

THE ELSA NEWSLETTER March/April 2003

Includes the EYDP Prize Competition – see below for details!!

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Welcome

This is the third ELSA electronic newsletter, we thank you for continuing to subscribe and we hope you will continue to find it of interest. The newsletter has been funded by the European Commission as part of the European Year of People with Disabilities. The European Year is organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Disability Forum (EDF). The EDF is a European umbrella organisation representing more than 37 million disabled people in Europe. ELSA is a founding member of the EDF.

You may ask why people who stutter (pws) should get involved. There are 37 million reasons why. 37 million people with disabilities in the European Union. That's one in ten of us who have some form of disability.

Disabled people are people with equal rights. Disabled people are workers, consumers, tax payers, politicians, students, neighbours, family and friends. But disabled people are not treated that way.

A recent European survey shows there is a serious lack of understanding of what disability means and how many people it affects. Disabled people should be treated as equal citizens who have the power to speak for themselves, not as objects of pity or charity. Disabled people are often excluded from society through poor education and unemployment, leading to poverty.

2003 is an opportunity to change the future for disabled people. And a good future for disabled people means a good future for all people.

The People's March and the EYPD Bus Tour

As part of the EYPD there will be a "Peoples March" which will consist of a Bus tour. The bus will be visiting every country. We ask everybody to find out when the bus is coming to your country, when it does let the EYPD organisers know what you are doing and ask for your events to be linked to the bus visit and for your activities to be put on the EYPD website.

The People's March will be coming to a place near you in 2003!

The March started in Greece in January, the EYPD bus will be taking the March through the 15 European Union Member States, ending in Italy in December.

Get on board! The bus is part of your campaign too! Find out when the bus visits your country – publicise your work on the bus and make your work part of the March. Or join in other activities around the bus. For more information on the bus and the events around it, get in contact with your [national campaign supporter](#).

The European Year of People with Disabilities is more than the March. National coordinating bodies (NCB) have been set up in each country coordinating EYPD activities throughout the year. For all questions or further information relating to your project, do not hesitate to [contact your NCB](#)

As mentioned before, this is a fabulous opportunity to raise awareness of stuttering by advertising your work and events. It is free advertising paid for by the Commission.

“GET ON BOARD”.

Over the next two months the March and bus will be visiting Spain, Portugal and France. Here are the contacts:

More info about the March in Spain:

Mr José Alias
SERVIMEDIA S.A.
P General Martinez Campos, 46-5 B
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Spain
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Tel: +34 91 391 3931

National coordinating body:

Mr. José Carlos BAURA ORTEGA Subdirector General de Planificación, Ordenación y Evaluación
Ministerio de Trabajos y Asuntos Sociales
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28029 MADRID
Spain
Tel: +34.91.36.38.891
Fax : +34.91.36.38.733
E-mail: jcbaura@mtas.es

More info about the March in Portugal:

Mr Henrique Arantes Lopes de Mendonça
CNOD
Pç Teófilo de Braga, 5 - 1 Esq., Alfovelos
P - 2700 Amadora
Portugal
E-mail: dirrecao@cnod.rcts.pt, henrique.men@netcabo.pt
Tel: +351 963937811

National coordinating body:

Secretária Nacional-Adjunta do SNIRPD
Dra Cristina Louro
Av. Conde Valbon ,63 1069-178 LISBOA Portugal
TEL: +351.21.792.95.84/5
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More info about the March in France:

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National coordinating body:

Comité Français de Coordination
Mr. Jean-Luc SIMON
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75015 PARIS
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E-mail: Jean-luc.simon@sante.gouv.fr

Second Call for Young People who Stutter for the 4th ELSA Youth Meeting

There are still places for young people who stutter to attend the 4th ELSA Youth Meeting. The funding comes from the European Youth Foundation (EYF) and ELSA and will enable young pws to attend a six day seminar in Holland at very very low cost.

There are 10 spaces left for this meeting. As usual more boys have registered than girls. So come on girls decide what you are doing this summer and join the other girls from all over Europe who have already registered for the meeting.

The meeting will start on Sunday evening 13 July and end on Saturday morning 19 July. It will take place near Nijmegen. The title of the meeting is **“Extending Communications - Extending Borders”**. The week will consist of workshops, presentations, discussions and social events. There will be lectures on the workings of a national stuttering association, lectures and exercises on preparing a web-site for a national stuttering association, plus non verbal communication workshops.

The meeting is aimed at young pws who are thinking about volunteering to work for, or thinking of being a Board member of their national stuttering association. You will get to network with other European pws, learn about the work of the national associations, share fears, frustrations and triumphs, practice your speech technique in a secure environment and engage in speaking experiences you may shy away from in your daily life.

Interested? You must be between 18 and 26 on 19 July 2003, live in Europe and are a member of your national stuttering association, speak and write some English as it is the working language of the meeting – if so please contact your national stuttering association who in the first instance are being asked to nominate delegates.

The cost is 100Euros for the week inclusive of (food and accommodation) plus you will be refunded 50% of your travel expenses if you complete the week.

More details will be on the ELSA web-site www.elsa.info. **This is unbelievably cheap.** If you are unsure about the Youth Meeting take a look at the ELSA web-site and click onto Youth Meetings and read about the previous ones.

The Stuttering Information Network

Did you know that there is a stuttering information network? The purpose of the network is to ensure that professionals and consumers in Europe have the opportunity of knowing what is going on in research and development in the stuttering field at European level. This will enable the members of the network to use the knowledge in their daily work, in teaching or in their own projects. The network also facilitates cooperation between professionals in the stuttering field across the borders.

The communication between the network of professionals/consumers is carried out via e-mail. As a member of the network you are asked to keep up to date with research and development in the stuttering field and workshops in your country. When you see or hear about a project or a workshop (preferably in some of the main languages) which could be of interest to others, you are asked to describe the background, the purpose, and the method of the project and write the name(s), telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the person(s) working on the project/workshop, and mail this information to the network of professionals/consumers in the stuttering field. This ensures that useful information is passed on by the multiplier effect.

The network is generally for Speech & Language Therapists in the field of stuttering but also includes pws who are active in the field of stuttering. The Coordinator of the network is Per F. Knudsen. For further details on the network email pefk@dpu.dk at the Stuttering Information Centre in Denmark.

News from the German “Bundesvereinigung Stotterer-Selbsthilfe e.V.“ (BV)

The Bus Tour

Since 2000 the Bundesvereinigung Stotterer-Selbsthilfe e.V. has held an annual “Info” Bus Tour on the subject of *Stuttering and School*. This campaign has become the flagship of the BV’s Public Relations work. This year the tour will be under the roof of the “European Year of People with Disabilities 2003”. The week-long trip, which in the past used a London Bus displaying BV information, goes from Cologne via Hannover, Magdeburg, Wittenberg and Leipzig to Erfurt. As in previous years the team will give lessons and presentations at numerous schools on the subject of being different, taking stuttering as the example. The campaign has so far been a great success and has been awarded three prizes. One of the reasons for this is that the BV does not only talk about stuttering but presents stuttering in a very direct and authentic way. Targeted at people who stutter, parents and speech therapists specialising in stuttering, an appeal for donations to finance the campaign is made. Previous appeals yielded over 1,000 Euros each. Pictures and reports on last year’s tour can be found at: www.stottern-und-schule.de.

A Video

Another video film in the series *Methods for Treating Stuttering* was completed early this year and is now available at the BV’s publishing house. “Direct Therapy for Children Who Stutter” documents symptom-orientated approaches for treating children between two and twelve years old and will hopefully be an important milestone in encouraging and teaching therapists to work with young children who stutter in a more direct way.

Evaluation of Stuttering Therapies

The BV is running a programme on evaluating stuttering therapies (PEVOS) which will be presented at the International Fluency Association Montreal Congress. The programme will investigate by scientifically based standards stuttering therapy approaches (or combinations of methods and approaches) and their results. The programme is in the testing phase at the moment. It comprises a combination of questionnaires and speech samples taken at different times before, during and after therapy. The results are expected to be based on scientific evidence which will allow the organisers of the programme to give information and advice on stuttering therapy.

It is an interesting project for Germany as the whole health sector is facing dramatic financial cut backs. This will apply pressure on the BV, similar disability organisations and speech and language therapists to prove that the services they are providing follow quality control procedures and are cost effective.

Anniversaries

Two anniversaries are being celebrated this year in Germany: In October the BV will hold its 30th Annual Congress (Bundeskongress). From small, informal meetings in the early seventies, the congresses developed into four-day events offering a broad range of workshops and lectures. Above all, however, the congresses are highly appreciated occasions to meet people. For many attendees the Saturday night party always is the main event. The 2003 Annual Congress takes place in Wuerzburg from 2-5 October.

DER KIESELSTEIN, the monthly BV magazine, was first issued in 1978 and has its 25th anniversary this year. 25 volumes with twelve issues each sum up to 10.000 pages on stuttering and self-help! Many BV members feel that this is something the BV can be particularly proud of; all the more so as DER KIESELSTEIN still mainly is a readers' journal printing articles members and subscribers submit – a lively platform for the exchange of opinions and experiences. DER KIESELSTEIN was founded one year before the BV came into existence, which means in 2004, the BV looks back on a history of 25 years.

Improved contacts

With new kinds of seminars, the BV wishes to improve its contacts with local self-help groups. There are at present about 70 stutters self-help groups in Germany. Under the motto "Let's get to know each other better", representatives of the groups are invited to regional conferences. Talks will be held, outlining the work and goals of the BV. The conferences also aim at advertising the membership of the BV as many pws who are attending their local self-help group are not members of the BV. The second regional conference will take place in Mainz in November 2003.

An ELSA Seminar – Stuttering Awareness in Strasbourg

Invitations for the Stuttering and Disability Awareness Conference are now available on the ELSA website www.elsa.info The conference is part funded by the European Commission under the framework of the European Year of People with Disabilities (EYPD).

During this seminar delegates will discuss the topic of raising awareness of stuttering. Within the context of the EYPD we will explore what can be done to improve the conditions for people who

stutter (pws) Europe wide. We will look at the how the increased use of the internet has provided for improved access to information for pws and their families. Additionally, we will explore how EU and national legislation can be of benefit to pws.

The seminar will consist of presentations, workshops and discussions.

The meeting is planned to coincide with International Stuttering Awareness Day 22 October 2003. There will also be presentations of the work of the National Stuttering Associations.

Given that the meeting is part funded by the European Commission and is taking place in Strasbourg, the home of the European Parliament, ELSA anticipates it could be a high profile meeting and very appropriate in the EYPD.

The meeting will be hosted by the Association Vaincre Le Bégaiement (AVB) in conjunction with ELSA.

Formal invitations have been sent to the National Stuttering Associations of Europe and they have been asked to co-ordinate the delegate nominations. The cost is 100 Euro for the weekend including Friday dinner through to Sunday lunch. The weekend also includes Saturday night entertainment at a typical Strasbourg venue. For up to three delegates 50% of travel costs will be refunded by ELSA.

For further information please make contact with your national stuttering association.

Additionally if you have something to tell delegates about your work of raising awareness of stuttering please email: elsa.europe@totalise.co.uk

The 2004 World Congress for People who Stutter

The Speak Easy Association of Western Australia, in conjunction with the Australian Speak Easy Association and the International Stuttering Association are holding the 7th triennial World Congress for People who Stutter.

It will be held 15-20 February 2004 at Perth Western Australia. The theme is "Fluency and Beyond: A Holistic Look at Stuttering" Guest Speakers include Professor Mark Onslow, Dr Gerald Maquire, Professor Asley Craig, Dave McQuire, John Harrison and others.

Further details can be found at the following links:

www.2004worldcongress.speakeasy.org.au.

<http://www.2004worldcongress.speakeasy.org.au/abstracts.html>

The EYPD Prize Competition

Win a free trip to Strasbourg, location of the next ELSA Conference in 2003

In the previous newsletters we announced a competition – we will repeat the details again.

1st Prize

A free trip to Strasbourg, France on the occasion of the next ELSA Conference in October 2003 (including travel and accommodation)

2nd Prize

100, - Euro (or the equivalent of your national currency)

3rd Prize

A bottle of ELSA Champagne

... and this is what you have to do:

At the end of each edition of the ELSA Newsletter there will be a question on either Stuttering or the EYPD. The answer will be either within the content of the Newsletter or the ELSA web-site. Make a note of the answers to all the questions. In August 2003 we will ask you to send in **ALL** the answers. The winners will be chosen randomly from those with all the correct answers. The judge's decision is final; no correspondence will be entered into.

The first prize includes return travel within Europe to Strasbourg. To be eligible to participate you must be a direct subscriber to this newsletter, a member of your national stuttering association, normally live in Europe and be aged 18 or over. Board members of ELSA are not eligible to participate.

The date of the ELSA meeting in Strasbourg is 17-19 October 2003.

[For question no.3 go to the bottom of this newsletter!](#)

Call for information

In every newsletter we ask readers and national stuttering associations to share their stuttering activities. Proposals, past events, dates, pictures and reports are very welcome. Also please check if the information on the ELSA web-site about your National Stuttering Association still is up to date.

For the National Stuttering Associations Webmasters

To all the National Associations please advertise or place this ELSA Newsletter on your web-site, in your own newsletters and on your email list.

Has Your Association had an Annual General Meeting recently?

If so, your contact persons may have changed. To enable ELSA to keep an up to date register please email the new Board/Committee and contact persons to elsa.europe@totalise.co.uk

International Fluency Association (IFA)

The IFA has a new website www.theifa.org

For more information on ELSA

For more information about ELSA, its activities and the European Year of People with Disabilities (EYPD) visit the ELSA homepage www.elsa.info

Has somebody given you a copy of this newsletter?

If you have received this newsletter from a friend or colleague and are interested in receiving future copies yourself then send an email to elsa.europe@telia.com with the text "*subscribe EYPD*".

Did you know that there have been two previous copies of this newsletter? To view the previous ones go the ELSA web-site www.elsa.info

The EYPD Competition – Question Number 3

In this newsletter we are reporting on some of the activities of the German Stuttering Association.

On what subject does the Bundesvereinigung Stotterer-Selbsthilfe e.V. hold an “Info” bus tour every year?

Anita Blom (S) Edwin J. Farr MBE (GB) Gina Waggott (GB) Konrad Schaefers (D) Benedikt Benediktsson (IS)