



NEWS

EUROPEAN **Dyslexia**
ASSOCIATION

AISBL

www.dyslexia.eu.com

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EDA's Extraordinary General Assembly Brussels 25th May 2009

The General Assembly previously arranged for 25th May 2009 in Genappe, Belgium has had to be postponed yet again to a later date to be announced. This was due to organisational problems not in the responsibility of the EDA Board of Directors.

At the forthcoming Board Meeting in Brussels over the weekend of 22nd – 24th May, the Board will discuss the consequences of this postponement and will set a new date and venue for the General Assembly. All Member Organisations will be informed in the communiqué of that Board Meeting.

The EDA President, **SR Michael Kalmar**, advises that the **list of Members** has been updated on the **EDA Website**. A complete re-launch of the Website is planned for the Autumn 2009.

III All-European Dyslexia Conference Bruges 22nd – 24th April 2010

Later in this issue of *EDA NEWS* there are the official announcements in English, Dutch, German and French, of the 3rd All European Dyslexia Conference to be held in Bruges, Belgium on 22nd – 24th April 2010.

These announcements give details of the key-note speakers and their subjects.

Jennifer & Robin Salter
Joint Editors

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President's Column

SR Michael Kalmar

Ever since I was honoured with the presidency of the EDA, I have received many, many messages from representatives of our member organizations; quite normal, when you have been adopted as the head of a big organization; no worry, that's business in a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO).

But, what is worrying me at the moment – and the other Directors of the Board as well – is the fact that in the last few months some emails from members of the EDA have expressed confusion about the EDA's activities for academics, professionals and those persons affected by dyslexia at information forums.

In the past years, everything in this field was easy: in (and for) Europe the EDA has organized since 2003 every second year an affordable international get-together of researchers, professionals and people affected themselves or as parents of children, with dyslexia. In **2003** we held the **First All-European Dyslexia Conference in Budapest**; in **2005** the **3rd Multilingual and Dyslexia Conference in Limassol** (in cooperation with the IDA, BDA and the CDA); and **2007** the **2nd All-European Dyslexia Conference in Luxemburg**. What about in **2009**? The EDA Board has considered:

- 1) taking into consideration the long-term planning, the Board of Directors has always tried not to have any time conflict with important national conferences of its members or of international acting organisations (like the International Dyslexia Associations in USA, or the British, the German or the Scandinavian Associations' Conventions).
- 2) our FORMER (as I had just surprisingly to notice a few days ago!) Belgium Member, Dyslexia International (DI) - (previously called Dyslexia International Tools and Technologies – DITT) had announced a World Dyslexia Forum first for Spring 2009. Showing our usual responsibility for such an international event related to Dyslexia, the Board of the EDA had therefore **decided and announced**, in the winter 2007 to move the 3rd All-European Dyslexia Conference of the EDA in cooperation with the University College of Bruges/Belgium from 2009 to spring 2010.
- 3) However, later DI moved their convention to February 2010 – clearly quite close to the date of 22nd - 24th April 2010, which had already been arranged and announced for the EDA Convention.

Two such different and important events related to Dyslexia in the same season, timely and locally near to each other – one in Paris, the other in Bruges – seems unfortunate and it is therefore now making it difficult for our members to make a choice (**by the way, we now have 40 national and regional organizations in 23 EU countries plus Norway, Switzerland and North Cyprus**).

The following lines just serve for clarification and are non-judgemental about targets, addressed audiences, contents, significance for the need of people with Dyslexia, etc.

The World Dyslexia Forum will be held in Paris in rooms at the UNESCO-Building from 3rd - 5th February 2010. It is organized by DI(TT), now no longer a member of the EDA. The EDA is not involved either in the planning, the programming or the performance. Of course, the EDA previously announced the conference in the **EDA News** as soon the Editors were informed (which is normal practice).

This Forum targets Ministry of Education teacher training decision-makers in over 190 countries. It also brings together education authorities and experts. The Registration Fee is 450€.

The 3rd **All-European Dyslexia Conference** will take place at the **University College of Bruges (KHBO)** from 22nd - 24th of April 2010. It is organized by the **European Dyslexia Association** – a NGO in official relation with UNESCO – in cooperation with the **Dept. of Speech and Language Therapy and Audiology of the KHBO**. The Conference Website is: www.khbo.be/eda-khbo-dyslexiaconference.

The **EDA Conference** will provide opportunities for people to meet and network with others affected by Dyslexia, researchers, professionals, teachers and students in the four conference languages. English, Dutch, German and French events are provided in parallel. Besides seven prominent researchers who will deliver keynote speeches in English, there will also be a large series of lectures, seminars and workshops by speakers representing the best research, practice and knowledge regarding dyslexia from across Europe - parallel in the four conference languages. Also an all-day symposium "Genetics and Neuropsychology of Dyslexia" which is in preparation. **Registration fee: 150 € (130 € Early Bird booking until 15th of December 2009), students 80€; daily tickets available.** There will not be simultaneous translation.

I hope that this information helps our readers with their decision which or both conventions will meet their personal needs, their (professional or academic) demands, their wishes to communicate and network with persons affected by Dyslexia, researchers, professionals, teachers and students, that suit their dates and financial resources. Maybe it would be best to be able to attend both events – if you are fortunate enough to be able to do that; I would really appreciate your comments about the findings and outcomes of the Paris Forum when you attend in Bruges.

I look forward to seeing you in Bruges in April 2010 !





EUROPEAN *dyslexia*
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III. All-European Dyslexia Conference European Dyslexia Association

in cooperation

with the

Catholic University College Bruges-Ostend (KHBO)
Department of Speech and Language Therapy and Audiology

Dear colleagues

The European Dyslexia Association and the Catholic University College Bruges-Ostend (KHBO), Department of Speech and Language Therapy and Audiology will host the third All-European Dyslexia Conference in Bruges (Belgium) from **April 22nd to 24th 2010**. The following prominent researchers will deliver keynotes speeches in English:

Prof. Dr. Margaret SNOWLING (University of York)
Prof. Dr. José JUNCA DE MORAIS (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Prof. Dr. Karin LANDERL (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)
Prof. Dr. Pol GHESQUIERE (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Prof. Dr. Ingvar LUNDBERG (Göteborgs Universitet)
Prof. Dr. Aryan VAN DER LEIJ (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
Prof. Dr. Johannes ZIEGLER (Directeur de Recherche CNRS - Université de Provence)

Besides that, there will be a huge series of lectures, seminars and workshops by speakers representing the best research, practice and knowledge regarding dyslexia from across Europe. The conference will provide opportunities for people to meet and network with persons affected by Dyslexia, researchers, professionals, teachers and students in the four conference languages. English, Dutch, German and French are provided in parallel. Also an all-day symposium "Genetics and Neuropsychology of Dyslexia" is in preparation.

The conference website www.khbo.be/eda-khbo-dyslexiaconference is already online and is updated constantly. From September 2009, the conference programme and the online – registration procedure will be available. Please, take advantage of the "early bird"-registration!

Because the KHBO provides now more space, we are able to invite more speakers. Hence, the deadline for submitting abstracts is extended to the 31st of May, 2009. Please, send your proposal

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

in Dutch to: rudy.vandevoorde@khbo.be,

in German to: m.kalmar@utanet.at or

in French to: annemontarnal@orange.fr.

Looking forward meeting you in Bruges in April 2010!

Michael Kalmár
President of the EDA



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Beste Collega's

De European Dyslexia Association en de Katholieke Hogeschool Brugge-Oostende, opleiding Logopedie en Audiologie zijn verheugd u te melden dat de derde All-European Dyslexia Conference zal plaats vinden in Brugge (België) van **22 tot en met 24 april 2010**. De volgende prominente onderzoekers zullen een keynote bijdrage verzorgen in het Engels :

Prof. Dr. Margaret SNOWLING (University of York)
Prof. Dr. José JUNCA DE MORAIS (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Prof. Dr. Karin LANDERL (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)
Prof. Dr. Pol GHESQUIERE (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Prof. Dr. Ingvar LUNDBERG (Göteborgs Universitet)
Prof. Dr. Aryan VAN DER LEIJ (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
Prof. Dr. Johannes ZIEGLER (Directeur de Recherche CNRS - Université de Provence)

Daarnaast zullen er een hele reeks lezingen, seminaries en workshops gehouden worden door sprekers uit de onderzoekswereld en de dagelijkse praktijk vanuit heel Europa. De conferentie biedt mensen de kansen netwerken op te zetten met mensen met Dyslexie, onderzoekers, therapeuten, leraars en studenten in de vier officiële congres talen. Engels, Nederlands, Duits en Frans worden in parallelsessies aangeboden. Eveneens is er een eendaags symposium in voorbereiding omtrent "Genetica en Neuropsychologie van Dyslexie".

De congres website www.khbo.be/eda-khbo-dyslexiaconference is reeds toegankelijk en wordt regelmatig aangepast. Vanaf September 2009 zal het volledige programma en de inschrijvingsmodaliteiten online beschikbaar zijn. Merk ook de extra voordelen op voor vroegboekingen !

Doordat KHBO het congres nog meer ruimte biedt, zijn we in staat nog meer sprekers te inviteren. Dit betekent dat de deadline voor inzending van de abstracts is verlengd tot 31 mei 2009. U kunt uw voorstel mailen naar

in English to: Steve.Alexander@pre-school.org.uk ,
in Dutch to: rudv.vandevoorde@khbo.be,
in German to: m.kalmar@utanet.at or
in French to: annemontarnal@orange.fr.

Tot in Brugge, april 2010 !

Michael Kalmár
President of the EDA



EUROPEAN *dyslexia*
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Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, wertete KollegInnen!

Die European Dyslexia Association veranstaltet in Zusammenarbeit mit der katholischen Hochschule Brügge-Ostende, Abteilung für Sprech- und Sprachtherapie und Audiologie, den III. gesamteuropäischen Legastheniekongress, der vom **22.-24. April 2010** in Brügge (Belgien) stattfinden wird. Für die in englischer Sprache vorgetragenen Hauptvorträge konnten folgende prominente VertreterInnen der Legasthenie- und Dyskalkulieforschung gewonnen werden:

Prof. Dr. Margaret SNOWLING (University of York)
Prof. Dr. José JUNCA DE MORAIS (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Prof. Dr. Karin LANDERL (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)
Prof. Dr. Pol GHESQUIERE (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Prof. Dr. Ingvar LUNDBERG (Göteborgs Universitet)
Prof. Dr. Aryan VAN DER LEIJ (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
Prof. Dr. Johannes ZIEGLER (Directeur de Recherche CNRS - Université de Provence)

Daneben wird eine Vielzahl von Vorträgen, Seminaren und Workshops für von Legasthenie Betroffene, ForscherInnen, PraktikerInnen, LehrerInnen und StudentInnen in den vier Kongresssprachen Englisch, Niederländisch, Deutsch und Französisch parallel angeboten. Ebenso ist ein ganztägiges Symposium „Genetik und Neuropsychologie der Legasthenie“ in Vorbereitung.

Die Konferenz-Website www.khbo.be/eda-khbo-dyslexiaconference ist bereits geöffnet und wird laufend aktualisiert. Ab September 2009 wird das gesamte Programm und das online- Anmeldeverfahren zur Verfügung stehen. Bitte beachten Sie die Vorteile für FrühbucherInnen!

Da die KHBO nun weitere Räume zur Verfügung stellt, sind wir in der Lage, noch mehr Vortragende einzuladen. Daher wird der Abgabetermin für abstracts bis zum 31.Mai 2009 erstreckt. Bitte senden Sie Ihren Vorschlag

in Englisch an: Steve.Alexander@pre-school.org.uk ,
in Niederländisch an: rudv.vandevoorde@khbo.be
in Deutsch an: m.kalmar@utanet.at oder
in Französisch an: annemontarnal@orange.fr .

Auf Wiedersehen in Brügge im April 2010!

Michael Kalmár
Vorsitzender der EDA



EUROPEAN *dyslexia*
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III. All-European Dyslexia Conference European Dyslexia Association

in cooperation
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Catholic University College Bruges-Ostend (KHBO)

Department of Speech and Language Therapy and Audiology

Madame, Monsieur, chers amis,

L'Association Européenne de Dyslexie (EDA) ainsi que le Département d'Orthophonie de l'Université Catholique de Bruges-Ostende (KHBO), organisent le troisième congrès « entièrement européen » sur la dyslexie qui aura lieu du **22 au 24 avril 2010** à Bruges (Belgique). Les personnalités suivantes tiendront leur conférence en anglais :

Prof. Dr. Margaret SNOWLING (University of York)
Prof. Dr. José JUNCA DE MORAIS (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Prof. Dr. Karin LANDERL (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)
Prof. Dr. Pol GHESQUIERE (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Prof. Dr. Ingvar LUNDBERG (Göteborgs Universitet)
Prof. Dr. Aryan VAN DER LEIJ (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
Prof. Dr. Johannes ZIEGLER (CNRS - Université de Provence)

Un grand nombre de conférences, séminaires et ateliers viendront compléter le programme avec des conférenciers venant de toute l'Europe, représentatifs de la recherche, de la pratique et de la connaissance dans le domaine de la dyslexie. Une opportunité vous est offerte de rencontres et d'échanges avec des personnes concernées par la dyslexie, chercheurs, professionnels, enseignants, étudiants. Les manifestations s'écouleront en parallèle dans les quatre langues, anglais, néerlandais, allemand et français. Un symposium d'une journée ayant pour thème « Génétique et Neuropsychologie » est également en préparation.

Le site de la conférence est le suivant www.khbo.be/eda-khbo-dyslexiaconference, il sera régulièrement mis à jour. A partir de septembre 2009 vous pourrez consulter l'intégralité du programme ainsi que les modalités d'inscription. Profitez des avantages offerts aux personnes s'inscrivant à l'avance.

L'Université KHBO nous offrant d'avantage de place ce qui nous permet de faire un nouvel appel à publication, dont le délai pour présenter un résumé est repoussé au 31 mai 2009. N'hésitez pas à nous adresser vos textes

en anglais à: Steve.Alexander@pre-school.org.uk,

en néerlandais à: rudv.vandevoorde@khbo.be,

en allemande à: m.kalmar@utanet.at où

en français à: annemontarnal@orange.fr.

Au revoir à Bruges en avril 2010!

Michael Kalmár

Président de l' EDA



EDA Sponsorship

The Board of the EDA is delighted to announce that the famous American Artist, **James Rizzi**, has sponsored the **European Dyslexia Association** with a sizeable euro donation and the Board gladly reproduces one of his famous paintings of children reading. More pictures will be shown in future issues of **EDA NEWS**:



James Rizzi
Artist

A picture says more than a thousand words – so we like to point out - and James Rizzi strongly agrees. Pictures can show almost anything, they can express emotions and they can tell the most entertaining stories. But still, there is a lot to be said for which we need words and written language. And indeed written signs are more than a means of communication - reading is fun, as the above picture suggests; it is an adventure from which nobody should be excluded.

As a visual artist, the American pop artist **James Rizzi** has the privilege of having the best of both worlds – he can say what he wants to say in either words or in pictures. Many people cannot do so, however; most because they would not choose an imagistic medium of expression; we simply write

an email or a letter; we don't paint pictures for one another. But there is a group of people who do not have the best of both worlds because they have difficulties in dealing with the written word. It is a little problem for most people in our society if you cannot draw a horse, but it is a much bigger problem if you cannot spell the word – or if you cannot read it. Whoever cannot participate in the adventure of reading is quickly excluded from the group of adventurers.

Being an artist does not come over night but it includes a long process of finding a voice, of finding a style. For an artist, it is important to feel at home in what he is doing, to become fluent in a medium and in his style. James Rizzi has found his means of expression as his unique pictures show. It is a style which is happy, joyful and thoroughly life-affirming. His pictures exhibit how great it must feel to have a confident line. His pictures show that Rizzi and the pencil do not quarrel with one another but that they explore the canvas together. The pencil is no stranger - and this is the precondition for expressing oneself in a picture; and the same is true for written words. Unless you feel at home in reading and writing, you cannot enjoy the adventure of reading – and the adventure can become quite arduous and wearisome.

James Rizzi knows that it is a privilege to be fluent in both worlds – the world of written and imagistic signs. And he has the great wish to include as many as possible in them. His pictures do not require a lot of theoretical knowledge to be read; he wants anybody looking at them to truly see them.

Even little children know what 'a Rizzi' says – because he speaks their imagistic language. Because James Rizzi wants people to be at home in the world of the written sign, too, he strongly approves of the work of the EDA and feels proud that he can support their essential efforts to include everybody in the adventure of reading and thus in society.



EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM (EDF)

Annual General Assembly meeting Athens, Greece 9th & 10th May 2009

Karin Brüngrer – a new EDF Board Member

We are sure all our readers will wish join the EDA Board in congratulating **Karin Brüngrer** on being one of the twelve newly elected NGO Representatives to the Board of the European Disability Forum (EDF) at EDF Annual General Assembly meeting held in Athens on 9 and 10 May 2009. This is indeed a great step forward for our organization which will bring the voice of **Dyslexia and other learning difficulties** to the forefront within the European Union.

Karin Brüngrer, participated in the Annual General Assembly in Greece. The following is the press communiqué in **English** and **French** issued after the Assembly:

European Disability Forum



>>> Press release

THE FUTURE CANNOT WAIT: THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES READY TO SET OFF FOR NEW CHALLENGES

Athens, 12 May 2009 – The 13th Annual General Assembly of the European Disability Forum (EDF), the representative organisation of 65 million persons with disabilities in Europe, gathered in Athens more than 200 participants from 30 national federations and 50 European disability NGOs to elect its leaders.

The meeting, broadcasted live for the first time on EDF website, was opened solemnly by the President of the Greek Parliament Dimitris Soufias.

This year's summit was marked with the re-election of its President Yannis Vardakastanis by an absolute majority who called him to lead the organisation on shaping tomorrow's pathway: "Nothing about us without us" is the essence of the disability ideology. Through our collective work and through our personal commitment we will continue to improve the life of persons with disabilities in Europe" said Mr Vardakastanis.

The EDF also renewed its Board and elected its new Executive Committee, who will be faced with important challenges in a context of economic crisis affecting directly the living conditions of people with disabilities and their families in all member states. "We need to be prepared to address these new challenges to protect and advance rights of persons with disabilities in education, employment, welfare, and health" added President Vardakastanis.

A new Executive Committee team, composed of Erszabet Szollosi and Donata Vivanti as Vice Presidents, Pekka Tuominen as treasurer, Rodolfo Cattani as Secretary, Stig Langvad, Ingrid Körner, Ana Pelaez, Pat Clarke, and Alain Faure will also assist EDF Board in the preparation of proposals for shaping the establishment of a common agenda on disability at the EU level through the adoption of a Disability Pact by the Heads of State and Government for the next decade.

President Yannis Vardakastanis reaffirmed "the challenges ahead require a renewed activism. We should be proactive, we should shape the new disability agenda." Describing the meeting as the General Assembly of maturity, he concluded: "We have made the difference already. We can make the difference in the future. EDF belongs to the future, a future that cannot wait."

Contact: Aurélien Daydé, EDF Communication and Media Officer | Mobile phone: + 32 485 64 39 93 | aurelien.dayde@edf-feeph.org

Visit the European elections campaign: Disability Votes Count www.disabilityvotescount.eu and watch the new video.

The European Disability Forum (EDF) is the European umbrella organisation representing the interests of 65 million disabled citizens in Europe. EDF membership includes national umbrella organisations of disabled people from all EU/EEA countries, as well as European NGOs representing the different types of disabilities, organisations and individuals committed to disability issues. The mission of the European Disability Forum is to ensure disabled people full access to fundamental and human rights through their active involvement in policy development and implementation in Europe

Forum européen des personnes handicapées

>>> Communiqué de presse

12 mai 2009

LE MOUVEMENT EUROPEEN DES PERSONNES HANDICAPEES PRET A RELEVER LES DEFIS DE DEMAIN

Athènes, le 12 mai. Le Forum Européen des Personnes Handicapées (FEPH), la plateforme représentant les intérêts de 65 millions de citoyens handicapés au sein de l'Union européenne, a tenu la 13^e Assemblée Générale de son histoire à Athènes. Plus de 200 participants venus de 30 fédérations nationales et de 50 ONG ont élus leurs responsables.

Retransmise en direct pour la première fois sur le site du FEPH www.edf-feph.org, l'Assemblée a été solennellement ouverte samedi par Dimitrios Soufias, Président du Parlement Grec. Plus de la majorité absolue des membres ont réélu leur Président Yannis Vardakastanis pour continuer à diriger l'organisation face aux défis européens : « Rien sur les personnes handicapées sans les personnes handicapées » est l'idée essentielle à la base de notre travail, » a déclaré Monsieur Vardakastanis. « C'est avec notre travail collectif et notre engagement à tous que nous continuerons à améliorer la vie des personnes en situation de handicap en Europe ».

Le Forum Européen des personnes handicapées a renouvelé son conseil d'administration et les membres de son comité de direction qui vont travailler ensemble et relever les défis du mouvement. « Le contexte de crise économique et sociale affecte directement la qualité de vie des personnes en situation de handicap et de leur famille : nous devons être prêt à affronter cette situation et protéger nos droits pour un meilleur accès à l'éducation, au travail et à la santé » a-t-il ajouté.

La nouvelle équipe de direction est composée de Erszebet Szollosi et Donata Vivanti en tant que Vice Présidentes, Pekka Tuominen comme trésorière, Rodolfo Cattani comme secrétaire. Stig Langvad, Ingrid Kömer, Ana Pelaez, Pat Clarke, et Alain Faure assisteront le conseil d'administration dans l'élaboration d'un agenda commun sur le handicap au niveau européen et l'adoption du « Pacte sur le handicap » par les chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernements pour les prochaines années.

Le Président Yannis Vardakastanis a réaffirmé que « ces nouveaux défis nécessitent une nouvelle implication : nous devons être proactif et établir le nouvel agenda du handicap pour l'Europe. En décrivant l'Assemblée Générale comme étant celle de la maturité, Monsieur Vardakastanis, a conclu au nom du mouvement des personnes en situation de handicap : « nous avons déjà fait la différence et nous allons continuer à faire la différence, le Forum européen des personnes handicapées appartient à l'avenir, un avenir qui n'attend plus.

Contact : Aurélien Daydé | European Disability Forum T +32 2 282 46 00 | aurelien.dayde@edf-feph.org | www.edf-feph.org

Visitez le site de campagne : Handicap : le vote essentiel des européennes www.disabilityvotescount.eu et partagez la nouvelle vidéo.

Le Forum européen des personnes handicapées (FEPH) est la plateforme européenne qui représente les intérêts de 65 millions de citoyens handicapés au sein de l'Union européenne. Les organisations membres du FEPH incluent les plateformes nationales des personnes handicapées de tous les Etats membres de l'UE et de l'Espace économique européen, ainsi que les ONG européennes représentant les différents types de handicap. La mission du FEPH est de garantir le respect total des droits fondamentaux et humains des personnes handicapées par le biais d'une implication active dans le développement et application des politiques européennes.

Some 17 years or so ago, **Robin Salter**, the former EDA President, used to represent the EDA on the original Disabilities Board of the EDF before it was reorganized. At that time the EDF Board was composed only of persons with disabilities. It became unworkable and representatives of National Councils were elected to a new Board and NGO representation by the disabled felt rather sidelined under the new rules of EDF membership. Later reorganization improved matters and now we are back again at the centre of the EDF, so a special congratulation to **Karin** from **Robin**, now one of our **EDA NEWS** Joint Editors.

One of the EDF's main aims in the next few years will be to care for all those persons with all forms of learning disabilities and to work in co-operation with the European Parliament.

As an initial follow-up of the first meeting of the new EDF Board, a letter was prepared and addressed to the Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Albania to protest against the situation that organisations of persons with disabilities are confronted with in their country.

For further information about the European Disability Forum and its activities, contact may be made to:

Valérie Asselberghs
EDF Membership and Information Officer
European Disability Forum
Rue du Commerce - Handelstraat 41
B – 1000 BRUSSELS – BRUSSEL
Valerie.asselberghs@edf-feeph.org
Fax 0032 2 2824609



Dyslexia – making links: from theory to practice

27 - 28 February 2009

The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford

Building on the success of the 7th BDA Conference ***Dyslexia – Making Links in March 2008***, the BDA organised another two-day Conference specifically for practitioners in the UK and Europe.

It is hoped to publish a report on this event in the next issue of EDA NEWS.

XI CONFERENCE

Rome

31st October - 1st November 2008

To be “DYS”: Dyslexia and its surroundings

Among the many developmental disorders, Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) have a peculiar destiny: they are the object of many scientific researches; they constitute a model for the study of the other disturbances and for the understanding of normal learning. Nevertheless, some people who have to take care of dyslexic children (teachers and also health professionals) often do not know any or of the symptoms and problems of dyslexia or even deny the existence of SLD.

This insufficient acquaintance, this disinformation, leaves parents and their children alone to face thirteen long years of suffering at school.

In order to help correct this situation, the **XI Conference** of the **Italian Dyslexia Association** has addressed the world of the health system, of the school and of the families. The title of the Conference “**To be DYS: Dyslexia and its surroundings**” emphasizes the impact that the SLD can have on the daily life and on the future of the subjects that present with this problem. The prefix **DYS** (used also in a question discussed at the European Parliament) indicates that we are speaking of a disability, a limitation of the activities and the participation of an individual in community life.

Without recognition of dyslexic problems it means that many intelligent and normally able to learn children, young people and adults able to work, are instead forced to a limping and laborious scholastic course (which they often do not complete), or are directed towards studies “of smaller engagement” that can therefore heavily condition their choice of a job. As for all the disabilities, a modification, even partial, to help their environment can meaningfully reduce the negative impact of the disability on the individual. The individual with SLD, although having a specific disability, can end up with a negative influence on the rest of their life unless they get the appropriate help.

To speak about dyslexia, dysorthographia and dyscalculia does not mean a person faces only the difficulties of reading, writing and calculation, but also with all the manifestations associated with them.

For this reason, the opening lecture by **Frank Ramus** CNRS of Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris was the topic of the complex existing relationship between observed behaviour (the reading difficulties), cognitive operations (the mental mechanisms beneath the reading processes), the brain functioning and the genetic component. The most modern research in neurobiology and genetics has, in fact, now seen the separation between innate and learned experience, demonstrating that

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genetic and environmental factors interact in a dynamic way in determining the function of the individual and that such interaction lasts beyond infancy.

This same interaction between innate personal characteristics and experiences intervene to determine the frequent phenomenon of co-morbidity. More than half of the subjects studied, in fact, presented in time at least another problem. It can be another Learning Disability, an ADHD, an anxious or depressive problem, an oppositional-defiant or aggressive-behaviour problem. These problems maybe due to the personal vulnerability of the individual, but late identification of SLD or wrong interventions (both educational or rehabilitative) definitely affect the emotional disturbances associated with SLD.

The chronic lack of health* professionals in the Child Mental Health Services in our National Sanitary System renders these problems still greater. The waiting time for a diagnosis is approximately one year and in some cases two years lapse before the start of a rehabilitative intervention. In the meantime, children, parents and schools try to manage their best to deal with a problem that they do not understand, causing suffering and mutual accusations and rendering the school a place of torture.

The didactic and pedagogical intervention constitute the main problem for the subjects with SLD: and, for this reason, the **AID** has created a "White Book" (presented during the conference) collecting stories about SLD. The book shows how an apparently small disturbance, if does not receive the appropriate attention, can generate failure and a very great deal of suffering.

The **Italian School** has already defined a memorandum that, if applied, would guarantee at least some of the rights of the SLD students; but it is necessary to insist on these rights through a law that sweeps the field to any attempt to reduce the disturbance to a solely educational, pedagogical or social problem.

The three following lectures by **Gabriel Levi** of Sapienza University in Rome, **Enrico Profumo** Osp. of San Paolo and Milan, **Antonella Gagliano** of University of Messina covered different topics.

All these topics were discussed in the afternoon plenary session, in the presence of parliamentary members involved in making a law for SLD rights.

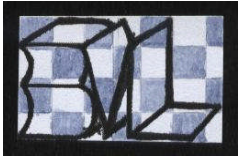
The Saturday morning was dedicated to the comparison between the different regional approaches to other "surroundings of the SLD": regional norms; the use of technology in order to enhance learning of SLD subjects; the homework supporting initiatives; SLD young people at the University; and clinical research and inclusive didactic experiences.

More than 900 delegates attended the Conference who included AID members, parents, sanitary (health*) technicians and school teachers.

Roberta Penge

For Associazione Italiana Dislessia.

[Editors' note: The word 'health' has been used in editing this report as 'sanitary' in English refers to hygiene matters which would not be appropriate in the context of SLD – we hope the subject of the report has not been adversely affected by this change]*



16th German Congress on Dyslexia and Dyscalculia
Free University of Berlin, 2nd - 5th October 2008

It is hoped to publish a full report in our next issue

EDA BOARD NEWS



Karin Brünge

The EDA Board is delighted to congratulate **Karin Brünge** on her election to the European Disability Forum (EDF) NGO Board.

CALLDYSC PROJECT

The **European Dyslexia Association (EDA)**, as a partner in the **CALLDYSC Project**, had the key role of dissemination of the results and valorisation of the project in Europe. The EDA, with more than 40 dyslexia association members in 26 countries, is the umbrella organisation for Dyslexia in Europe.

In the years 2006, 2007 and 2008 the member associations were informed about the progress of the project by newsletters, mailing and in General Assemblies. The member associations were not only informed of the progress but were also involved in trying-out the project games.

In 2009, the EDA will continue to inform its members and there will be a special item for all delegates at the EDA's 3rd All European Conference in Bruges, Belgium from 22 – 24 April 2010.

The EDA wishes to underline its appreciation of the good management of the CALLDYSC Project and hopes that the Project will achieve its aim in helping many dyslexic children in their efforts to learn a foreign language using this new mobile technology.

Karen Brünge
Vice-President EDA



The French Fédération of Learning Disabilities (FLA) has become the **Fédération Française des Dys**. The Editors of **EDA NEWS** have been advised that it is hoped in the future to have a closer association with this organisation. Contact email: o:contact@ffdys.fr

BOOK LIST

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

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>ISSN</u>
E <i>The Rights of Dyslexic Children in Europe</i>	Marta Bogdanowicz Alan Sayles	Verlag Lernen mit Pfiff	83-7134-171-7
D <i>Lautschulung</i>	Michael Kalmár	Verlag Jugend und Volk e 13.20 in österreich über die Schulbuchaktion erhältlich	978 3 7100 1338 6
D <i>Handbuch Legasthenie</i>	Renate Hofmann & Michael Kalmár (Hg;ed)	Verlag Lernen mit Pfiff 21.90 euros	3 902285 49 4
E <i>100 Ideas for Supporting Pupils with dyslexia</i>	Gavin Reid & Shannon Green	Continuum Intl. Pub. 2007 128 pages £8.49	0-8264-9398-X
E <i>BDA Dyslexia Handbook</i>	Ed. Ann Cooke & Jennifer Owen Adams	British Dyslexia Assoc. £12 2008	
F <i>Victor et les amulettes</i>	Marie-Nuage Giuaicelli & Audrey Jacamin	AUZOU September 2008	13 euros
E <i>Music and Dyslexia: A Positive Approach</i>	Eds: T R Miles J Westcombe D Ditchfield	Routledge Falmer	
F <i>Le Petit guide des dyslexiques</i>	APEDA Belge	<u>CONTACT:</u> Secretariat@apeda.be	

7.80 euros.

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EUROPEAN DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

5 – 11 October 2009

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

International Conferences & Symposia

Country	venue	date & venue
<u>2009</u>		
ITALY	International Federation of Library Associations(IFLA) 75 th Library & Information Congress <i>Libraries create future: Building on digital inheritance</i> <u>Contact:</u> www.ifla.org Email: info@asted.org	MILAN 23 - 27 August
AUSTRIA	Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Sprachheil- Pädagogik <u>Contact:</u> oegs_kongress09@yahoo.de	BAD ISCHL 14 - 17 October
USA	International Dyslexia Association 60 th Annual Conference <u>Contact:</u> www.interdys.org	ORLANDO 11 - 14 November
<u>2010</u>		
BELGIUM	European Dyslexia Association 3 rd All European Dyslexia Conference <u>See:</u> www.dyslexia.eu.com	BRUGGES 22 – 24 April
<u>2011</u>		
UNITED KINGDOM	British Dyslexia Association International Conference	March

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