



EUROPEAN *Dyslexia*
ASSOCIATION
AISBL

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Vol. 13 No. 2 September 2007

EDA AII-EUROPEAN DYSLEXIA CONFERENCE
Luxembourg
15th – 17th November 2007
and
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
17th November 2007

The Directors have announced the Second All-European Dyslexia Conference to be held on Thursday and Friday 15th – 17th November in Luxembourg. The Conference is being organised in conjunction with the Ville de Luxembourg and **DYSPEL**.

The 10th General Assembly of Members will also be held the same weekend on Saturday 17th November when the EDA celebrates its 20th Anniversary. It is hoped former Presidents and Board Members will be present.

Information about the two events is contained on pages 4 and 5 of this issue but all the details are contained in the [Conference Website](#):

www.dyspel.org/eda

At the General Assembly, the opportunity is being taken, as reported in the last issue, to amend and up-date the EDA's Statutes and Bye-laws so this is a very important meeting at which it is hoped all Members will be represented in person or by proxy.

Jennifer and Robin Salter
Joint Editors

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President's Column

SR Michael Kalmár

The EDA is the democratically elected representative of the people with dyslexia in Europe

The heading implies that no one else can represent the 10% of the European population with **dyslexia** or is even in a position to tell them or the European institutions what the needs are of millions of people with **dyslexia** - this difference which makes the acquiring and using of reading, spelling and writing skills so difficult.

There is no question that we need academic scientists, “dys-abilities” institutions, professionals, special teachers and therapists to know more about our difference, but the final decision concerning how, ‘treatments’ or ‘therapies’ are to be applied – in other words, our needs – should remain in **our** control and ultimately rest with us. It should not be forgotten that we have become experts in our field as well, and directly affected ones, at that.

We are the ones who suffer. We are the ones called-in to see the Headmaster to hear the bad news; we pay the specialists; we are affected directly by our children on their difficult way through school, training and working life or have had these experiences ourselves. We are the ones shouldering this burden.

We, the people with **dyslexia** and the parents of children with this difference, have to navigate through life in a largely dyslexia-unfriendly world. Our self-organised executive body is the **European Dyslexia Association (EDA)**, which represents us at the European level. The EDA Directors - almost all of them are affected by dyslexia themselves or are responsible for their children with this difference - operate on a voluntary basis without demanding any academic reward or financial benefit.

So, both the self-organised and the democratic structure of our movement (apart from our intimate knowledge of dyslexia) are the most precious and powerful assets which we possess.

However, I have two nightmares:

1. that our **Effective Member** organisations will not make use of their self-determining and democratic right to nominate enough serious and experienced Director candidates to be elected to the new Board for the period 2007 to 2011, and

2. that our **Members** will not make use of their right to elect their executive body, the Board of Directors, by not being sufficiently represented at the forthcoming **General Assembly in Luxembourg on 17th of November 2007** by their representatives or by appointing a Proxy.

Surely, these are just bad dreams. But if they became true, the EDA will no longer be the democratically elected, self-determined representative of the people with dyslexia in Europe. We will be absorbed into someone else's 'agenda' in their other business.

I do not want this to happen. **Do you? Please, therefore, make sure you appoint a Proxy for the General Assembly on the appropriate form sent in August with the Notice of Meeting (a copy of the form is enclosed in this issue of EDA NEWS).**



EUROPEAN DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION QUESTIONNAIRE

for

THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA IN COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

and

The RIGHTS OF ADULTS WITH DYSLEXIA IN EUROPE

**The EDA would like to find out more about the rights of students
and adults with dyslexia living in Europe.**

Questionnaires have been sent out to all EDA Members by **Prof. Marta Bogdanowicz** marta.bogdanowicz@wp.pl and **Dr Marija Kavkler** marija.kavkler@guest.arnes.si

It is hoped to publish the results of the two questionnaires in 2008 which will make a valuable contribution to the knowledge of what is available and, therefore, what still needs to be done.

The results will also help the EDA Board to prioritise its activities.





European Dyslexia Association
Second All-European Dyslexia Conference
15th - 17th November 2007
in Luxembourg

Under the Patronage of

Her Royal Highness Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg
and
The Ministry of Health and Social Security of Luxembourg

in co-operation with

The Department for Education of the "Ville de Luxembourg"
and
DYSPEL (Dyslexia and Special Needs Luxembourg)

No matter which language
No matter which country
No matter which age
Dyslexia is everywhere

To mark the **20th Anniversary of the EDA** and the **European Year of Equal Opportunities for All**, the **EDA** is hosting the **Second All-European Conference on Dyslexia** at the European Commission Jean Monnet Building in Luxembourg and with the co-operation of **DYSPEL**.

The Conference Key-note speakers include: Raymond Claes; SR Michael Kalmár; Mars Di Bartolomeo (Minister of Health and Social Security); Dr Schulte-Koerne; Eva Gyarmathy; Dr Demonet; Dr Lindsey Peer; Giacomo Stella; Dr Gavin Reid and many other notable figures in the Dyslexia world with many Workshop presentations from over 14 countries.

The Conference will be with ENGLISH, FRENCH and GERMAN translations

European Dyslexia Association
General Assembly
17th November 2007
in Luxembourg

This is a Copy of the Preliminary Notice sent to Members

A Final Notice will be sent to all Members by 17th October

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **10th GENERAL ASSEMBLY** of the Association will be held at the **EU-Building Jean Monnet, Rue Albert Wehrer in Luxembourg** on **Saturday 17th November 2007 at 14.30**

AGENDA

1. Opening address by the Chairman, *SR Michael Kalmár*
2. The Chairman's Report, *SR Michael Kalmár*
3. Financial Report by the Treasurer, *Dr Steve Alexander*
4. Approval of the Balances and Accounts for 2005 and 2006
5. Approval of the Co-option to the Board of Directors (Dr Steve Alexander, Raymond Claes, Lars Sander)
6. Approval of new members of the EDA (Effective Member: Association of Parents and Guardians of Children with dyslexia and with Learning Difficulties of Thessaloniki and Northern Greece; Adherent Members: Lithuanian Dyslexia Association, Matejcek-School, Czech Republic)
7. Presentation of the New Statutes, *Lars Sander*
8. Elections to the Board
9. Approval of the New Statutes, prepared by the Board
10. Approval of Mission and Vision of the EDA, prepared by the Board
11. Approval of the Definition of Dyslexia, prepared by the Board
12. Approval of the Draft Budgets for 2007 and 2008
13. Questions from Members

PLEASE NOTE: The General Assembly has to have representation of two-thirds of its Effective Members present or by proxy *. Approval of the General Assembly business is by simple majority of the Effective Members being represented by delegates or by proxy entitled to vote. Adherent Members are entitled to attend and speak (CURRENT STATUTES!). The proposed new Statutes will provide other regulations.

* **Proxy Form:** If you are not able to attend the General Assembly you can vote with this form.

The above **First Notice of General Assembly with Agenda** was sent to all **Effective and Adherent Members** on 17th August 2007 together with **Proxy Forms** for Members' organisations, **Attendance Forms** to complete, **letters** from the **Chairman and Lars Sander** and **Budgets for 2007 and 2008**, and the **Criteria for Nomination to the Board with Job Description**. **The Final Notice of General Assembly with Agenda and attached documentation will be sent to Members by 17th October 2007, as is required by the EDA's present Statutes (Article 7) and Bye-Laws (no. 2.2.2).**

It is not proposed to repeat all the documentation here except for the proposed changes to the Statutes. **These changes are necessary because of changes in Belgian Law.** The opportunity is also being taken to modernise and change the Statutes in order to make them adequate for the present work of the Association. There have been no changes to the Statutes for the last 20 years. **All Members should prepare themselves before the meeting by reading the Board's proposals and appoint someone to represent your organisation at the General Assembly by either attending or appointing a proxy to vote for you.**

The following are the proposed changes to the existing Statutes

1. **SECTION 2 MEMBERS**

ARTICLE 4:

The Association is composed of

- Legal entities, associations of parents of children with specific learning disabilities in the domain of reading, spelling, writing and calculating, or associations of adults affected by the same disabilities.
- Other legal entities and corporate bodies having educational or scientific motivation, recognised in the domain of specific disabilities.

Two proposals (DECISION 1):

Members will be asked to consider Membership of the EDA (in addition to the above):

- OR
1. by allowing individual membership
 2. not allowing individual membership

2. **SECTION 3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ARTICLE 8:

The Effective members may be represented at General Assembly by another Effective member holder of a special proxy.

Every Effective member shall be holder of not more than two proxies. The General Assembly shall be deemed to be validly constituted only if two-thirds of the Effective members are present or represented by proxy.

Two proposals (DECISION 2):

Members will be asked to consider that General Assemblies are validly constituted:

- OR
1. if only half of the Effective members are present or represented by proxy
 2. if only the minimum of 3 Effective members are present with no proxies being accepted

3. **SECTION 5** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ARTICLE 12:

The Board shall meet at least once a year.

Two proposals (DECISION 3):

Members will be asked to consider:

1. A Director may be represented by another Director, holder of not more than two proxies

OR 2. to make no change to this Article



7th BDA International Conference 2008 Dyslexia: Making Links

27th - 29th March 2008

Harrogate International Conference Centre, Yorkshire UK

The Conference will be chaired by Prof. Margaret Snowling of the University of York and will feature keynote speakers from around the world.

The Conference is designed to appeal to researchers and practitioners at all levels of experience and will include invited symposia and workshops and a series of introductory seminars and discussion groups linking theory and practice.

*For further information, visit the **BDA Conference Website** at www.bdainternationalconference.org*



EU CallDysc Project

‘Collaborative Additional Language Learning for Dyslexics’

The **European Dyslexia Association** has been a representative partner in the **CallDysc** project.

This project looks at the way dyslexic people respond to language learning using ‘mobile’ technology (ie. phones). To achieve this, the project uses sound pedagogical principles to develop software which can be used in a variety of mobile phones. More about this project will be in a future issue of **EDA NEWS**.

European Disability Forum

'1million4disability'

The European Disability Forum (EDF) launched in January 2007 a campaign to obtain one million signatures in favour of a European disability-specific directive of the European Parliament.

On 12th July the European President, **Hans-Gert Pöttering**, declared his support for the **1million4disability** campaign just a few days after the launch of the European Commission's online consultation on combating discrimination in Member States and at EU level.

To-date, the campaign has obtained over 300,000 signatures electronically and manually in the 'EU-29'. On 4th October, an official gathering of disability delegations from all over Europe will take place in Brussels with the aim of demonstrating support for the adoption of improved legislation.

The European Disability Forum, the European platform representing the interests and defending the rights of 50 million people with disabilities in the EU, is leading this initiative. The aim of the campaign is to collect signatures in favour of strong, comprehensive legislation that will be effective in protecting people with disabilities from discrimination in all fields of life, in line with the recently adopted **UN Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities**, which has been signed by the European Community.

Members of the EU Parliament have drafted Written Declaration 64/2007 on "**dys**" **crimination and social exclusion affecting children with "dys"abilities**. The Declaration is asking for:

- a charter for "dys"children
- to encourage the recognition of "dys"-type problems as a handicap
- to promote best practice regarding:
 - making information available
 - taking timely steps to spot, screen, systematically diagnose and treat these disorders at an early stage
 - designing effective pedagogical structures within both the ordinary and the specialist educational environment for young children, adolescents and young adults
 - adapting structures for integrating young people with these disabilities into the world of work
- to promote and encourage the creation of a European multidisciplinary network on specific learning difficulties, and by this means to collect and study information and promote the co-ordination of cross-border actions, as well as institutional dialogue.

All disability groups within the EU are being asked to sign up to this text by 25th October 2007 in order to make it into a resolution.



Bled, Slovenia 5th - 7th July 2007

The 31st Annual Conference of **The International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities (IARLD)** was held in July at the Kompas Hotel in Bled, Slovenia when 57 participants from 16 countries attended.

The programme joint-chairs were **Marija Kavkler** (an EDA Board Member) and **Marjorie Montague**. Twenty-two papers were presented at the conference as interactive posters, five symposia and four round-table discussions. The invited **key-note speaker** from William Cruickshank Lecture was **Prof. Pol Ghesquire** with the title of his lecture being *Strategy Development and Flexibility in Children with Mathematical Disabilities: Educational Consequences of Empirical Insights*. The Academy Conference emphasised discussion of conceptual issues and produced the newest research results from the field of learning disabilities.

Besides exchanging formally presented newest professional achievements, exchanges and agreements for future co-operation were also discussed as being important issues for the participants.

In order to show a part of Slovenia's beauty, a trip was organised to the capital, Ljubljana, and participants were also able to see other parts of Bled's beauty and its surrounding countryside.

Marija Kavkler



Some delegates in discussion at the Conference on Bled



celebrates its 20th Anniversary on 17th November 2007

A 20th Anniversary Report has been compiled and will be available to Members at the forthcoming EDA General Assembly on 17th November. All Members will receive two free copies of the Report which is being printed in Luxembourg. Additional copies will be available at a price to be advised.

The Report contains additional articles and photos.

Make sure you get your copy!

EU LEONARDO PROJECT 'INCLUDE'

Final Meeting in Budapest, Hungary

'Including dyslexics through European Partnership'

This project has been working for the last three years between dyslexia associations in **Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Poland** and the **United Kingdom** with the co-operation of the **European Dyslexia Association**.

The project aims to develop a web-based tool which will identify dyslexic people, their strengths and weaknesses, skills and difficulties. It will be used to inform an understanding of their learning style and help them progress via both training and employment situations to their maximum ability.

Support services will also be developed, including webcam and chat-based eCounselling, mentoring and guidance.

The Copenhagen Declaration of the EU agreed to increase voluntary co-operation in vocational education and training in order to promote mutual trust, transparency and recognition of competencies and qualification.

The INCLUDE project is developing a relatively new way to screen on an objective basis and looking at the development of e-learning tools.

The **EDA** has been represented at all the INCLUDE meetings which have been previously referred to in **EDA NEWS**. The EDA will be represented at the Final Meeting of the INCLUDE Project in Budapest on 29th September 2007.

MEMBERS' NEWS

APEDA France is to hold a national **DYS DAY** on 10th October 2007 under the heading of '**Let the DYS speak for themselves**' (*donnons la parole aux DYS*). There will be a number of conferences and meetings held the same day around the country to mark the event. In Paris the Conference will be at the **Conference Hall of the Mutualité**.

British Dyslexia Association (BDA)

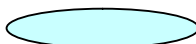
The Chief Executive of the BDA will be sending a representative to the final EU INCLUDE Leonardo programme to be held in Budapest, Hungary 29th September 2007.

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 Deutch E = in English F = in French

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>ISBN</u>
E <i>An Introduction to Dyslexia For Parents and Professionals</i>	Alan M Hultquist	Jessica Kingsley Pub. 2006 112 pages £12.99	1-84310-833-X
E <i>Ann Arbour Guide to Special Educational Needs</i>	Martin Phillips	Ann Arbour Pub. Ltd 2005 48 pages £3.50	1-900506-17-3
E <i>Supporting Inclusive Practice</i>	Gianna Knowles Ed.	David Fulton Pub. 2006 192 pages £17.50	1-84312-420-3
E <i>Dyslexia – How to Survive & Succeed at Work</i>	Sylvia Moody	Vermilion 2006 197 pages £8.99	009-190708-X
E <i>The Rights of Dyslexic Children in Europe</i>	Marta Bogdanowicz Alan Sayles	Verlag Lernen mit Pfiif	83-7134-171-7



International Conferences & Symposia

Country	Organisation & subject	Venue and date
<u>2007</u>		
ALL COUNTRIES	Dyslexia Week	1 – 7 October
FRANCE	'DYS DAY' <i>Let the DYS speak for themselves</i> <u>Contact:</u> apeda@ifrance.com	Concert Hall of the Mutualité PARIS 10 October
AUSTRIA	XVII Convention of OEGS <i>Mit Sprache wachsen – Die Bedeutung der Sprache und ihrer Grundlagen Fur den Erwerb der Kulturtechniken</i> <u>Email Contact:</u> kongress07wien@spracheheilpaedagogik.at	VIENNA 26 – 29 October
USA	International Dyslexia Association <i>58th Annual Conference</i>	Adams Mark Hotel DALLAS, Texas 31 Oct – 3 November
LUXEMBOURG	European Dyslexia Association <i>2nd All European Dyslexia Conference & General Assembly with EDA 20th Anniversary 1987 – 2007</i> <u>See:</u> www.dyspel.org/eda	European Commission Jean Monnet Building LUXEMBOURG 15 – 17 November
<u>2008</u>		
ENGLAND	British Dyslexia Association <i>7th International Conference</i> <u>Email Contact:</u> www.bdadyslexia.org	York University YORK 26 – 29 March
CANADA	International Federation of Library Associations <i>74th General Conference & Council Libraries without borders: navigating towards Global understanding</i> <u>Email Contact:</u> ifla@ifla.org	QUEBEC 10 – 15 August
USA	International Dyslexia Association <i>59th Annual Conference</i> <u>See:</u> www.interdys.org	WASHINGTON 29 Oct – 1 November
<u>2009</u>		
BELGIUM	European Dyslexia Association <i>4th Multilingualism & Dyslexia Conference In co-operation with British Dyslexia Association & International Dyslexia Association</i> <u>See:</u> www.europeandyslexiaassociation.eu	BRUGGES Spring

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

1st – 7th October 2007

HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES?

It is almost too late to do it!

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 September 2007*