

EIPA Institutional News



On 21 January 2010 Prof. Dr Marga Pröhl, Director-General of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) welcomed 12 Finnish HR(D) experts at EIPA's headquarters in Maastricht. Ms Pröhl expressed her happiness to show these senior executives from several Finnish Ministries what EIPA has to offer in the field of training and consultancy services. In her introductory remarks, Ms Pröhl emphasized i.e. the relationship between EIPA and the Finnish HAUS and gave examples of good cooperation with other national training institutes in Europe.



Representatives from the three EIPA units in Maastricht gave presentations showing what EIPA can do in the field of training and consultancy. Mr Martin Unfried, Senior Lecturer in the European Policies unit strongly emphasized the added value of multi-national learning. "Bringing together people from many nationalities in one room has many advantages, mainly when it comes to networking, informal contacts with Commission officials and other speakers, etc" as was said by Mr Unfried.

Mr Theo Jans, Senior Lecturer and Interim Head of Unit EU Decision-Making discussed, in addition to an outline of his unit's activities and expertise, EIPA's latest successful experiences in the field of

e-learning. He gave a concrete example of an online seminar that took place recently, which is a development very much of interest to Finnish HR experts who are dealing with training.

The informative part of the visit was closed by two EIPA experts in the field of Training and HRM. A comparative view of training in EU Member States was given by Mr Harry List, Expert and Ms Herma Kuperus, Seconded National Expert briefly informed the group on the training of top civil servants which is a very specific topic HR(D) experts are also facing regularly.

During the lunch Mr Mike Burnett, Expert in the unit European Public Management,

was happy to continue further discussions which were raised during his presentation on public sector reform in a 'cold climate'. As many administrations in Europe, also Finland has to deal with efficiency programmes in the public sector whereby the number of employees has to be cut and training budgets are reduced. In this 'cold climate' with a pressure on public finances it is for HR managers not always easy to fulfil their tasks. Ms Pröhl, Director-General, is convinced that also for Finnish civil servants EIPA is the place where they can learn about European affairs and benefit from our combination of practical know-how and scientific excellence.

