

Communiqué de presse

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Elior and the Grégoire Ferrandi Culinary Institute (ESCF) A long-standing partnership characterised by six successful years of vocational training in the catering business

On 15 October 2008, 17 newly-qualified Elior Managing Chefs and Operations Assistants were awarded their Professional Qualification Certificates (*Certificat de Qualification Professionnelle*) at a ceremony attended by Jacques Roux, Elior's Chief Operating Officer, as well as Alain Barilleau and Gérard de Marcillac, respectively Board Chairman and Head of Ecole Grégoire Ferrandi.

Some 180 Elior employees – including 54 women – have been awarded a diploma since the training scheme was set up in October 2002. Subsequently, around 40% of these successful students from a range of professional backgrounds – including qualified chefs, sous-chefs, maîtres d'hôtel and managers of retail outlets – have moved from front-line to supervisory positions. By being able to follow diploma-focused training, Elior's staff can expand their skill sets and develop their careers within the Group, in line with Elior's commitment to build up a high level of employee expertise. At the same time, the courses enable more women to take up managerial positions.

Reflecting Elior's aim of becoming the preferred employer in its industry, the programmes form part of Elior's overall vocational training policy whose objective is to help 10% of front-line employees move up to management or supervisory positions within five years. The training programme developed in partnership with the Grégoire Ferrandi Culinary Institute is a prime illustration of this strategy as it enables employees to obtain a diploma that is recognised by the hospitality and catering industry.

The Professional Qualification Certificates for Managing Chefs and Operations Assistants were created by the industry within the framework of guidelines drawn up by the French National Commission for Employment in the Hospitality Industry (CNPE/IH), the organisation responsible for awarding the certificates. These vocational programmes also form part of a partnership signed between Elior and the Paris Chamber of Commerce in May 2002, which was renewed for three years in 2006.

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, the Group generated revenue of €3.25 billion. Each day, Elior's 63,000 employees serve 2.8 million guests at some 13,500 restaurants and outlets in 15 countries. Elior is active in the Business & Industry, Education, Healthcare & Senior sectors, as well as 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 therefore 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.

ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT ÉCOLE GRÉGOIRE-FERRANDI

With over 2,000 students per year the adult education programmes at Ecole Grégoire Ferrandi have proved very successful. The programmes cover a wide range of trades, with the majority focused on catering, and are constantly adapted in line with market demand for advanced training and courses leading to qualifications. For its corporate programmes, the School's training department works with the businesses concerned to ensure that its offering meets the specific needs of its clients. All training is provided by professionals who are both experts in their fields and skilled teachers. These factors, combined with the close links built up with each partner corporation through measures such as on-site visits and in-company training and internships, are all added advantages for the School's growing number of students.

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