

**REPORT ON THE
ORT
ACTIVITIES**

JULY - NOVEMBER 1947

**Submitted to the meeting of the
Executive of the WORLD ORT UNION
ZURICH, November 22th - 23th 1947**

ORT UNION

PARIS

GENEVA

November 1947

H U N G A R Y

Subject matter of this report are : the conclusion of the school-year 1946/47, the examinations in the trade schools for youths and in most of the training workshops for adults, and the admission of new pupils.

Our most important institution, the secondary boys' trade school for engineering has now by far surpassed its pre-war level. Twenty-two candidates, among them 10 non-Jews, presented themselves in July for the practical examinations. The 12 Jewish examinees are the remainder of the 42 ORT pupils who were admitted to the first form in 1943. The 10 non-Jewish boys had come from other Hungarian trade schools, and had only entered in 1945. Sixteen graduates found good jobs in various private firms and industries, and 6 of the pupils are continuing their training in the Polytechnic with a view to become University-trained engineers. Owing solely to the high standard of training, this school has achieved such wide renown, that the existent workshops were too small to hold all the new candidates. Not counting the 22 graduates, the number of pupils for the new school-year 1947/48 has increased from 143 to 215. Among them are 7 girls. Girls as mechanics - a symptom of our times ... The number of pupils having augmented at the rate of 33%, the acquisition of additional premises, equipment, and personnel has become indispensable and the setting up of a third workshop for locksmiths is essential. The news, that the Purchasing Department of the ORT Union in Geneva has already ordered the necessary machines and tools in Switzerland and Italy, was solemnly announced to the pupils. The machines are expected to arrive before the end of this year. Three new instructors have been engaged.

In the trade school for girls, 12 pupils have passed their final examination and 6 of them have already found jobs in various workshops and firms. Thirty-two new pupils have been admitted, bringing the total number of pupils up to 115.

The graduates of both schools possess professional qualifications as well as Maturity papers.

In the months from July till October, the following training workshops and vocational courses have concluded their training :

Hand weaving (manufacturing of hempen and woollen tissues, woollen fabrics, cellulone covers) : 14 graduates, 5 of whom work their own looms and the remainder in weaving-mills.

Dressmaking : 19 graduates, 8 of whom work in workshops and 7 as home-workers.

Leather goods and toys : (leather bags, purses, and belts; lampshades of parchment substitutes; linoleum toys; dolls). The artist standard of this workshop is particularly high. Here indeed Jewish art is cultivated. Most of the 22 graduates, largely married women, are manufacturing the products of their trade at home and are selling them to shops and private buyers.

Training workshops for ceramics (clay filtering, pressing, retouching, burning, enamel work) : 7 graduates, 4 of whom will attend the new course beginning in October, in order to learn clay sculpturing. The others are working in ceramics workshops.

Needlework (cutting and sewing of men's and ladies underwear and bedclothes): 55 graduates.

Cutting of ladies' garments : 25 graduates, 18 of whom are working in various firms, and 7 as home-workers.

Manufacturing of children's garments : 10 graduates.

Electro-technics : the program allows for the practical and theoretical training of weak current as well as power current specialists. 8 of the 18 pupils had to interrupt their training because of emigration. The reminding 10 have passed their final examination

Altogether 195 youths and adults graduated in the training institutions of the Hungarian ORT.

The final examinations and new beginnings in training workshops and vocational courses for adults, with a training duration of less than a year do not coincide with the end, respectively the beginning, of a new school-year. Thus the training of the 10 pupils in the radiotechnical workshop in Budapest, which started in April 1947, is still continued and will only come to an end in January 1948. The same applies to the training workshop for leather goods and toys in Debrecen (35 students), which was set up in June 1947 and will go on till December 1947. The training workshop for needlework in Debrecen, too, has only begun in June, and the 40 trainees will graduate in December 1947.

The numerous new admissions to the training workshops and vocational courses are further proof of the developement of ORT operations in this country : 18 persons have enlisted for training in handweaving ; as to dressmaking, it was necessary to form 2 groups, one of which began in September, and the other in October. Group I is composed of 26 persons, and group II of 34 persons ; 21 candidates were admitted to the workshop for children garments, and 17 to the training workshop for leather goods and toys ; 47 qualified dressmakers take part in a perfectioning course for cutting ladies' garments.

On November 1st., 578 pupils were trained in the trade schools for youths and training workshops for adults of the Hungarian ORT.

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TRAINING UNITS AND PUPILS OF THE H U N G A R I A N ORT
I.VII. - I.XI. 1947

T o w n	Number of training units		Number of pupils		New admissions after	Graduates	Departures before graduation	Status I.XI.47	Frequentation on I.VII.-I.XI.47
	I.VII.	I.XI.	I.VII.	I.XI.	I.VII.1947				
BUDAPEST	12	10	425		372	196	98	503	797
DEBRECEN	2	2	75		--	--	--	75	75
TOTAL	14	12	500		372	196	98	578	872

The agricultural school in Bonyhad

An important part in the activities of the Hungarian ORT is played the preparations towards the establishment of the agricultural school in Bonyhad. Thanks to the efforts of the Geneva Center, the estate itself was given us as present. The rebuilding of the premises and their adaptation to the special purposes of a training farm with boarding facilities have made enormous progress and will be finished in the course of November. The pupils will be able to move in before the end of the year, and can begin with their spring work. Neighbouring farmers studied the construction work, and thought the installations exemplary. In the time from July till October, all masonry carpenter's and tinsmith's work was done, the water supply installed, and the electrical wiring continued. The estate is not merely meant to serve as training farm, but will be a model farm for the whole region. The Bonyhad Municipal Council is very proud of the fact that ORT has set up this important institution just here.

Establishment of new training workshops in November and December

The program of the Hungarian ORT calls for the setting up of several new training workshops and vocational courses during the months of November and December, in Budapest as well as in Debrecen and Miskolc (the biggest trade centre of Upper Hungary). Naturally, this is bound to effect the 1948 budget. The new training workshops in Budapest (for motorcar mechanics, mechanical knitting, welding, plumbing, typewriter mechanics, sewing machines and bicycle mechanics, and watchmaking) have already now a waiting list of 341 candidates. In November still, 2 new training workshops for weaving and cutting of ladies' dresses are to be opened in Debrecen. As to Miskolc, the director of the Hungarian ORT has concluded an agreement with the leader of the Jewish Community there, according to which ORT will shortly open 2 training workshops for weaving and dressmaking. A considerable number of candidates have already put their names down for those training units.

An agreement was also concluded with the Agudath Jisroel in Hungary according to which 80 Budapest youths, boys and girls between 14 and 20 years will for the moment be admitted to special ORT training workshops. The work there is scheduled to begin shortly. ORT supplies the teachers and instructors as well as the necessary machines and materials.

As the Agudah has also a home in Debrecen, ORT stated its willingness to take care of the vocational training of the pupils there, too.

DIPLOMAS OF HUNGARIAN ORT SCHOOLS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED

"On my official visit to the ORT training workshops I found not only a high educational standard and competent teachers, but also diligent and zealous pupils, I therefore wish to express to ORT my entire satisfaction", wrote the Director of the Government Department for Home Work to the Hungarian ORT, following an unexpected visit of inspection to ORT 3 training workshops in Budapest.

The Chief Inspector and the accompanying 3 official experts examined the teaching programs of the weaving, tailoring, cutting and lingerie workshops, asked the instructors for detailed information, looked over the work of the pupils, and questioned them as to the purpose and aim of their training. They were so satisfied with what they saw and heard, that they promised spontaneously to grant in future to each ORT graduate the permission to work without the otherwise obligatory official examination.

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THE NEW ORT TRAINING FARM

"At last one really constructive work in the true sense of the word",

was the opinion of the Vice-President of the Tolna Comitate (district) on the new ORT training farm in Bonyhad. By chance he passed on an inspection tour through his district, the ORT training farm, and the new buildings aroused his wish to inspect them. The Vice-President was so impressed by what he saw, that he promised spontaneously every support from the authorities to the ORT direction.

The population of Bonyhad, too, evinced the greatest interest in the ORT training farm. Reputed citizens and the Catholic priest approached ORT with the request to admit also some Catholic pupils, as has been done in the ORT secondary boys' school for engineering in Budapest to the satisfaction of all concerned. ORT thereupon gladly promised to train some farmers' sons, too, in its training farm.
