

## EUROPEAN GREENKEEPING EDUCATION STRATEGY PAPER

In response to the general wish following the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A) questionnaire on greenkeeper education and training to European Golf and Greenkeeping Federations, Unions and Associations and the reaction given by the FEGGA-members at their annual Conference in January 2006, a group of educational professionals were asked to join a Pan-European Advisory Group.

At its first meeting the advisory group recommended a dedicated Education Unit be established. The Unit to be known as:

### **The European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU)**

#### The main aim:

- The EGEU will serve the purpose of bringing together European Greenkeeping Education Programmes under the same quality standards of competences.
- The EGEU will be composed of representatives from respected educational institutes and administrators from within the greenkeeping sector. Their position has to be seen as independent from their individual countries and is based upon their educational expertise.
- The EGEU will work in close contact with the EGA, R&A, FEGGA, BIGGA and GTC, supporting each other in the goal to strengthen and expand Greenkeeping Education.
- The EGEU will be an independent Unit.
- A European framework for Greenkeeping Education and Training will be built upon a formal set of agreed quality standards.
- Setting quality standards will make it possible for countries to develop greenkeeping qualifications, to exchange programmes between countries and to stimulate the provision of education and training in countries new to golf.
- Support will be given to golf developing countries to meet their own particular needs.
- Each country's Golf Federation, Union and Greenkeeping Association should collaborate to work with the quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

## Quality Standards:

Standards will be developed at 3 levels.

- i. Golf Course Greenkeeping – (maintenance skills, knowledge and attitudes).
  - ii. Golf Course Supervisor – (skills, knowledge and attitudes beyond craft (above) plus supervisory skills and knowledge).
  - iii. Golf Course Management – (skills, knowledge and attitudes required to manage a golf course).
- Each level will contain a list of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Practical experience and training will be of equal importance as theoretical knowledge.
  - The standards at each level will be developed in such a way that units or clusters of skills and knowledge could be packaged for training course purposes.
  - A European Certification Scheme will be introduced that will increase the employment opportunities of greenkeepers, and allow them to work throughout Europe.
  - Each country will be free to use its own system of education and training, as long as the EGEU standards are met.

## Quality Assurance

- A European Quality Assurance Board will monitor the Standards to ensure that they are consistent throughout each country.
- EGEU Certificates will be awarded at each level, for all those meeting the EGEU standards in their home countries.

## Implementation

- Each country will develop a network of education providers approved by the Quality Assurance Board.
- The approved providers would have facilities/resources on site or access to, through a partnership agreement with golf club(s)
- The EGEU will develop a business plan. Sources of funding will need to be explored to support the work of the European Greenkeeping Education Unit.

**The initiative will at all times be a European initiative with open discussion with all golf related national organisations.**

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