

## Editorial

The disaffection of youth in science and engineering studies is a reality that might affect the social and economic growth of Europe in the near future. It worries national authorities as well as European institutions. This is why the European Commission has set up the High-Level working group on Human Resources for Science and Technology.

The working group, while highlighting the importance of promoting the excellence of scientific and technological human capital in Europe, also recognises the need for an increase of human resources in science and technology.

ESA agrees with the conclusions of the working group, in particular with the need to encourage and stimulate youngsters – especially girls – to prepare for a career in science and technology. We also believe that young people need to be encouraged and appropriately trained from the beginning of their studies. That is why ESA's education activities, very often involving teachers directly, have always been devoted to students of all ages, from primary schools to graduate and postgraduate.

With the recent strengthening of ESA's educational service by creating an "Education Department", future educational activities will benefit from an improved organisation. The objective is to respond in the most efficient way to the needs of all those directly involved in education and taking into account the requirements of the national curricula and educational systems. ESA is committed to support the needs and practices of the world of education. However, we can only be successful with the help of all those involved.

Since the beginning of 2002 EDUnews has kept you informed not only about ESA's but also European and international educational activities. I hope you will enjoy reading this sixth issue – this one is mainly dedicated to education activities for University students.

*Thank you for your interest!*



Roger Elaerts

