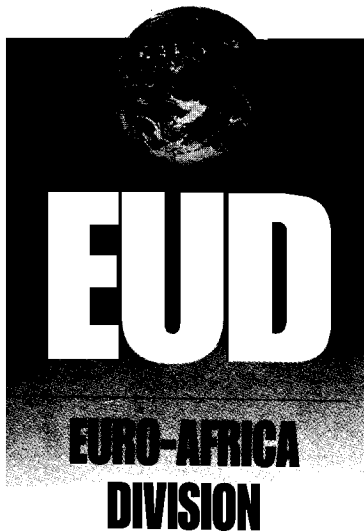


# FLOURISHING AMID THE CHALLENGES OF DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITY 1995-2000 REPORT



**F**rom Germany to Angola, from Portugal to Romania, the Euro-Africa Division (EUD) is characterized by diversity and complexity. The education department has to deal with the important challenges of developing and establishing church schools in countries where there are few Adventist children and youth, where the government schools are generally free and of good quality, and where the laws make it difficult to create private schools. It is hard to maintain financially a number of small seminaries with little enrollment and so many different languages.

Miraculously, many of our institutions have flourished and developed despite these difficulties. In 1999, we celebrated 100 years at Friedensau (Germany), 75 years at Marienhoehe (Germany), 50 at Bogenhofen (Austria), 35 at Sagunto (Spain), and 25 at Oliveira do Douro (Portugal).

## Activities Throughout the Division

CUPS (Centre Universitaire et Pédagogique du Salève) has changed names but is still located at the French-Swiss border near the Alps with their famous ski resorts and Geneva, the capital of the Reformation.

In the fall of 2000, an outreach Net program targeting all the French-speaking areas of the five world continents will be sent via satellite from the Salève campus church.

Friedensau University is located only a few miles from Wittenberg, Luther's hometown. In operation since 1899, the school received state recognition in 1991, and offers diplomas in theology, social and behavioral sciences, and international development aid. In addition, faculty and students are actively involved in community work through social stations, youth associations, aid for the blind, and adult education.

In October 1999, Friedensau offered, with Andrews University, its first course through video conferencing. This system allows the school to offer interactive lectures in cooperation with the best of our institutions in the world.

**Roberto Badenas** is the Director of Education for the Euro-Africa Division in Berne, Switzerland.

work," says 19-year-old Matthias J. Faber. "The whole project was an experience of Head, Heart, Hand, and Faith," writes Pastor Karl Strassner, dean of men at Marienhoehe and leader of the project.

Students wanting to learn German can attend our college in Bogenhofen, Austria. Not only will they enjoy the beauties of the country, but they also will be blessed in the areas of music, health, and spiritual life.

With the fall of the Communist regime, we were permitted to open in 1995, near the beautiful city of Prague, the Sazava Theological Seminary (Czech-Slovak Union). Today, it holds state recognition and accreditation as a senior college.

"I was working as a TV speaker when . . . Jesus found me! It was an indescribable encounter. I got a completely new direction.

I finished my studies at Sazava, and now I am working as a pastor," says Ing. Peter Cizniar, who graduated in 1998.

"I was raised in an atheist family, but God sent me to proclaim His name among the Otammari people of Benin, West Africa, as a student missionary. I am now at Sazava. My dream is to serve the Lord among Muslims of Turkey," says Pavel Novotny, a second-year student.

## War-Related Challenges

There is some bad news. The war destroyed our teaching facilities in Bongo (Angola), forcing our seminary to move to Huambo. From 1992 to 1994, the courses were suspended because of the troubles, and in 1998, we had to close again. In September 1999, the senior students were sent to Beira (Mozambique) to complete their last year of college. "We dream of the day when peace will come back again and we will be able to pursue normally the education of our children and the training of our young pastors. Please pray for us," requests Dinis Kuexila, principal of the Bongo seminary.

The war has not discouraged our teachers or students in Angola. The Lord has blessed with many conversions. "Despite all the problems of the civil war, we have more than 2,000 young students in our schools in Angola," says Teodoro Elias, union education secretary.

Mozambique Adventist Seminary, located near Beira, has a pastoral education program, an elementary school, and industrial training facilities for

Picture  
Removed

Picture  
Removed

farming, carpentry, brick making, and mill industries. An alphabetization project gives women of the area not only access to culture, but also Christian education, a welcome development after a long period of atheistic government.

### **Developments in Romania, Spain, and Portugal**

Adventist education is developing in Romania faster than in any other part of our division. Besides the Theological Seminary of Cernica (near Bucharest), there is a growing interest in establishing elementary and secondary schools. In the city of Braila, we have also the larger of two institutions training nurses in the Euro-Africa Division (with Waldfriede, near Berlin).

**I**n Spain, we have not only one of the best government-accredited schools (Sagunto College), but also the biggest and more active student association (AEGUAE). It organized in November 1999 the European Congress of Adventist Students. Our schools of Sagunto, Rigel (Saragossa), and Urgel (Barcelona) have engaged in much outreach work.

Picture  
Removed

### **The new library at Sazava Theological Seminary, Czech Republic.**

**Students at Lubango Secondary School in Angola.**

Picture  
Removed

### **Theology and social work graduate students with the rector and some professors at Friedensau University, Germany, in July 1999.**

If Sagunto is one of the best places in the Adventist world to learn Spanish, Florence is certainly the best place to immerse oneself in European art. Villa Aurora, our school located in a Renaissance mansion that once belonged to the Medici family, is now assisting with the humanitarian project of housing refugees of the recent Balkanic wars.

“Our schools in Portugal have been a miracle for 25 years,” writes Victor Alves, the principal of Colegio Adventista de Oliveira do Douro. “God has been steering this vessel while navigating in the turbulent sea of education in this country. We believe that He will continue to help us always.”

The future of our schools in the EUD is in the hands of God. Facing the challenges of the times, we feel often like David in front of Goliath. We can only rely on God’s promises: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6, KJV). ☞

Pictures Removed

**Theology students at Mozambique Adventist Seminary in Beira.**

Picture  
Removed

### **Students take a break in front of the main classroom building at Marienhoehe Seminary, Germany.**

Picture  
Removed

### **Alfred Vaucher Library, Salève Adventist University, Collonges-sous-Salève, France.**