

The Voice of ELSA

New series, #2

Autumn 1997

Magazine of the European League of Stuttering Associations

Efterårsnummeret af The Voice of ELSA er kommet. Interesse-rede kan få en kopi ved henvendelse til sekretariatet.

Her er et par smagsprøver:

International exchange of selfhelp groups

As an international organisation, ELSA tries to stimulate the contacts between the different member associations. A good way to achieve this is to encourage local self-help groups to get in touch with self-help groups in foreign countries; this is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and to make new friends!

If your self-help group is interested, you can write directly to the relevant national association to obtain addresses of that country's self-help groups. Of course, you can always contact ELSA for more information or help, too.

If your self-help group has been successful in making contact with a foreign self-help group, please send a brief report to the ELSA office (or to VoE editor Tim Powell on fax # +44 1227 711869) and tell us who you met and how it went!

ELSA reaches Slovakia!

Fundamental to ELSA's existence has always been the desire to widen the network of countries and stuttering associations - and individuals within them - that are involved. It has been very pleasing, therefore, to welcome our first involvement from Slovakia. Tomáš Siniko attended the summer '97 EISA Youth Meeting in the Netherlands, and these were among his thoughts on the event:

„In my opinion, the whole programme was suitably chosen; all the exercises and lectures were of good quality. Before I came to the

meeting, I had had some doubts about the programme: I had thought the topic *Alternative Communication* not very appropriate. Fortunately, I was wrong. I had been so concerned and bothered about my stuttering that I had not thought mime, sign language and painting would be useful to such an extent. The whole week helped me understand that speaking is not the only way of communicating.

I suppose that many thoughts, experiences and impressions of all the participants were similar to mine.

But the official programme was not the only reason we met. We got a lot out of the programme, but it was not all that we got. Simply being together meant very much for us. Living together and feeling „Oh, I am not the only one who stutters" was really important. There were table tennis and football tournaments organised, and we also had karaoke.

During the breaks and free time it could be seen that these stutterers were keen on talking, explaining and understanding each other as for many of us it was the first time that we had met so many other stutterers at the same time, and were with them for so long. Many friendships were made and will be kept. Many stutterers will stay in touch with each other and possibly meet again in the future.

I think in general the meeting worked out brilliantly, and all the aims were achieved."

Konrad Schäfers adds:

In the latest edition of the newsletter of the Stuttering Foundation of America, there is a note about a physician in Slovakia who is

currently translating Self-Therapy for the Stutterer into Slovakian; also, the German BV recently received a letter from a lady in Bratislava asking for information and complaining about the lack of self-help groups in Slovakia.

Electronic Stuttering

The British Stammering Association/UK is now on-line: e-mail: mail@stammer.demon.co.uk

and on the world-wide web:

<http://www.stammer.demon.co.uk>

From the Stuttering Foundation of America/USA, news of a new webpage that enables people who stutter to find penpals. This service is free. Just go to:

www.casafuturetech.com and click on „Penpals webpage