

## “Eurocup Prešov – The International Competition for Junior Bartenders”

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In the middle of November 2012, the 20th edition of Eurocup, the International Competition for Junior Bartenders, took place in Prešov, a city in the eastern part of Slovakia. The Prešov region is famous for its natural beauty (the High Tatras Mountains and spa resorts) and cultural sights and monuments such as unique wooden churches, medieval town centres in Bardejov, Kežmarok, Levoča, Prešov, St. James church in Levoča with the highest wooden altar in the world or Spiš Castle which is the largest castle in Central Europe. Some of these wonders are on the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage.

The competition is organised by the Hotel Academy Prešov and it is open to 2-membered teams from vocational schools and colleges. It consisted of two independent parts, classic and flair bartending. The task of the classic part was to prepare 3 portions of a short after dinner drink and 3 portions of a soft drink. The competitors had to use obligatory ingredients and one of the conditions was that the recipes registered for the competition had to be unique. Basically, the rules for the com-

petition are those of the IBA-WCC, though they are adapted for the particular event. In flair bartending the competitors are supposed to prepare 3 portions of a drink of any category using any mixing methods within a time limit of 5 minutes. They are encourage to wear theme costume to enhance their routine.

The event is carried on under the patronage of AEHT – European Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools, the Slovak Bartenders Association and Prešov Region. In the year 2004 the European Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools, that has its seat in Luxemburg, included the Competition EUROcup at the Hotel Academy in Prešov in the official calendar of the events, and, as a co-organizer, provides financial assistance. The leading representatives of the AEHT – the general secretary, vice presidents and members of the Supreme Committee paid a visit several times. Experts from Slovakia and from foreign countries appreciate the high Professional standard as for the preparation, organization, the bartenders' performance and the whole course of the event.



The competition scene with 10 bar stations  
Source: own proceeding



The logo of the competition

EUROcup, the unique international junior bartenders' competition, began to write its history in the school year 1992/1993. Many successful achievements of the Hotel Academy in various gastronomy exhibitions and competitions in the former Czechoslovakia and abroad had preceded EUROcup.

The most important professional events were the international exhibitions Gastroprague that had been held in Prague every four years in 1974–1990. At the international gastronomy exhibition Gastroprague 1990, a teacher of special subjects at that time and later the head of the Hotel School Prešov

MVDr. Milan Pribula established relations with the Chairman of the western Czech section of the Czechoslovak Bartenders' Association Shaker's Club in the city of Plzeň Mr. Miloš Tretter who had organized bartender's courses at the Hotel School Prešov since 1991. At one of the exhibitions, the idea to organize a junior bartenders' competition in Prešov came out. A co-founder MVDr. Jozef Šenko, a deputy head master for special subjects at that time, now the head of the school was appointed the general manager of the competition. Since the first year of the competition, the tradition of handing over the Challenge Cup to the best performance and the cup of the Major of Prešov to the best team has been kept. Since 2003, the Cup of the Chairman of Prešov Region has been awarded to the best competitor from Prešov Region. Apart from the teams from Slovak schools, competing teams from the Czech Republic, Ireland, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Austria, Slovenia, Serbia, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy and Ukraine have joined in the competition since it started for the first time. Since the year 2009, the competition can be truly called Worldcup because a competing team from Mexico has joined in the competition. In 2010, the Mexican team was the absolute winner. In Slovakia, similar competitions for junior bartenders' have been organized, but only Slovak competitors join in them. The competition for junior bartenders' Bacardi & Martini Cup in Poděbrady in the Czech Republic is well known. In Slovenia, G&T Cup Bled, organized by College of Tourism Bled for Slovenian schools and the member schools of AEHT is held. However, Eurocup is the biggest competition for junior competitors and has been held for the longest period of time in Europe.

Mr. Hans Russegger, AEHT Treasurer, who paid a visit at the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of the competition wrote, "Brilliant organisation and an amazing welcome! For the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the EUROCUP International Young Bartender Competition took place in the charming Slovak town of Prešov from October 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 2011. Your reporter has already taken part in large conferences and has often attended competitions organised by hotel schools right across Europe. But this time, in my role as observer, I was impressed by all stages of the programme as they unfurled before my eyes. The organisation of the competition had been carefully prepared in every detail, and the various parts of the event were a brilliant success. At the opening evening after the official welcome speeches, the students laid on a magnificent dance and music show. The following day the various tests making up the competition ran impeccably well and bore witness to the high level of skills mastered by the contestants. The equipment, the ingredients, the time allocation, the decoration of the glasses – all these aspects were governed by strict rules and were evaluated by a highly qualified judging panel. The handball gymnasium, recently acquired by the school, was the ideal venue loudly applauded by the spectators sitting in the raked seating. And finally, it's no secret that we also like hotel schools because in general the food is so good. And so it was that the quality and rich variety of all the meals served at EUROCUP 2011 in Prešov were undeniable proof of the high level of gastronomy, a level rarely achieved at AEHT events! But what is the explanation of this extremely

high level of performance? The answer is not hard to find: the complete success of EUROCUP 2011 in Prešov was due to the complete commitment of the entire school – of its director, its teachers and all its students. All of them spoke, with one voice and all of them worked with dedication until late at night, always attentive to the needs of their guests. In short, if you want to get to know our Slovak friends, then come to this pleasant town of Prešov and discover for yourself their amazing and incomparable hospitality which obviously comes from the bottom of their hearts!"

Mrs. Irena Fáziková, of many years' standing manager of the competing team from the Hotel Academy in Prešov, recalls, "In Slovakia in 1970s mixed drinks were served only at hotel bars in Interhotels when had been ordered by foreign visitors. We hadn't had the tradition of drinking mixed drinks yet. Slovak customers ordered beer, wine or "clear alcohol" – spirits, mineral water, cider, juice and lemonade. Who else could carry a torch lightening the road we had to go along as the school preparing the followers – specialists in the field of catering. We started a club at school and promoted an assortment of mixed drinks. We felt that we arose the interest in preparing mixed drinks and, on the day of the meeting of the parents' association, we performed preparing mixed drinks and the students' parents were offered to taste them. A lot of parents for the first time in their lives could see "live" how mixed drinks were prepared and how they tasted. Some parents followed the performance of our first "bartenders" with disbelief, but nobody blamed. It was encouraging. Filled with optimism, we began to prepare for the competition Gastroprague 1992. It was an international professional competition of cooks, confectioners, waiters and bartenders. The category of junior bartenders for students of hotel schools had not existed yet. Our performance was not included in the competition, nevertheless it was successful and we were encouraged to join next competitions. The next year our application was included in the category "bartenders" from hotel schools. We joined the Gastroprague '90 competition that had been prepared despite the events in 1989. After the changes in 1989 the international competition Gastroprague was not held any more. It was necessary to pay attention to young people, to use their potential and increasing interest in the profession of a bartender and preparing mixed drinks. We joined the competitions organized by the bartenders' association in the Czech Republic – Shaker' Club for bartenders – professionals and the category of junior bartenders from hotel schools and vocational schools. The bartenders' courses that started at our school in 1991 helped our students who were preparing for the competition and at the same time for Eurocup Juniors. The first competition was held at the Dukla Interhotel Prešov on April 22 – 24, 1993. The competitors prepared assigned drinks Martini Cocktail and Pink Lady. The final soft drinks was prepared according to the competitors' own recipes."

I was lucky to have been a participant at the birth of the project EUROCUP twenty years ago. The first competition, as stated above, was held at the Dukla Interhotel Prešov and there were about forty competitors and a small number of viewers. The competitors performed with great interest and enthusiasm. The next competitions followed that entered into connection

with the previous ones in spite of the significant social and political changes and considerable lack of finance. The great idea had overcome all the difficulties. For the organizer – the Hotel Academy Prešov – it has always been OUR project worth of great effort and time. Today we might not realize how important is for Prešov, and maybe for the whole of Slovakia, that inconspicuous fight for the culture of drinking, for a slow social turn towards the worthwhile values of quality life in the

third millennium. Big sports have their Halls of Fame, great artists have their galleries. So EURO CUP deserves a tiny hall of fame in Prešov. The biggest contribution of EURO CUP is the fact that during twenty years a lot of quality bartenders grew up. Their work brings them and the whole of Slovakia fame, they make their schools fame. The information about the EURO CUP competition is available on the website <http://www.hapresov.edu.sk/stranka/eurocup>.



The samples of the drinks presented at the competition

Source: own proceeding

Table 1: Statistical survey of the number of competitors and participating countries

	Total number of competing teams		Total number of competitors		Foreign Countries
	The Slovak Republic	Foreign countries	The Slovak Republic	Foreign countries	
	1993	8	5	24	
1994	12	1	36	3	Ukraine
1995	14	5	42	15	The Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ukraine
1996	12	6	36	18	The Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Switzerland
1997	14	9	42	27	The Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, Italy
1998	18	8	54	24	The Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland
1999	28	7	56	14	The Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine
2000	26	8	52	16	The Czech Republic, Macedonia, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland
2001	28	6	56	12	Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine
2002	26	14	52	28	The Czech Republic, Macedonia, Hungary,
					Germany, Poland, Austria, Ukraine
2003	29	13	58	26	Macedonia, Hungary, Germany, Poland,
					Austria, Ukraine, Slovenia
2004	30	10	60	20	The Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Poland,
					Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro

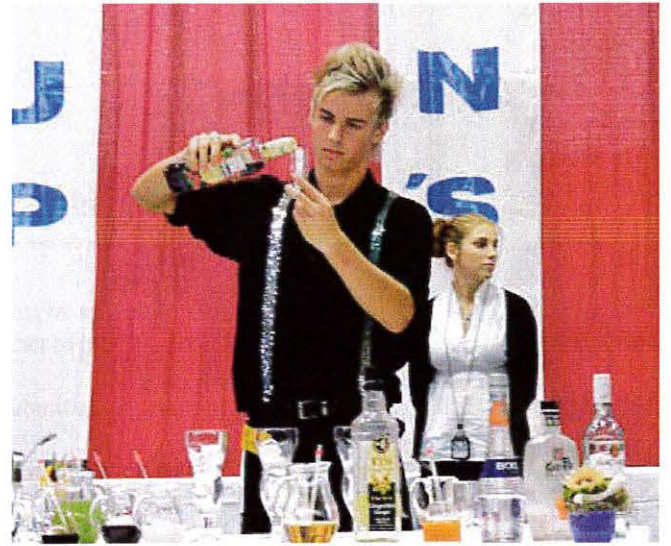
2005	31	12	62	24	The Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Slovenia
2006	30	12	60	24	The Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro
2007	30	13	60	26	The Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine, Luxembourg, Sweden
2008	31	14	62	28	Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, The Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia
2009	30	13	60	26	Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, The Czech Republic, Slovenia, Italy, Mexico
2010	29	14	58	28	Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, The Czech Republic, Mexico, Slovenia
2011	27	15	54	30	The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine, Mexico
2012	29	10	58	21	The Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine

Source: own proceeding

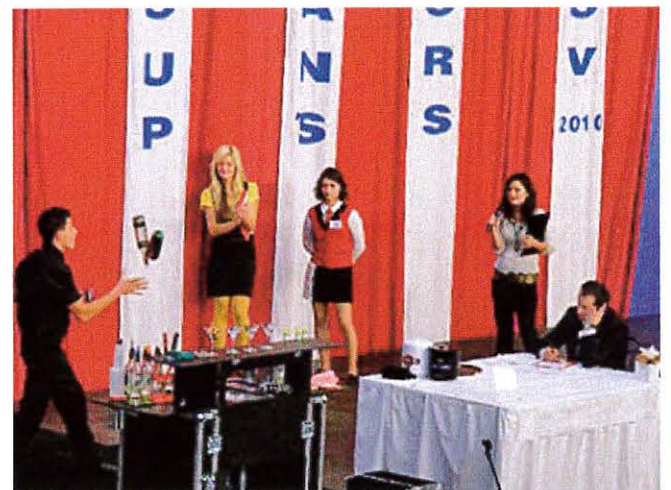


The map of countries that participated in Eurocup

Source: own proceeding



The young bartenders preparing drinks  
Source: own proceeding



The view of the backstage at the competition  
Source: own proceeding



View of the audience  
Source: own proceeding



Excited supporters  
Source: own proceeding

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