



UPDATE No.54

European Federation of Museum & Tourist Railways

February 2024



Bilbao-Abando Indalecio Prieto railway station

FUTURE = PRIORITY STARTING A NEW APPROACH FOR ATTRACTING AND CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE

During the 25th anniversary FEDECRAIL meeting in the Harz April 2019, I was standing on a cold Saturday morning on the platform of the Selketalbahn. From the footplate of locomotive 99 6001 in front our special excursion train, the fireman starred at me and at once he smiled and said: “I know you. You are from Holland, from Hoorn – Medemblik. I was there during the FEDECRAIL youth exchange 2014.” Five years later he a was full prof fireman on the HSB. It gave me anyway the happy feeling that our approach between 2007 and 2019, developing a policy for youngsters that were part of the working forces of our members had been useful. Anyway proofed by this young fireman.

Since 2020 (COVID, the Ukraine war and inflation) we are in the need of another approach. For 2020 we had to cancel the planned youth exchange organized in the UK. We did put it on the agenda again for 2022 and again for 2023, where we were confronted with completely changed (financial and organizational) circumstances. Conclusions: it made the organization of the youth exchanges in the pre-COVID way impossible, and we had to decide in what way FEDECRAIL could support to create a new structure connecting young people within the whole of our member organizations, as stated in our Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028.

I think that here the role of FEDECRAIL as activity platform for the members shows up again. The members will be invited to organize “youth work weeks”. These initiatives will be supported by FEDECRAIL by publishing all these activities on the FEDECRAIL Website, the Update, Newsletters, and social media. All members working on this case on the FEDECRAIL platform, will be facilitated by FEDECRAIL to find (European) funding for this initiative. So FEDECRAIL will support institutional (but not directly budget it to keep the annual general membership fee as low as possible).

Discussing this approach in the FEDECRAIL “boardroom” we realized that we need thorough contact and exchange of ideas with our members, defining goals and dividing

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tasks for a longer period. I personally think that aiming for 2025 might be a too short period to make a clear structure inclusive a longer-term financial support from the EU and might 2026 a more realistic goal with a more realistic chance of success.

That is why we will put this very important future directed subject prioritized in the BILBAO programs. At least we will discuss it in the planned

executives meeting as well as during the Annual General Meeting.

It is one of the reasons I invite you urgently to join the BILBAO FEDECRAIL CONFERENCE from May 2 until May 5.

Looking forward to welcome you in the beautiful city of Bilbao.

Jaap Nieweg
President of FEDECRAIL



UPDATE No. 60

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30 years of FEDECRAIL Illustration of our logo for the anniversary

It was in April 2019 that FEDECRAIL and her members celebrated the 25th anniversary in the Harz in Germany, in Wernigerode. A simple thought is that 2024 is 30 years after founding our federation and just five years later. To give this year a special graphic accent our vice president Pierluigi Scoizzato did design this special 30-year logo that we present on this Update 60 and will be used on all Updates in 2024.

This five years in between the anniversaries have been hectic. It started with Brexit on January 31st, 2020, after which our founding father HRA left FEDECRAIL in January 2021. In February 2020 the world was grabbed by the Covid pandemic, and we had to abandon our planned Bilbao meeting in April. COVID made the world different and was of great influence on all of our members. AGM's (2020, 2021 and 2022) could not be organized in the traditional way, but were held online, with only 3 or 4 members physical in the room to make it a constitutional acceptable AGM.

The board started to meet online as well, but more frequently every month instead of 4 times a year. This made a strong reduction possible of the membership fees (50% in 2020 and continued in 2021). The working groups held meetings online as well and the HOG officers were also online related with the ERA. If this was not enough, we were surprised by the breakout of Russian-Ukraine war. With members in both countries, it shocked us all.

Nevertheless, the board and the officers tried to really maintain the main task of lobby for the best of our members, the new by-monthly Update was realized, as was the new FEDECRAIL website and initiated our federation together with the FIVA, the European Platform for Working Industrial and Mobile Heritage (WIMH).

Yes, these five years will be surely remembered as hectic as I stated in the beginning of this text. But

with new board members and bringing new energy we look forward full of confidence for the next five years in which the members of FEDECRAIL, the officers and the board will continue to work closer together on the program, full of mutual interest.

Jaap Nieweg

FEDECRAIL anniversary conference 2014 in Bilbao

The FEDECRAIL Annual Meeting and Conference 2024 will take place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 May in Bilbao, Spain. There will be an introductory welcome meeting on 2 May. This will be followed on 3 May by working group meetings, board meetings and interesting presentations on the history of movable heritage, marketing and identity for our museums/tourist railways/trams and other interesting topics. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, 4 May. The evening will be dedicated to the 30th anniversary of FEDECRAIL. A full day visit to our member Euskotren Museum in Azpeitia (<https://museoa.euskotren.eus/>) is planned for Sunday. A partner programme with a visit to the old town of Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum is also on the agenda.

More information coming soon www.fedecrail.org



Bilbao 2019. Photos (3): Ingrid Schütte

KJELL PALEN -

Good memories of a good man

We are sad to report the news of the death of one of our 'founding fathers' Kjell Palén on 18th January 2024. Our condolences are relayed to his wife, Karin, and family. Kjell was a member of the Morgan Commission, the team which worked between 1991 and 1994 to lay the foundations for the launch of FEDECRAIL at Leuven in 1994. For many years, he worked in the role of Railway Historian at the Swedish Railway Museum in Gävle and as a volunteer was actively involved with our founder member Museibanornas Riksorganisation and several other Swedish railway and tramway heritage organisations.

Kjell was a FEDECRAIL Council Member and a Vice-President from 1994 until he stepped down in 2003 which coincided also with his final retirement (latterly as a volunteer) from the museum at Gävle. Always courteous and considerate, he gave many carefully thought through contributions to our discussions helping to shape the development

of FEDECRAIL in our first decade. He was actively involved with the work of early FEDECRAIL conferences – in the (relatively) pre-digital era, he undertook the collection and preparation of papers by conference speakers and created a smart standard format for publication, for distribution to all delegates at our conferences (almost always provided in all three of our working languages).

One of his most remembered achievements was the "tour de force" of our 1997 conference. Formal proceedings took place in Stockholm (in the former royal waiting room at central station) but led on to the week-long *Midnight Sun Tour* using the Kalmar historic train with full catering and sleeping cars which visited heritage railways and museums throughout Sweden, venturing as far north as Kiruna and onward to Narvik in Norway, then as far south as Gothenburg. An experience which none of us who took part will ever forget...

Peter Ovenstone



Kjell Palen (2nd from right) at a board meeting in St. Quentin/France in 2001 (from left: Secretary Livius Kooy, concealed Peter Ovenstone, President David Morgan and on the right Treasurer Rik Degruyter). Photo: Vice President Heimo Echensperger

Móra la Nova (Portugal):

Big Steam Festival on March 9th and 10th

Organized by the Railway Museum in Móra la Nova and the Catalan National Museum of Science and Technology, this festival wants to highlight the steam engine technology. The museum has several locomotives from this period and has already restored the Cuco locomotive which will be one of the stars of the weekend.

But she will not be the only one. Other operating steam locomotives will also be exhibited: the Centenary Train locomotive, a replica of the peninsula's first steam locomotive, the Mataró, which was built on the occasion of the first hundred years of the line inaugurated in 1848; the locomotive 120-0202 (MZA 178), built in 1877 by the Sharp Stewart workshops in the United Kingdom; and the locomotive AM 105 built in Berlin in 1910 by Orenstein & Koppel a Nowawes, a 600mm gauge, that will be able to circulate in the museum thanks to a new narrow gauge railway recently installed.

In addition, the festival wants to give a broader overview of steam technology, which will not be limited to the railway field, thanks to the presence of other vehicles that are based on the steam engine, such as tractors static motors. For instance, the Barcelona Fire Department will take part in the Steam Festival with their fire-fighting steam pump that dates back to the 19th century and was built in London by the Merryweather company.

The Fire Department will demonstrate how to put out a fire with this cutting-edge technology of its time. The event has the collaboration of the Móra la Nova Town Hall, the



*Replica of the "Mataró" on the turntable.
Photos (3): Móra la Nova*

Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles, ADIF, the Sabadell Railway Modeling Center, Edmoron Imprenta Histórica Ferroviaria, ARNautilus, Platform for the Defense of the Historical Heritage of the Firefighters of Barcelona, and the Agricultural Tractor Heritage Museum.

Visitors will be able to see some of these vehicles in motion and, in the case of trains, there will be compositions to travel inside the museum facilities on board of passenger cars and wagons. There will also be 5" and 10" scale railway circuits, also with steam locomotives, which will allow tours. Moreover, it will be a good opportunity to admire other steam locomotives which are not yet restored, but they have still a magnificent presence. For instance, the *Garrafeta* 282F-0421, a Double Mikado Garratt, and the 101, a Double Pacific Garrat, among others.

For more information please check the Museum's website

www.museuferrocarril.cat.



UPDATE Nr. 61 will be published in the end of April 2024

Deadline for textes and photos is [April 8th](#)

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