

Paris, 7 December 2009

## The third group of students graduates from Elior's vocational training programmes set up with AFPA

On 2 December 2009 in Paris, the third group of Elior employees (39 in total) from the Business & Industry, Education and Healthcare & Seniors sectors received their professional diplomas as Catering Assistants or Cooks at a ceremony attended by Elior's Human Resources Director, Agnès Bureau-Mirat.

Set up in 2007 in partnership with AFPA – France's leading adult education centre, which has specific expertise in the catering sector – these two vocational training programmes are aimed at Contract Catering and Concession Catering employees wishing to obtain qualifications as Catering Assistants or Cooks. They enable employees to gain new skills with a view to developing their career paths within the Group while at the same time obtaining a national diploma recognised by the French Ministry of Employment.

The programmes are specific to Elior and are taught through five AFPA centres located across France (Istres, Rennes, Colmar, Brive-la-Gaillarde and Stains) in order to minimise travel time for the trainees.

To join a programme candidates must have good knowledge of the working world and must hold a *Brevet des Collèges* (equivalent of the UK GCSE) for the Catering Assistant programme and have significant work experience for the Cooks programme. Candidates' practical skills are assessed before they join the programmes in order to ensure that the training provided is tailored to their individual needs.

Each trainee is allocated a tutor (a sous-chef, chef or a restaurant manager or director) whose role is to mentor them throughout their training period, help them to put in practice the techniques they learn and monitor their progress. In 2009, 80 tutors were assigned to these programmes in France and specific tutoring training plans were set up for 91 other employees.

Helping employees develop their careers is central to Elior's human resources policy. According to Agnès Bureau-Mirat – the Group's Human Resources Director – *“These vocational training programmes will help us achieve our objective of promoting 10% of non-managerial staff to managerial positions within five years.”*

## About Elior

Founded in 1991, Elior ranks third in the European contracted foodservice and related services market, holding leading positions in Contract Catering & Facilities Management and Concession Catering & Travel Retail. In 2007/2008, the Group generated revenue of €3.46 billion. Each day, Elior's 67,500 employees serve 2.9 million guests at 14,000 restaurants and outlets in 15 countries. Elior is active in the Business & Industry, Education, and Healthcare & Seniors sectors, as well as in travel (airports, railway stations and motorways), and leisure & culture (museums and exhibition centres). As a socially responsible enterprise, Elior signed up to the United Nations Global Compact in 2004. The Group takes special care to provide nutritionally balanced meals to guests, limit the environmental impact of its operations and purchases, and support employee integration and training. For more information please visit [www.elior.com](http://www.elior.com)

## About AFPA

AFPA – **France's leading adult education organisation** for the past 60 years – trains some 200,000 people and advises more than 250,000 every year. With 186 training sites located throughout the country, it offers a **wide range of training programmes tailored to the needs of all working-age adults** including jobseekers looking to change career and employees wishing to perfect their professional skills, as well as people with more specific needs such as disabled workers and prisoners. For further information please visit [www.afpa.fr](http://www.afpa.fr)

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