



NEWS

EUROPEAN *Dyslexia*
ASSOCIATION
AISBL

www.dyslexia.eu.com

Vol. 12 No. 4 December 2006

EDA's 20th Anniversary

to mark this historic event
THE BOARD ANNOUNCES

the

2nd ALL-EUROPEAN DYSLEXIA CONFERENCE

15th - 17th November 2007
in

LUXEMBOURG

The full announcement and CALL FOR PAPERS is enclosed in this issue on pages 7 and 8 (in English and German). These pages can be copied to advertise the event. More information will be given in the New Year but it is hoped all former EDA Presidents and their partners will be able to attend with all former Board Members. A 20th Anniversary Report will be available at the Conference for all EDA Members.

Jennifer and Robin Salter
Joint Editors

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Joint Editors: Jennifer & Robin Salter: eda@kbnet.co.uk eda NEWS may be copied but not altered in any way and quotations must acknowledge the source. The views and comments expressed are not necessarily those of the European Dyslexia Association



The Chairman's Column

"What is the EDA doing for us?"

This is a question the Board members of the EDA and I are often asked.

Behind this question there seems to be a misleading view about the organisational structure of the EDA, the functions of the executive board and the role of the directors. Let me explain my view, based on the present statutes of the EDA.

1. The General Assembly shall be ultimately responsible for the realisation of the Association's objectives. The General Assembly shall be composed of all Effective members. It decides the trend and policy of the Association (*Section 3 Article. 6 of the EDA Statutes*).
2. The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors (*Section 5 Art. 11*). The Board shall have full powers of management and administration (*Section 5 Art. 13*).
3. The Chairperson shall represent the Association (*Section 5 Art. 19*).

In my understanding, this means that the European Dyslexia Association consists of the union of his members. These member organisations have full decision making power. They decide the policy and trend in the General Assembly (which will be held in future every year). General decisions have to be made by them only; the member organisations themselves are the EDA.

The Board of Directors could be considered as the 'government' of the Association, whose duty is to execute (only!) the decisions of the members. For effective working of the board and the chairperson and to make them able to use the 'full management powers', clear policies and detailed instructions from the membership are needed. In the absence of these the board is restricted in fulfilling his duties.

Please do not misunderstand me. The board works hard and well and a lot of progress has been achieved. In 2006, many proposals were prepared for decision by the members, a good base for better and a more efficient working in the future.

With your support 2007 should be a good year for the development of the EDA. This is my wish for us all.

Our **Vision** and **Mission** are as follows:

VISION

Every child and adult with dyslexia in Europe has the right to access and receipt of appropriate support and opportunity to achieve their full potential in education, training, employment and life.

MISSION

The European Dyslexia Association is a European umbrella organisation for national and regional associations of people with dyslexia, their parents and professionals. It facilitates the exchange of information and good practice through international networking and lobbying. In partnership with its member organisations, the EDA will challenge prejudice and ignorance to ensure that people with dyslexia are empowered to reach their full potential.



EDA Board



Meeting in London November 2006
(*Marja Kavkler had to leave before photo; Maria Potamitis could not attend*)
with former President Robin Salter
and former Board Secretary Jennifer Salter (who took photo)



External examinations & the dyslexia problem in Poland

Dr Teresa Wejner

Ombudsman's Office for Children
and member of Polish Dyslexia Association

One of the areas in a Government reform covers the new evaluation system of the educational achievements of the students. It comprises two trends:

- a) internal evaluation (the internal school evaluation system)
- b) external evaluation (system of external examinations)

The external evaluation system covers the final examinations in Junior High School, the Senior high school graduation examination (matura), and examinations confirming professional qualifications.

The results of both these examinations may be compared in the scale of a group, state, or *poviat*.

The overall objective of the educational system is to support the comprehensive and harmonious development of the students' personalities and creation of conditions allowing them to absorb skills enabling their proficient functioning.

In the case of students with specific educational problems (dyslexia) the examination requirements have been adjusted to their difficulties.

Pursuant to the ordinance of the Ministry of National Education (*see end of article) the students suffering from developmental dyslexia should be allowed to take external examinations in school, in conditions adjusted to their dysfunction. In case of the test and the Junior high school final examination, they are entitled to take the examination in a separate room, in which a member of the examination board will read aloud the instruction, introductory text, and the tasks to be done, and the students will be able simultaneously to view the text on paper. The students will also be able to take the test during time extended by 50% as compared to that regularly meant for such test. In case of diagnosed dysgraphia, they will also have an opportunity to write their work in block letters, which should make their handwriting more legible. The examiners checking the students' work should not lower the grades for spelling mistakes in case of these students.

Since the implementation of external examinations, there have been many students coming with reading and writing problems. They wait several months for specialist examinations. Since last year, the number of dyslexic students has increased. It has been interpreted as being due to increased awareness by the parents about the existence of the problem.

In 2006, 9.13% of the entire population of grade six students took advantage of tests adjusted to developmental dyslexia. In this year, for the first time, we noted the decline by 0.15% as compared to the previous year. So far, the share of dyslexic students systematically increased on an annual basis. In 2002 it amounted to 7.1%; in 2003: 7.7%; in 2004: 8.7%, and in 2005 the percentage of dyslexic children amounted to 9.3% of the population. (**see end of article)

Comparing the statistical dyslexic students in the voivodeships it should be emphasized that it is varied. In 2006 the largest number of dyslexia certificates issued was in *Pomorskie Voivodeship* – 16.15% of the population. The smallest number was in *Podkarpackie Voivodeship* – 4.3%.

In 2005 the variations were significant and amounted to individual *poviats* from 0.58% dyslexic students in *Łobeski Poviat* to 32.34% in *Grodzisk Mazowiecki*. In 2006 from 0.52% in *Złotoryjski Poviat* to 31.23% in *Grodzisk Mazowiecki*. The largest number of dyslexic students is in the large cities – the average of 18% of the students' population, and the smallest number is in small towns and in villages.

Since 2002 there have been systematic researches conducted regarding the external examinations. The researches also refer to the percentage of dyslexic students during the external examinations.

In Junior high schools, 10.29% of the general population of students had certificates about being dyslexic. Also the share of those with dyslexia certificates was variable and amounted to 27.5% of the general students' population in *Pomorskie Voivodeship* to 5.95% in *Podkarpackie Voivodeship*. However, comparing the percentage of the dyslexic students with the previous year it should be emphasized that apart from the *Pomorskie* and *Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeships*, where there is a significant increase in the number of students with specific learning difficulties, in the other voivodeships the situation is stable.

There is a need for central-wide unification in Poland. For this purpose, the Psychological Tests Laboratory in Warsaw undertakes tests related to diagnosing of the dyslexic children and differentiation of dyslexia from other school based difficulties.

The ordinance of the Minister of National Education and Sport dated April 4th 2005, on early support of child development, offers an opportunity of early therapy.

Dyslexia is not and cannot be a convenient excuse for school problems. Dyslexic students should participate in the therapeutic activities. Systematic therapeutic work is aimed at the overcoming of difficulties caused by (documented) perceptive and motor dysfunctions.

Every year, the possibilities of participation in such therapeutic activities are smaller, because there appear more and more restrictions in financing of the schools by the *gminas*.

The priority measures allowing for remedying the problem of dyslectic children include the following:

- (a) Activation of activities allowing for early diagnosis and assistance to the dyslexic persons,
- (b) Unification of psychological-pedagogical diagnosis of dyslexia,
- (c) Activation of therapeutic activities, obligatory for dyslexic students.

Additionally, further thorough research of dyslexia should be conducted.

It is high time to change the negative image of the dyslexic student, often pictured as worse than a child without dyslexia.

It is worthwhile showing the true picture of the dyslexic dysfunction, which can indicate enhanced intelligence and personality above the average.

* *Ordinance on the conditions and manner of evaluation – Ordinance of the Minister of National Education dated 21st March 2001 - tests and examinations in public schools s.32 (Journal of Laws No. 29 item 323); earlier version of 19th April 1999.*

** *Based on materials of the Central Examination Board in Warsaw.*

EDA MEMBERS

PLEASE !

SEND INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN
YOUR COUNTRY AND CONFERENCE REPORTS TO THE
JOINT EDITORS
PLEASE !

IN ANY LANGUAGE

THE EDA BOARD AND *EDA NEWS* EDITORS

**wish all the EDA Members a successful
Happy NEW YEAR !**

**No matter which language –
No matter which country –
No matter which age –**



Dyslexia is everywhere

**The European Dyslexia Association announces the
Second All-European Dyslexia Conference
15th to 17th of November 2007
in Luxembourg.**

To mark the 20th anniversary of its foundation and the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, the European Dyslexia Association is pleased to announce that it will host the Second All-European Conference on Dyslexia in Luxembourg from November 15th to 17th 2007 in cooperation with DYSPEL Luxembourg. The conference will feature keynote speakers representing the scientific and practitioner's best of knowledge and practice in European countries, as well as meetings of people with dyslexia and a series of workshops for practitioners. The languages of the conference will be English, German and French. The key-notes will be translated in German, French and English.

Call for papers

The EDA is asking for submitting papers and workshop proposals for this conference on the subject of dyslexia related to theory or practice. For consideration, please forward an abstract not exceeding 250 words in English, German or French by 15th of February 2007 at the latest to the appropriate e-mail addresses:

Proposals in English: Steve.Alexander@pre-school.org.uk

Proposals in German: m.kalmar@utanet.at

Proposals in French: rclaes@lpt.lu

The authors of proposals accepted for presentation at this conference are expected to pay their own transportation and accommodation. The conference fee will be waived for all speakers.

You will find more information about the conference in the near future at www.dyslexia.eu.com and www.dyspel.org

**Egal welche Sprache –
Egal welches Land –
Egal welches Alter –**



Legasthenie ist überall

**EINLADUNG
Europäischer Legastheniekongress
Second All-European Dyslexia Conference
der
European Dyslexia Association
Luxemburg 15.-17.November2007**

Aus Anlass des 20. Jahrestages ihrer Gründung und des Europäischen Jahres der Chancengleichheit für alle veranstaltet die European Dyslexia Association in Zusammenarbeit mit DYSPEL-Luxemburg den zweiten gesamteuropäischen Legastheniekongress, der vom 15.-17. November 2007 in Luxemburg stattfinden wird. Die Kongresssprachen sind Englisch, Deutsch und Französisch. Die Hauptvorträge werden in die jeweils beiden anderen Sprachen simultan übersetzt.

Call for papers

Sie sind herzlich eingeladen, ein abstract für einen Beitrag zur Kongressthematik vorzulegen. Ihr Beitrag zum Kongress könnte in der Form eines (Kurz)referates oder eines Arbeitskreises erfolgen. Der Umfang des abstract ist mit 250 Wörtern begrenzt. Anmeldeschluss ist 15.2.2007. Später einlangende Vorschläge können nicht berücksichtigt werden. Bitte senden Sie Ihre Angebote

in Englisch an: Steve.Alexander@pre-school.org.uk
in Deutsch an: m.kalmar@utanet.at
in Französisch an: rclaes@lpt.lu

Von den AutorInnen angenommener Vorschläge wird erwartet, dass sie ihre Reisekosten und Aufenthaltsspesen selbst tragen. Sie sind allerdings von der Bezahlung der Kongressgebühr befreit.

Weitere Informationen finden Sie in naher Zukunft auf den Webseiten www.dyslexia.eu.com und www.dyspel.org

E U

Application for funding

Steve Alexander, the **EDA Treasurer**, has made a bid to the European Union for 100,000 euros to help develop the EDA's infrastructure. The grant request was made under the heading of "European Associates acting at a European level in the field of Education and Training".

The request has been made because, in the past, all the work of the EDA has been done voluntarily. This has been a limiting factor in what the EDA has been able to offer its members. With this added financial support the EDA would be able to develop its infrastructure to provide better support and publicity for its members. The EDA Members will be advised of the outcome of the application.



E U

European Disability Forum (EDF) 10th Anniversary initiative

The 10th Anniversary of the EDF occurs in 2007. The initiative chosen for their anniversary year is to launch a campaign for disabled citizens in the European Union under the title '**1million4disability**'. The object is to obtain at least one million signatures in favour of **EU** legislation to combat discrimination towards persons with disabilities.

It is believed this is a golden opportunity to celebrate the **EDF's** Anniversary with the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the **Amsterdam Treaty** which included, for the first time, an Article on non-discrimination and specific reference to disability within an **EU** Treaty (Article 13).

The Board of the **EDA** has agreed that the **EDA** should join this campaign as part of its Members' wish to be more involved in **EDF** affairs. More information will be given in the next issue of **EDA NEWS**. It is clear, however, that in order to achieve the aims of the campaign, the co-operation of all the **EDF's** members will be needed, including the co-operation of the **EDA's** members.



BRAVO

Association

**2nd Slovenian
International Conference
on
Specific Learning Disabilities**

**'Children & Adolescents with Specific Learning Difficulties
- stimulation, supporting and effective help'**

In Slovenia, **BRAVO Association** in co-operation with the **European Dyslexia Association**, the **Faculty of Education, Education Institution of Slovenia** and **Employment Service of Slovenia**, organized on September 29 and 30 the 2nd Slovenian International Conference on Specific Learning Disabilities for teachers, counsellors, social workers and parents with the above theme.

The conference had a great response. There were over 300 participants and over 50 lecturers who reported papers. The most participants were teachers and counsellors from the primary and secondary schools, but there were also a lot of parents.

Michael Kalmar, the President of the EDA, **Cveta Razdevsek Pucko**, the Dean of the Faculty and **Mojca Skrinjar**, the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, opened the Conference. The seven lecturers from abroad followed the preliminary paper of **Marija Kavkler**, the President of BRAVO Association. **Michael Kalmar** from Austria, **Hans-Pauli Christiansen** from Denmark, **Ann Clement Morrison** and **Lynda J. Katz** from USA, **Siona & Colin Lannen** from Scotland and **Snorre A. Ostad** from Norway shared, through their papers their experiences from the field of working with the children, students and adults who had specific learning disabilities in their countries.

Our parents and teachers had opportunities to find out more about working with the students with specific learning disabilities at the faculty. Also, how to use modern technology giving a supportive approach to alleviate the problems and develop the potentials of the children and adolescents. There was also the opportunity to learn how to adapt materials for the children with dyslexia.

The first day of the conference was concluded with the 'round table'. Among the guests was also the Slovenian famous actor **Gojmir Lesnjak** who is dyslexic and who is very popular among the children and adolescents. He shared his own experiences with the audience, how he more or less successfully confronted his dyslexia problems in the past and now in the present. In that session the parents were very active. They asked questions, such as how to distinguish the successful early intervention in the pre-school and early school period.

Other papers from Slovenian experts, teachers and parents were arranged into four groups and presented next day. They represented the good practice of teaching, results of their research work and experiences of parents having a child with specific learning disabilities.

The conference was very successful. Different media such as national television, radio and newspapers reported the event. **BRAVO's** Conference Committee, whose members were also parents, managed to publish a book of the conference contributions. A copy was given to

every participant of the conference. After the conference, **BRAVO** also made a CD with the conference contributions and a copy was sent to every primary and secondary school in Slovenia in the Week of Dyslexia. Our children voluntarily packed over 700 packages with CDs.



BRAVO Members and children at work

If we compare the second conference with the first one, we can see that in the last four years there has been noticeable progress. More and more regular teachers and parents are aware of the problems and the potentials of the children and adolescents with specific learning disabilities and they are anxious to find a way to help them.

*The Editors are grateful for this report and photographs from
Milena Kosak Babuder M D*



Conference Delegates

NEWS

British Dyslexia Association (BDA)

Web: www.bdadyslexia.org Email: admin@bdadyslexia.org.uk

The BDA has experienced a difficult financial time in recent months. This resulted in the Annual General Meeting being postponed and, sadly, redundancies of a number of staff and consequent restriction of some of its services.

The BDA's Annual General Meeting postponed from November has been re-arranged for **Saturday 20th January 2007 at The Abbey School, 17 Kendrick Road, Reading RG1 5DZ starting at 2.00pm**. Anyone planning to attend should advise the Reading Office by telephone on **0118 9662677** or by email at admin@bdadyslexia.org.uk

The UK Government's Education Secretary has announced fresh action to improve the training of teachers for special needs children which will make training a national priority in schools. This follows the DfES response to the publication in July 2006 of the Education Select Committee's Report on Special Educational Needs. The current Assessment and Statements procedures will not be changed at this time.



Bundesverband Legasthenie und Dyskalkulie e.V.

Email: contact Simone Wejda at: gf@bvl-legasthenie.de

*The following items are extracts from **BVL – News 4/06***

The **BVL** Homepage on its website has proved extremely successful with more than 20,000 visitors each month. In addition, every month, over 100 calls are received for advice and over 200 emails are answered.

BVL, with the 'Lernserver' team at Münster University, has started a new project with the aim of offering training sessions to help teachers of children with exceptional spelling difficulties.

After some years of research, a new Handbook was published in 2005 which includes the names of Qualified Therapists for the teaching of dyslexic children. This is now available for teaching institutions.

The regular youth project in Creglingen took place again in the summer of 2006. A new international project will be offered in 2007 called 'S.T.E.P.' Details may be obtained from the BVL office.

Extensive legal research work conducted by Prof. Langenfeld at the University of Göttingen, on the rights of dyslexic children, has proved that most school guidelines contradict the constitutional rights of such children on several points. BVL aims to get court decisions which could have far-reaching consequences for many schools and children.

A brochure is available which gives valuable advice on legal procedures which can help children with special needs. This brochure will help parents to know their rights and those of their children when dealing with the DHSS.

European Children – Our Concern (EC-OC)

The following items are edited extracts from EC-OC's Newsletter for December 2006

Gifted Children

In a report on Gifted Children, the Authors of a new book say that the signs of brilliance in children are not always what you might expect. According to **Dr Brock Eide**, early signs of giftedness in children can often look like problems.

In their book ***The Mislabeled Child*** Dr Eide and his wife say gifted children are often mis-diagnosed as having attention deficit disorder. This is because instead of having learning problems, they tend to soak it all in. Other signs can include a vivid imagination, an excellent memory, a questioning attitude to authority and possible preference to the company of older children and adults.

Trouble often occurs because educators may not always recognise a child's gift, which is why Dr Eide and his wife say it is up to parents to find ways at school and home to help gifted children reach their potential. Dr Eide says it is important for these gifted children to see "what's not known and see what questions are there that remain to be answered because that's where they're going to make their big contribution in life".

Ritalin use for pre-school children

A study in the USA raises the possibility of pre-school children with Attention Deficit Hyper-activity Disorder (ADHD) being given Ritalin has sparked another debate over the safety and appropriateness of such a practice.

Some effects in a trial of 183 severe ADHD children taking Ritalin have shown that there can be emotional outbursts, difficulty in sleeping, decreased appetite and irritability. About 11% of the children dropped out of the trial because of the side effects.

Whilst some experts advocate the use of Ritalin in some cases, it is evident that long-term side issues are not fully known or understood but there may be some short-term benefits as long as parents take advice from their doctors.

The EDA has always advised against the use of Ritalin (or any other drug) except under careful medical supervision because the long-term effects are not known.

New EDA Board Members

At the General Assembly held in Brussels in April 2006, the EDA Board co-opted **Raymond Claes (Luxembourg)** to the Board.

At its meeting in November 2006, the EDA Board agreed to co-opt **Lars Carlsson (Denmark)** to the Board with effect from 9th March 2007.

NEW EDA MEMBERS and NEW ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Parents and Guardians of Children with Dyslexia and Learning Difficulties, Thessaloniki, Greece

At its meeting in November 2006, the EDA Board accepted this Association as an **EFFECTIVE** (voting) member.

DYSFAM, Spain

Also at the meeting in November, an offer of membership was agreed for this new association in the Balearic Islands.

Lithuania-Litauen (LT)

The 'REDDA' Dyslexia Association in Vilnius, Lithuania has applied for membership of the EDA.

Matejcek School, Czech Republic

The Board has accepted this School as an **ADHERENT** (non-voting) member.

Ukraine Dyslexia Association

The Editors have been advised that a new dyslexia association is being created in the Ukraine.

BOOK LIST - additions

The full Book List is available on our website. The Editors will be pleased for any suggestions or recommendations for inclusion in our Book List (**in any language**) which they have read and which are recognised as being of value to parents, teachers and other professionals concerned with dyslexia in their countries.

D = in Deutsch E = in English F = in French

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
D Handbuch Legasthenie	Ed. R Hofmann M Kalmar	Verlag Leman mit Pfiff Vienna	02285 49 4
F le TDA/H à l'école	Dr Xavier Schlögel Pascale De Coster Anne-Genevieve de Longueville	Format de poche	978 2 8010 5450 5

International Conferences & Symposia

Country	Organisation & subject	Venue and date
<u>2007</u>		
ENGLAND	A Festschrift for Uta Frith's Retirement <u>Contact</u> +44 (0)20 7451 2500	The Royal Society 6 – 9 Carlton House Terrace LONDON SW1Y 5AG 2 – 3 January
	British Dyslexia Association AGM <u>Email Contact:</u> admin@bdadyslexia.org.uk (Postponed from 18 November 2006)	The Abbey School READING 20 January
SLOVENIA	31 st Annual Conference <u>Email Contact:</u> iarld@aol.com	Kompas Hotel BLED 5 – 7 July
ALL COUNTRIES	Dyslexia Week	1 – 6 October
AUSTRIA	XVII Convention of OEGS <i>Mit Sprache wachsen – VIENNA</i> <i>Die Bedeutung der Sprache und ihrer Grundlagen</i> 26 – 29 October <i>Fur den Erwerb der Kulturtechniken</i> <u>Email Contact:</u> kongress07wien@spracheheilpaedagogik.at	
USA	International Dyslexia Association <i>58th Annual Conference</i>	Adams Mark Hotel DALLAS, Texas 31 Oct – 3 November
SOUTH AFRICA	International Federation of Library Associations <i>73rd General Conference & Council</i> <i>Libraries for the future; progress; development & Partnerships</i> <u>Email Contact:</u> wilc2007@congrex.nl	DURBAN 19 – 23 August
LUXEMBOURG	European Dyslexia Association <i>2nd All European Dyslexia Conference & EDA 20th Anniversary 1987 - 2007</i> <u>See:</u> www.dyspel.org www.europeandyslexiaassociation.eu	LUXEMBOURG 15 – 17 November
<u>2008</u>		
ENGLAND	British Dyslexia Association <i>7th International Conference</i> <u>Email Contact:</u> as above	York University YORK 26 – 29 March
CANADA	International Federation of Library Associations <i>74th General Conference & Council</i> <i>Libraries without borders: navigating towards Global understanding</i> <u>Email Contact:</u> ifla@ifla.org	QUEBEC 10 – 15 August

USA

International Dyslexia Association
59th Annual Conference
See: www.interdys.org

WASHINGTON
29 Oct – 1 November

2009

BELGIUM

European Dyslexia Association
4th Multilingualism & Dyslexia Conference
In co-operation with British Dyslexia Association &
International Dyslexia Association
See: www.europeandyslexiaassociation.eu

BRUGGES
Spring

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

1 – 6 October 2007

**PLAN YOUR PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
NOW!**

There is available an **EDA DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK LEAFLET** on application to The EDA Secretary, **Maria Potamitis** at: Potamitis@suncare.com.cy

*This is the last page of **EDA NEWS** for December 2006*