

THE ELSA NEWSLETTER

August/September 2003

**Includes the FINAL QUESTION of the EYPD Prize Competition – see below for details!!
It's now your chance to win a trip to Strasbourg!! Deadline: 1 September 2003!!!**

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Welcome

This is the fifth ELSA electronic newsletter, we thank you for starting or continuing to subscribe and we hope you will find it of interest. Due to summer and holiday time this edition is a little bit shorter than the previous ones but we do hope you will find some valuable information in it. For our first time readers in particular here's some basic information on the purpose of our newsletter.

The newsletter has been funded by the European Commission as part of the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003. 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.

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 in Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands

As part of the EYPD a "Peoples March" is being organised during 2003 consisting of a Bus tour. The bus will be visiting every EU 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 March started in Greece in January, 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](#).

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 Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands. Here are the contacts:

The march visits **Sweden** during following period(s):
9 August - 25 August

More info about the march in Sweden:

Mrs Maryanne Rönnersten
Handikappförbundens samarbetsorgan
Box 1386
S - 172 27 Sundbyberg
Sweden
E-mail: maryanne.ronnersten@hso.se
Tel: +46 8 546 404 20

National coordinating body:

The National Agency for Special Educational Support
Ms. Helena STARUP
BOX 34018
10026 STOCKHOLM
Sweden
Tel: +46.8.78.77.317
Fax: +46.8.79.68.410
E-mail: Helena.starup@sisus.se
[Swedish EYPD website](#)

The march visits **Finland** during following period:
25 August – 5 September

More info about the march in Finland:

Mrs Lea Sinikka Rantala
Finnish Association of People with Mobility Disabilities
Jollaksentie 61B
FIN - 00850 Helsinki
Finland
E-mail: sinikka.rantala@invalidiliitto.fi
Tel: +358 (0)9 698 8180

National coordinating body:

Ministry of social affairs & health
The National Council on Disability
Mr. Kalle Könkkölä
PL 33 00023 Government of Finland
te. +358 9 1607 4311
e-mail: kalle.konkkola@stm.vn.fi

The march visits **the Netherlands** during following period(s):
8 September – 23 September

More info about the march in Netherlands:

Mr Alexander van de Kerkhof
Nationaal Comite Europees jaar van mensen met een handicap 2003
Postbus 20003
NL - 3502 LA Utrecht
Netherlands
E-mail: comite@info2003.nl
Tel: +31 30 295 0123

National coordinating body:

Mr Alexander van de Kerkhof
Nationaal Comite Europees jaar van mensen met een handicap 2003
Postbus 20003
NL - 3502 LA Utrecht
Netherlands
E-mail: comite@info2003.nl
Tel: +31 30 295 0123

The 4th ELSA Youth Meeting – A first review

The Youth Meeting is now over. It took place in July 2003. 33 Young people came to Nijmegen from all over Europe - from Iceland to Croatia, from Spain to Sweden. All of them were under 26 and all were people who stutter. They learnt how a national stuttering association works, how to build a website, body and mind exercises, didgeridoo, theatre and non-verbal communication. They also had a full daytrip to Utrecht, visiting a museum, a city walk and a boat trip. A Yahoo

group has been set up and all the comments and thanks have shown us that the delegates enjoyed the week and learnt a lot. Thanks go to Richard Bourgondien and Demosthenes, the Netherlands Association, for taking over 300 digital photographs of the meeting and giving all the delegates a CD. Thanks also go to the European Youth Foundation for part financing the meeting. Keep checking the ELSA website www.elsa.info for the date of the next Youth Meeting.

News in Brief

The EU Enlargement

1 May 2004 is a date which will change the European scenery: Ten countries are set to become members of the EU. The parliamentary observers will become MEPs and the European Commission will also take in ten additional Commissioners. The number of Member States will increase from 15 to 25, the EU population by 75 million to 453 million and the EU's surface area by 34%. This will also have an influence on disability policies – firstly, in the new member states, and, secondly, on the work of the European Disability Forum. ELSA hopes that the new European structures will help to set up or promote stuttering self-help groups and organisations in as many new member countries as possible.

The ten countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia. For more information on the EU enlargement see http://www.edf-feph.org/en/policy/enlargement/enla_news.htm

International Stuttering Awareness Day 2003

The motto of ISAD 2003 is “**International Stuttering Awareness is really everyday... We just celebrate it on October 22**”. This is to remind us of the fact that raising stuttering awareness is really an everyday job and not restricted to one short period of the year. Again, it is hoped that all National Stuttering Associations and many local self-help groups will use the publicity of ISAD for their public relations work. As already announced previously, ELSA's contribution to ISAD 2003 is the European Seminar of Stuttering and Disability Awareness in Strasbourg/France, 17-19 October 2003.

Here is a note from Judith Kuster organiser of the on-line conference:

In October individuals interested in stuttering, professional therapists as well as clients and their support organisations, will discuss this much misunderstood speech disorder in one of the largest professional conferences of the year. But not face-to-face -- this conference is on the Internet. It is freely available or available for 15 hours of continuing education or 1 college credit for a fee. The sixth annual International Stuttering Online Conference opens October 1 and climaxes on the 22nd, the day designated "International Stuttering Awareness Day" by the International Fluency Association (IFA), the International Stuttering Association (ISA) and the European League of Stuttering Associations (ELSA). The theme of the conference is "INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS" is really everyday. . . We just celebrate it on October 22!"

Conference presentations, by consumers and professionals from more than a dozen countries, are posted for reading on the web site. Presentations are designed for a general audience, and feedback and discussion is invited through an Internet bulletin board (threaded discussion). Past conferences have drawn participation from more than 50 different countries around the world.

The 2003 Conference, as well as those from previous years, can be found on the Stuttering Home Page at <http://www.stutteringhomepage.com> starting October 1, 2003.

The International Year of the Child Who Stutters 2004

In 2001 the world community of people who stutter agreed to devote the year 2004 to the children who stutter. Similar to International Stuttering Awareness Day, the International Year is aimed at raising public awareness of the problems stuttering children have, to combat discrimination in everyday life and to improve therapy conditions. It is hoped that all National Stuttering Associations will use the Year for the benefit of children who stutter and their parents in their countries. IYCWS will be officially launched at the IFA Congress at Montreal in August 2003. The year will also be on the agenda of the ELSA Seminar on Stuttering and Disability Awareness in October.

The 2004 World Congress for People who Stutter All details now available!

The 7th World Congress held by the Speak Easy Association of Western Australia, in conjunction with the Australian Speak Easy Association and the International Stuttering Association will be the main stuttering event at international level in 2004. Meanwhile the second announcement has been released giving many details such as the programme, the cost and the keynote speakers.

Further details can be found at the following links:

www.2004worldcongress.speakeasy.org.au.

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

A Disabled Peoples Parliament

ELSA has been invited to the Disabled Peoples Parliament. The European Parliament will host a Disabled People's Parliament Event on 10-11 November 2003 at the Hemicycle in Brussels, Belgium. The event will mark the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations Standard Rules and the European Year of Disabled People 2003. The European Disability Forum as the umbrella organization at European Union level, representing the European disability movement has been charged with the organization of the event.

Participants will include a mix of disability representatives (organisations of disabled people) and European Parliamentarians as well as some other stakeholder groups, other EU institutions and social NGOs.

Four major outcomes are expected:

- A Resolution or Declaration to feed into the European Parliament's own initiative report on the European Year 2003;

- A Manifesto by the Disability Movement to the European Parliament regarding the elections in 2004 with a view that it should be recognised and taken up in the manifestos of the political parties
- A Conference report to include testimonies of disabled persons of Europe.
- A presentation of good practice examples of the work of Parliaments in advocating for disability issues.

Future Events

Denmark: Nordisk Stammeseminar 2003 (includes the ELSA AGM)
September 11th-14th, 2003 in Odense
Info at www.fsd.dk

United Kingdom: BSA Silver Jubilee Conference 2003
September 12th-14th, 2003, Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds
The conference will bring people together to celebrate 25 years of the British Stammering Organisation. For information see www.stammering.org

Germany: 30th Bundeskongress der Stotterer-Selbsthilfe
The 30th Annual Congress of the German Stuttering Association will be held in Wuerzburg from October 2nd-5th, 2003. Guests from abroad are very much welcome. For details please see www.buko.stottern.info

One Voice

The latest edition of One Voice is now available. This newsletter incorporating “The Voice of ELSA” is available by downloading at <http://www.stutterisa.org/>

The EYPD Prize Competition

Now is the time to send all five answers – for details, see below.
Entries must be submitted by 1 September 2003

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 APEX 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 was (and is) a question on either Stuttering or the EYPD. The answer is either within the content of the Newsletter or the ELSA website.

We now ask you to send us the FIVE answers to elsa@bvss.de. Deadline is 1 September 2003. In your email please give your full address, telephone number and the name of your National Stuttering Association. 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 winner of the first prize will be notified by 15 September 2003.**

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

[For question no. 5 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 and coming events, dates, pictures and reports are very welcome. Also please check if the information on the ELSA website 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 website, 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

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 four previous copies of this newsletter? To view the previous ones go the ELSA web-site www.elsa.info

The EYPD Competition – Question Number 5

1 May 2004 marks the beginning of a new era within the European Union when ten new countries will become members of the EU.

“How many of the ten accession countries are already member countries of the European League of Stuttering Associations?”

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