like to draw your attention to my website's section on volunteering experience for students (<http://www.study-work-international.de/en/work-experience/work-experience-abroad/faqs-ausland/>). On these pages I inform students on programmes to contribute to projects abroad with support from the German state or the European Union. This is explained for the students' point of view. For the one or other member institution it might be of interest to register as host for instance at the European Voluntary Service or other initiators.

I am looking forward to your questions and/or job posts.

Susanne Stoever