

ESTIEM Council Meeting No. 7 in Kaiserslautern

The 7th ESTIEM Council Meeting took place from Nov. 30th to Dec. 5th 1993 in Kaiserslautern, Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz). Three members from the WIV-student group in Graz, representing Austria, went there to attend the meeting.

ESTIEM stands for European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management and is an apolitical democratic association aimed to develop and foster contacts among European students of IEM and to increase the opportunities for students to study and work abroad. Presently, there are about 43 members and associates in 19 states. ESTIEM was founded at the WIV congress in Berlin in November 1990, with Graz being a founder member („der wirtschaftsingenieur“ 1/91); the official ESTIEM language is English. The administration is mainly done by the Board, consisting of five persons, who are elected for a year on the biannual Council Meetings.

The activities at the CM comprised mainly sessions in working groups on topics such as CORS and the Study Guide, EEMA, ESTIEM Alumni, the ESTIEM magazine, ICP, TIMES, ESTIEM vision and company contacts. There were case-studies at companies such as Freudenberg, Keiper Recaro and others. During the breaks, several possibilities of student exchanges, visits, seminars, excursions and other business were discussed, some of which might be realized. We took the chance to participate in a workshop on „Developing Competitive Price-Quality Strategies“ by Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Bliemel from the institute for applied economics and marketing of the University of Technology in Kaiserslautern, who published a book on Marketing Management, a best-seller in Germany. There was also a computer practice on QFD. At the final General Assembly there were presentations of the results of the working group sessions and a new board was elected. Tijtske Monster from the Netherlands, a female student in Enschede, was elected for President of the ESTIEM Board for the period 1993/1994.

Besides, we had some time to see the infrastructure, including a cafeteria designed for a capacity of 10.000 students, at Kaiserslautern's UT, which is quite young, being established in 1970. The conception of its wide campus seems to

be influenced by American universities. Kaiserslautern's partner university in Austria is the UT Linz. According to the German study system, which forces the mobility of students, it is not so easy to find „Lauterer“, as the residents in Kaiserslautern call themselves, among the students there.

Among „Estiemers“, Party - life and singing are not neglected, too. We could feel the proverbial „ESTIEM - Spirit“ during the various activities. There was a „European Party“ at the beginning of the meeting, where we met our hosts, students in Kaiserslautern. Another day, after a bus trip to Neustadt and a guided sightseeing-tour through its medieval town centre, which was not bombed during World War II, we visited a famous wine cellar at the „Südliche Weinstraße“ and spent a nice evening with typical food and wine of the Palatinate. At the end of the meeting, however, there was an ESTIEM Night Party at the university, where we finally saw a freshly-made multivision with slides and videos from the days we spent together.

Two experiences were of special interest for me:

- Firstly, the greater amount of members of student groups (up to 300) and their integration in daily life at the universities especially in northwestern Europe and Germany, which might be a reason for the student group in Graz to try to grow a little bit and

motivate students in their first semesters to join the WIV.

- Secondly, the common use of the English language in communication and education.

To give a summary, ESTIEM offers IEM students excellent opportunities to

- travel to European meetings and see other universities,
- communicate with students from all over Europe and get to know their approach to student life,
- join international student work,
- experience the process of European integration and
- influence international opinion-leading.

This year's ESTIEM motto is "European Integration". Being the local editor for the ESTIEM magazine at present, I would be grateful for information suitable for a report on mutual cooperation between partners in Austria and countries in eastern Europe, which might be an interesting topic for one of the following issues of the ESTIEM Magazine.

The next ESTIEM Council Meeting will take place in Enschede, the Netherlands, from April 5th to April 10th, 1994.

M. Maier



„Estiemers“ at Kaiserslautern's University of Technology