

INTERSTENO Newsletter 56



February 2013

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From the President's desk

A postgraduate diploma in Parliamentary Reporting is the exciting news House of Commons reporters revealed to Intersteno Board members gathered in London for the annual Board meeting from February 8th-10th.



London was chosen for the final celebrations of the 125th anniversary of Intersteno Foundation that took place in that city in 1887. Tony Minichiello reported on the project of co-operation between the British Parliament and the University of London:

In 2009, a sub-editor in the Department of the Official Report (Hansard) in the House of Commons, London, came to the Editor with an idea: to bring more structure, coherence and status to our well-established training programme for parliamentary reporters by attaching to it an externally validated qualification. Thus began the search for a partner educational institution and we chose City University in London. They were wary at first, because of the size of our organisation and the small number of trainees on any one programme, but they agreed to work with us and we began the painstaking process of agreeing course objectives and rewriting course materials into academic language that met their requirements.

We started a six-month training course, with seven trainees, in April 2010, with the intention that the graduates from that course would receive the diploma. But in practice there was still too much work to be done on the documentation and – although the course produced seven first-class reporters – we were unable to achieve accreditation for them.

In May 2011, we started another course, with four trainees. They have been through the modules – three months classroom-based, with marked tests and assessed presentations, and three months “on the job”, with continual assessment of output and final tests. All four have passed with flying colours and their diplomas will be presented to them by the Speaker of the House of Commons in late March.

During the meeting there was a lively discussion about the extent to which the treatment of Parliamentary speeches has changed over the years. To some extent this was seen as being linked to the evolution of communication and the increasing use of the web.

The Board meeting was a valuable event. With the approach of the 49th Congress (Ghent - 13-19 July 2013), the Board recognises the need to emphasis and pursue the general aims of Intersteno. It was clearly in mind that Intersteno had to cope with the development of the professions and update its actions taking into account the rapid changes in both society and the labour market.

Such aims implied a close cooperation with all national groups and main international professional associations. Moreover it obliged the organisation to involve as many young people as possible, with the aim of ensuring at least one more century of life for our Federation. For this reason the Board strongly recommended the Council and the General Assembly to ensure that the proposals and the ideas of the next generation are well represented within the organs of Intersteno by one or more young professionals/experts.

Following the “**Call for projects**” launched in November 2012 (see e-news n. 55 and intersteno.org) members have presented a few projects. Some of them have been approved, so the participants will receive a partial reimbursement of the expenses sustained in consideration of the general interest that such projects serve.

For example, the Board has decided to support the project of the **Dutch National Group** consisting of organising a competition with the rules of Intersteno at the Convention of Speech To Text Reporters (ECOS 2014) which will be held in Finland in 2014, and a project of the **Argentinian National Group** for publishing and spreading a bulletin in that area, on condition that information about Intersteno activities will be included in the magazine. Other actions decided upon by the Board will support the participation of young competitors in the World Competition in Ghent and a survey on the structure of main languages (included eastern ones) with the aim of helping the Jury to adopt updated criteria of syllables counting in the speech-capturing competitions.

Board members hope that next year more projects from Intersteno members will be submitted and sustained.

The www.intersteno.org web will be updated (see other information in this issue).

A further proposal has been approved aimed at revising and rethinking the whole site in order to transfer data on an updated platform and to ease the access to information both for members and external users. We are aware that the image of Intersteno is a major factor influencing our capability to contact people and associations around the world. An effective website as well as a constant marketing activity will be pursued.

The programme of the **Congress Conferences** (titled "*Surfing the information tsunami*") is nearly finished. The presentations chosen are appealing and will bring a valuable contribution to participants. We have decided that the Intersteno conferences will be open to the local public, as we think that a larger audience may be interested to the cultural and scientific topics presented by the speakers. Furthermore, we have invited Prof. Yves Gambier, from Turku University (Finland), to introduce the themes of the conferences sessions as the "keynote" speaker. There is a short bio of Prof. Gambier in the Conference information in this issue.

The studies in deciding the requirements of an Intersteno certification are progressing, thanks to the work of the Scientific Committee led by Jean Charles Le Masson. The proposal will be shared inside the Council and, it is hoped, approved in the meeting that will be held in Ghent in July 2013. The certification programme, to operate over the period 2013-2015, is an important step forward and a point of reference for all Intersteno members.

I invite you to enjoy the other interesting articles in this e-news. We welcome the enthusiastic reports of competitions held in Czech Republic, in Croatia and Turkey as well as the presentation of the new individual Intersteno members.

Happy reading,

Fausto Ramondelli



London event: Seated In the first row of this photo, from left: Paul Hadlow, Mary Sorene, Georgette Sante

in the upper row from left: Peter Walker, Raymond Sorene, Danny Devriendt, Jean-Charles Le Masson, Iris Walker, Fausto Ramondelli, Rian Schwarz-van Poppel.



Prof. Tang Yawei, inventor of the Chinese stenography machine, of Chinese stenography and former president of the Chinese stenography organisation, died on 18th December 2012. He was 97 years old.

Prof. Tang has been known to stenographers for decades. In October 1981 a group of German stenographers from Hessen, led by Karlheinz Lang and Gregor Keller, went to China in order to meet Chinese stenographers in a vocational school in the Western part of Beijing. Among those stenographers was Prof. Tang.

This extremely friendly and interesting meeting was the beginning of a new stenographic development in China. The participants were introduced to each other and the subsequent exchange of thoughts, ideas about the future and joint memories was very harmonious.

The German Stenographic Newspaper (1981 and 1982) documented the meeting with some illustrated articles. It was the beginning of a long friendship that continues today. The last meeting with Prof. Tang was at the 47th Intersteno

congress in August 2009 in Beijing, which was attended by approximately 600 participants from 30 nations.

In our conversations Prof. Tang described the congress in Istanbul as particularly eventful. There, he gave a dedicated speech about the decision to admit the Chinese Stenographer's Organization into INTERSTENO.

The Intersteno community grieves for the loss of this modest, well-read and very dedicated stenographer, who is highly respected and admired in China. He will remain an abiding memory.

Expressions of sympathy were sent by Intersteno to the family of the Prof. Tang, in particular to his wife. The memorial service was held on December 24, in Beijing, Ba Bao Mountain.

Gregor Keller



Despite a temperature of -9 degrees over 700 people attended the memorial service for Prof. Tang. Among them were many important political authorities, presidents and secretaries of steno associations, head of schools, teachers and students.

49th INTERSTENO congress Ghent Belgium ■ 13-19 July 2013



Belgium awaits you!

In about 130 days the 49th INTERSTENO congress will start in Ghent!

Hotels and sleeping accommodation to be booked by the organization committee

See next page for an overview of the low budget offers, available at the moment. First come, first served basis.

Hotels and sleeping accommodation - other

- contact Ms. Natalia Torres Berrio at **info@konexiontours.com**. Konexion tours can help you to find hotel accommodation in Ghent.
- look for interesting offers and book yourself at **www.booking.com** (hotel rooms), at **www.airbnb.com** (bed and breakfast) or at similar sites.

Call for exhibitors

At this moment three companies have finished the registration procedure as exhibitor during the congress:

- Korean Stenography Company 'Sori-Java' (www.sorizava.co.kr)
- Velotype VOF (www.velotype.com and www.text-on-top.com)
- Stenograph (www.stenograph.com)

For further information visit **www.intersteno 2013.org > Exhibition**. Until the end of March the organization committee offers an exhibition booth at € 850,00 (silver) or € 1000,00 (gold) during the congress week.

Registrations

At present about 80 persons have registered for the congress, coming from Europe, USA, South-America, Africa and Asia. Is your registration the next one? Once registered you get access to your personal data and to the list with registered persons.

Ghent, dazzlingly authentic

Join the INTERSTENO congress in Ghent Belgium and discover this historical city

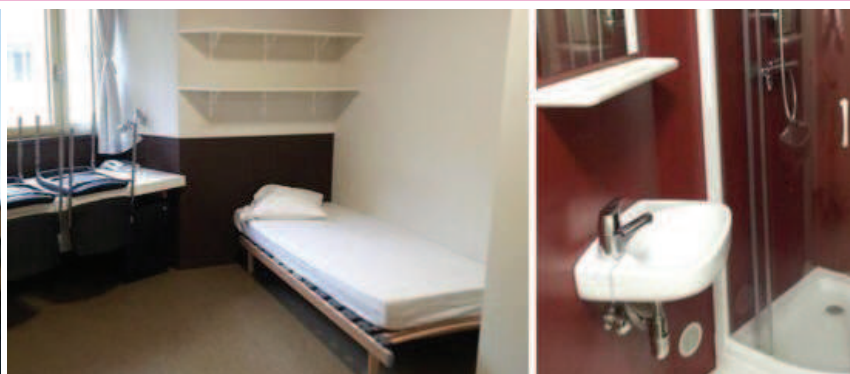
- half an hour from Brussels, Bruges and Antwerp,
- one hour from Liège and
- within 3 hours from London, Paris and Amsterdam.

Belgium awaits you!



49th INTERSTENO congress – 13-19 July 2013 – Ghent Belgium

Low budget sleeping accommodation - rooms@intersteno2013.org



UGent Home Kantienberg – student rooms

- excellent location next to the congress venue Kantienberg
- about 15 minutes walk to city center.
- new **single** well equipped student rooms in modern building
- hand basin/lavabo, shower, toilet and fridge in the room
- bedding (pillow, sheets, blanket) and two towels included
- breakfast at the congress venue
- final cleaning included. No daily cleaning.

☺ **best choice single room**

€ 340,00 / 8 nights

per person per night: € 42,50

- arrival: Friday 12th July 2013
- departure: Saturday 20th July 2013
- **only single rooms**
- offer limited in time

Information and booking only with our organization committee:

rooms@intersteno2013.org

Other offers by the organization committee

SovoArte Savaanhuis – single student rooms

- ☺ good location in the city center
- ☹ bedding (pillow, sheets, blanket) included. Bring your own towels.
- ☹ common showers and toilets on the corridor

€ 300,00 / 8 nights

per person per night: € 37,50

- breakfast at the congress venue

Hotel Flandria [Friday 12th July – Saturday 20th July]

- ☺ good location in the city center
- ☺ hotel service with breakfast buffet
- ☺ (almost) all rooms occupied by INTERSTENO congressists
- ☹ common showers and toilets on the corridor for double rooms

☺ **best choice double/triple/quadruple in low budget category**

small double rooms:

€ 480,00 / 8 nights

per person: € 30,00 / night

4-bed rooms (with own shower)

€ 1040,00 / 8 nights

per person: € 32,50 / night

Don Bosco boarding school – single student rooms

- ☺ cheapest accommodation
- ☺ 7-days public transport pass, valid in whole Ghent, included
- ☹ outside the city (± 3 km to congress venue), but close to public transport
- ☹ **not available on Friday 12th of July**
- ☹ common showers and toilets on the corridor

€ 175,00 / 7 nights

[Saturday 13th – 20th July]

per person: € 25,00 / night

- breakfast at the congress venue

See www.intersteno2013.org > Hotel accommodation in Ghent for more information

Conferences in Ghent 2013 - Surfing the information tsunami

Carlo Eugeni, who chairs the Presentations Committee for Ghent, announces that 23 speakers have responded to the Call for Papers released earlier, and all of them were consistent with the basic theme suggested by the committee.

The contents of the contributions are realistic and practical, covering a wide spectrum of topics such as automatic transcription in various domains (parliaments - conferences - university), the state of electronic reporting, the pro and cons of new reporting methods, new frontiers in reporters' education, the use of software for keyboarding teaching and the role of interpreters in reporting together with many others.

The Organising Committee will try to attract some local media interest in Belgium and those living and working locally who are interested in the conferences will be able to enter for free on Tuesday.

At the recent Board meeting in London a media campaign was decided upon to be run in Belgium publicising this event. We hope that the members of INTERSTENO organisations will do likewise in their own countries.

Because 23 proposals were submitted, which exceed the maximum number that we can handle during the IPRS and General Conference sittings, upon the proposal of the Board it has been agreed that some of them will not be included in the programme but will be published in advance on the website. In addition, some time will be devoted to comments on them at the conference. Speakers will be informed about the final programme by 15th March.

Associated Members - Lower fees for individual members

The Council meeting in Prague decided that the annual fee for individual Associated members should be set at **45 euros**, while the fee for the Associations - firms, Parliaments and the like - was confirmed as 175 euros per year.

Associate membership is not automatically granted to anyone asking for it. The nomination has to be evaluated by the Board and the Council, which is responsible for final approval.

Associated members will be able actively to participate in the main events and decisions since:

- they are entitled to vote at the General Assembly which takes final decisions on many important aspects of the life of Intersteno.
- they can be invited to take part in the council sessions, giving their opinions on the agenda, even if they are not entitled to vote.
- they receive and send information about activities and plans of Intersteno.
- they are entitled to use the definition of 'Associated member of Intersteno' and Intersteno logo, in their communications. The logo for Associated member is available at the menu "Leaflet and Logo".
- **they are entitled to provide a banner which is shown as rotating banner in the home page of the www.intersteno.org website.**

When submitting your request to become an Associated Member please use the form available at the Join-us menu of our website.

Internet competition 2013

Registrations for this competition online will be possible from 11th March to 7th April. The competition will take place from 8th April to 5th May. Please be aware that no delay will be granted after the last day.

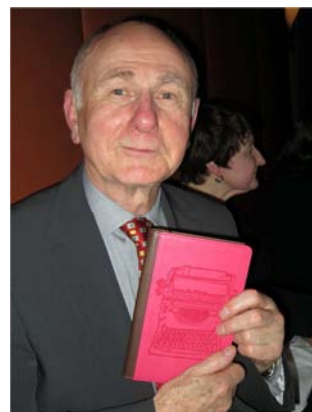
Diplomas for competitors and teachers will be printed at local level, and will be sent to your countries. Please contact your national representative for additional information.

History of Intersteno

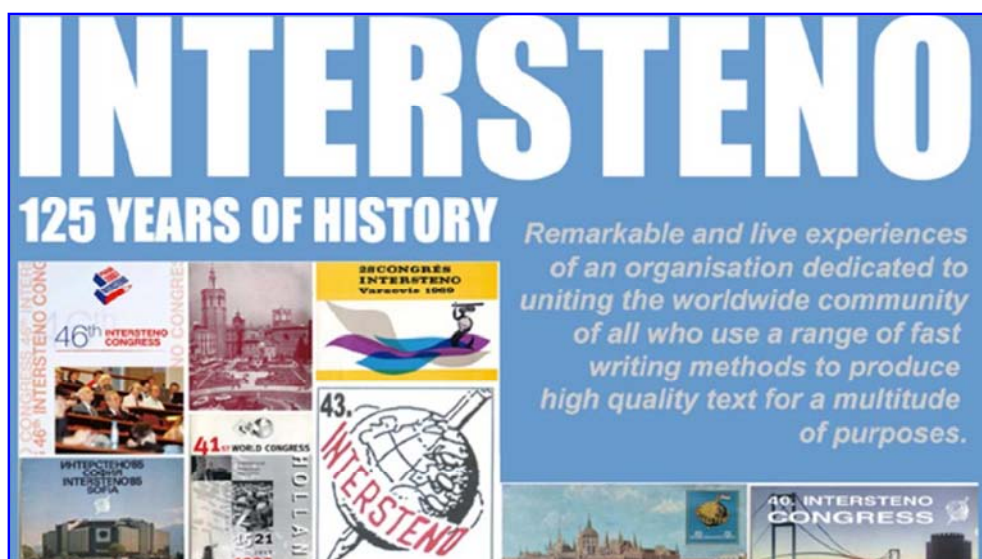
On the occasion of the Board meeting in London the first release of the History of Intersteno was presented, an impressive work coordinated by Gian Paolo Trivulzio.

The e-book consists of 260 pages and includes the evolution of the competitions, the full list of all topics and conferences during the congresses from 1955 and a list of who's who at Intersteno.

An e-book reader was gifted to Peter Walker (photo), who undertook the heavy task of the linguistic revision.



In the following months you will be informed as to how this e-book will be made available to interested parties.



New layout and features of our intersteno.org

You will shortly see the new layout of our website. In order to simplify access to the increased amount of information the number of menus was reduced and the submenus are arranged as drop-downs in order to have an immediate view on what they contain.

A quick menu brings the reader immediately to the most read pages and news, while a search feature permits the easy location of any specific topic of interest that is available in the published pages.

A rotating banner on the right upper corner shows the names and activities of the Associated Members.

A connection with the Facebook page will undoubtedly increase interest in sharing information with other Intersteno people.

The archive menu contains many contributions from the last 10 years of our federation.

Other improvements will be made on a continuing basis, to content and layout, thanks to an agreement with Grafela - Turkey.



News from our countries

Interinfo, the Dutch National Group of Intersteno

Mrs. Joke Bakker represents the Dutch National Group Interinfo in the Intersteno Council. With 35 members we are a rather small National Group but nevertheless proud to be the connecting link in our country with the International Federation for Information and Communication Processing, Intersteno.

Interinfo sees as its target groups teachers of typewriting and word processing, secretarial workers, parliamentary and other reporters, including speech-to-text reporters for deaf and hard of hearing people. For these target groups Interinfo organises activities in The Netherlands and, in co-operation with Intersteno, also on an international level.

This year we plan to organise an excursion to the ICTY (The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia) in The Hague, where they have state-of-the-art meeting-room equipment, making it possible to provide live translations for the participants in the court room, and to register and report the proceedings.

On April 20th our annual national keyboard typing championship takes place in the city of Nijkerk. This year there will also be a try-out of the Intersteno audio-transcription competition.

On April 6th we intend to hold our annual general assembly, which will be preceded by a seminar about the present situation of teaching typewriting. Typing courses are nowadays offered on and through the Internet, but we think that supervision by a qualified teacher is necessary so as to acquire a good posture and a proper position of the hands and fingers on the keyboard.

At the moment we expect that about 25 Dutch people will attend the 49th Intersteno Congress in Ghent this year. We hope to stimulate interest in The Netherlands in this upcoming event, especially in the international competitions in Ghent, by organising in our country trial competitions and training sessions for competition participants.

In The Netherlands meeting reports are mostly summary reports; verbatim reporting is usually reserved for parliamentary debates, big conferences etc. Therefore, we have a great tradition of summary reporting. This was also the basis for the Intersteno competition "correspondence and summary reporting" (a Dutch-German initiative).

We invite you to take a look at our website (especially at the "Stenomuseum"), which is carefully looked after by our webmaster, Mrs. Lida Horlings: www.interinfo.nl.

Jan den Holder

Croatian shorthand association renews the computer typing and informatics education courses

At the end of December 2012 the Croatian Shorthand Association completed the first cycle of computer typing course in its modern and newly-equipped informatics cabinet containing 11 new personal computers and accompanying teaching equipment.



The course lasts 50 teaching hours. These are divided into three hours' instruction for two days per week. With a reasonable price of about 150 euros, participants acquire all the necessary knowledge and skills of computer typewriting and an initial speed that can be further perfected.

In its plan of activities for 2013 the Croatian Shorthand Association will seek, in cooperation with the competent educational institutions, marketing and other agencies, to provide to all interested parties, regardless of their age and educational background, the necessary and desirable knowledge and skills in computer typing and training by way of individual and group methods. In this way the association is restarting courses that were organised within the framework of its activities, which 20 years ago, were suddenly and rashly interrupted due to changes in the legal and education system of the newly, independent Croatian state.

Heading the course is a member of the Croatian Shorthand Association, the current national champion in computer typewriting, 20-year-old student of political science, **Andrea Muženić Vidak**. He is operating under the supervision of both **Mrs. Marica Piršlin**, professor of Administrative and Office School in Zagreb and the President of the professional pedagogical section of the Croatian Shorthand Association.

Czech Republic 20th National competitions

On 8th December last, in preparation for the participation in the Ghent Congress, a national competition took place in Olmütz. On this occasion the opportunity was taken to test the new 'audiotranscription competition' which be on trial in Ghent. According to **Jaroslav Zaviačič** the test for this competition was positive.

The classification lists of all kinds of competition, which do not include the results of the Audiotranscription competitions, can be downloaded at <https://www.zav.cz/indexcz.php>. Below are photos of this event.



Romana Novotnikova, Director of the Handelsakademie in Olmütz, congratulates Klara Odehnalova - "the new hope" of the Czech Republic for Ghent.





Combination competition - young category

From South Korea - greetings, thanks and a contribution

A delegation from Korea, lead by Mr. Seung Chul Lee, recently sent a message to our President with thanks for the warm welcome he and his wife received in Prague during the council meeting, with special thanks to the Zaviačičs.

A photo taken during the stay is included here, while an interesting report prepared by Mr. Seug Chul Lee, about the Korean language will shortly be inserted in the Scientific Committee page on our website.



The Swiss Interinfo Group and its activities

The Swiss Interinfo group represents Intersteno in Switzerland. It was formed by representatives of SSV (Schweizerischer Stenographenverband Stolze/Schrey) and ISSD (Institut Sténographique Suisse Duployé). Since SSV decided in 2010 not to

be involved in international activities the Swiss group Veloscrittura of the Italian canton of this country was included.

In 1966 at the last series of competitions involving the various Swiss steno systems, arranged in Lucerne and organised by the Stolze / Schrey Swiss Society of Shorthand, **Marcel Racine, Secretary General of Intersteno**, introduced the idea of arranging a typewriting competition, which was attended by 25 competitors. It followed the Intersteno rules, lasting 30 minutes and each competitor brought their typewriter. The correction was done manually.

These championships were then discontinued until 1999, when a group of teachers decided to restart this competition and took responsibility for it during the meeting in Soletta, which was attended by 64 competitors.

This event was again organized in St. Gallen in the year 2000, with 76 participants also coming from Germany. At that time nearly all competitors were using a computer. Therefore their work was saved on a floppy disk and the correction was supported by a procedure set up by Gian Paolo Trivulzio.

In 2001 and 2002 the competitions were held in Zofingen. The work was collected on floppy disks and the evaluation and classifications list were done by **Jaroslav Zaviacic and Helena Matouskova who were present in Zofingen.** Participants in 2001 numbered 106, while in 2002 there were 175.

In 2003 the National Swiss competition was held in Weinfelden. The schools sent in the works of 175 students on floppy disk and they were sent by e-mail to Prague for automatic correction by the Zaviacics. The results and classification list were sent back within a few hours.

In 2004 in Berne and Zurich in 2005 participants were respectively 158 and 97. The work was again evaluated with the Zav procedure, while the files from the schools were sent in using the Internet.

From 2006 to 2010 the keyboarding competitions were organised by Veloscrittura TI / LO and ISSD, since SSV decided to concentrate only on shorthand, and they took place online over the Internet using the Java program set up by Marco Olivo (Milano): Here are the participants:

2006	215	2007	199	2008	208	2009	240	2010	343
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From 2011 to date, notwithstanding the defection from the schools of the French-speaking part of Switzerland the following figures were achieved:

2011	353
2012	317

In the last few years several competitors also took part in the Internet contest of Intersteno and in the multilanguage formula.

VELOSCRITTURE

Chi siamo

- Statuto
- Notizie
- Curiosità
- WEB TV
- Incontri
- Swiss 2012
- Swiss 2013
- Risultati Svizzeri Gara Intersteno
- Formazione
- Il Punto
- Esercitazioni al computer
- Scrittura razionale alla tastiera
- TutoreDattilo 7.11
- TutoreDattilo e dislessia
- Ripresa del parlato
- Intersteno
- Interinfo Swiss



Incontriamoci!

Scrivere velocemente al computer e saperlo utilizzare razionalmente, è oggi una necessità imprescindibile, come imprescindibile è la presenza di validi mediatori della comunicazione che sappiano bene utilizzare le tecnologie e le scritture veloci, per riportare fedelmente gli accadimenti durante le Assemblee, i Convegni e le riunioni di ogni tipo.

Anche coloro che non possono udire bene, possono capire meglio grazie ai mezzi oggi offerti dalle tecnologie digitali.

Su questi argomenti la nostra Associazione si impegna da anni con incontri anche all'estero e convegni (ultimo a Bellinzona nel 2000 che anticipava molti di questi temi).

L'invito è rivolto a tutti, non solo ai docenti.



INCONTRIAMOCI! In quest'epoca di comunicazione forse stiamo dimenticando come si comunica, ognuno può dare il proprio contributo di idee e di

Keyboard teaching in Switzerland is mainly done with the support of the computer: different software packages are used due to the various keyboarding layouts and the relevant languages. In the Canton Ticino (the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland) a software named TutoreDattilo is used by the great majority of the schools: it was conceived by Claudio Gucchierato (from Italy) and with a didactic approach from the teacher Raffaella Signorelli who is a member of Veloscritture Ti/Lo. This software has been continuously updated, with versions for German and French languages, and the relevant keyboards. This software is also widespread in Italy thanks to its version for elementary schools students.

Veloscritture releases twice a year a magazine 'Il Punto' with articles in the three national languages (German, Italian, French). It can be downloaded from the website www.veloscritture.info.

It is to be recalled that several Swiss people have taken part in all Intersteno Congresses (and will again attend in Ghent). In addition a few of them participated in competitions with a good success rate.

Mauro Panzera

Events

Turkish Keyboarding competition via Internet

The competition begins on 11th February and ends on 10th March. There are 678 registered participants, representing 70 schools from all over Turkey. The competition formula makes it possible to participate in up to 16 different languages, just as at the internet Intersteno competition.

2013 Türkiye internet klavye şampiyonası



Turkish delegation received by the Minister of youth and sport



On February 4th directors, teachers and competitors belonging to the Intersteno Turkish Group from Istanbul, Ankara and Afyon paid a visit to **Mr. Suat Kiliç** who is the **Minister of Youth and Sports**, to give him information about the latest activities of Intersteno in Turkey and worldwide. Due to health problems Mr. Ihsan Yener could not attend. As a result **Mr. Seçkin Köse**, the Turkish Council Member of Intersteno led the group and reported on the successful results of Turkish competitors in the latest Intersteno Congresses and Internet contests.

He spoke about the activities of Intersteno and the importance of evaluation in schools dealing with many young persons.



A presentation together with a live show of young competitors was released during the meeting. The success of the Turkish F-Keyboard layout in competitions and education was also mentioned.

Mr. Köse informed the minister that the next Intersteno Congress and competitions would be held in Belgium in July 2013 and requested the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in order to ensure that as many young people as as possible would be able to attend the Congress.

In a friendly atmosphere **Mr. Kiliç** paid attention to all of the points made. He congratulated and paid tribute to all directors, teachers and the competitors of the Intersteno Turkish Group, giving them his best wishes and informing them that the Ministry would do its best to support Intersteno activities and competitions.

What's new

Designing the future classroom: Learning in teams: virtual school trip

Teamwork and collaboration are skills fundamental to all stages of education and in the world of work and employment. Learning in teams allows pupils to develop their interpersonal skills, collaborate with their peers, develop their critical faculties and use audio-visual learning tools (e.g. TeamUp). Teachers can use this Learning Story as an opportunity to group together pupils who would not normally have much interaction with one another, increasing the classes overall cohesion.

A practical example is shown in the blog of the **iTEC: Designing the Future Classroom project**, which can be fully read with a video at <http://itec.eun.org/web/guest/news>

Francesca Panzica is a primary school teacher from Florence, Italy. When her school, Lastra a Signa, became involved in the iTEC project, she decided to use iTEC's learning activities to teach her class about different cities around the world

The learning activity, learning in teams, took the form of a virtual school trip to London. Francesca first divided her class into groups, using the TeamUp tool. Pupils then researched the city, using Google docs to share their findings. Once their research had been gathered and collated, students then worked together to create multimedia presentations for the assignment, involving images, interactive maps, and audio recordings.

According to Francesca, the activity had a very positive effect on the pupils:

"There was a change in the students' working methods: they worked in groups and discussed in a new way, and the students started to collaborate with new classmates".

She also felt that the students were not the only ones to benefit from the new classroom practices: "With this scenario, I have used the interactive whiteboard in a new way."



UK suffers from Big Data specialist shortage

From a report of **Sophie Curtis** on Technworld, published on 5th December 2012, we learn that more than three quarters of Big Data workers in the UK are suffering from a lack of training, with the majority being forced to learn on the job in order to keep up to date with the latest skills.

It has been predicted that Big Data will create millions of new jobs and lead to greater project demand within the IT sector, but this does not answer the question about the supply of skilled workers.

According to a survey of 131 members of the “Big Data London” group by real time analytics company Acunu, there is a knowledge gap between Big Data workers and the decision makers commissioning Big Data projects.

Over a quarter of respondents said they do not believe business decision makers are currently exploiting Big Data within their organisation, with “under-utilisation of Big Data” (66 percent) and “having unrealistic expectations for Big Data” (66 percent) being highlighted as key concerns.

If this problem persists, the UK may not be ready to seize the Big Data business opportunities in 2013, according to Acunu.

“It’s easy to look at a skills shortage and blame a lack of training on traditional educational routes, but when you’re on the cutting edge of technology, you have to be teaching yourself most of the time,” said Manu Marchal, Acunu director and Big Data London organiser.

The Big Data London community largely rejects the notion that “brain drain” is an issue for the UK Big Data industry. Only 13 per cent. consider outsourcing to skilled Big Data workers outside of the UK to be a cause for the shortage, and only 18 per cent. feel lucrative offshore roles are luring UK talent away.

This suggests that the UK is in a strong position to retain and grow its talent pool, if more British-based IT professionals are given the access to the software tools and skills most in demand, said Acunu.

Cost, often highlighted as a barrier to Big Data projects, was not a high concern to the community. Only 20 per cent. said Big Data projects were ‘too expensive’.

The Big Data London community was founded in February 2011 and currently has over 1,350 members.

Lernstift - A perfectly easy way to learn to write perfectly: The first pen that vibrates when you make a mistake!



While many people think that learning ordinary writing is a waste of time (see several information on this subject in previous issues of our e-news letter), Mr Falk Wolsky and his wife in Munich (Germany) have a different idea and are proposing a new way of learning how to write correctly. They are both in the above image, with their son.

This is the idea behind the **Lernstift (a pen to learn)**

You can have full information about this projects and plans to release the first production in the middle of this year, by visiting the website

<http://www.lernstift.com/> where the texts are available on German and English, as well as a video.

We reproduce here, without any additional comments, the main points on which this project is based:

For centuries mankind has been learning to write. For all of that time we used to depend on someone to look over our shoulder or correct spelling, grammar and form afterwards.

*In future we can get our feedback another way - and more importantly: **instantly!** With **Lernstift**. It combines a time-tested writing utensil with state of the art technology and thereby gives writing by hand new relevance and appeal in the age of iPad & Co.*

The integrated electronics recognise mistakes as they are being made and give the writer feedback by vibrating. In other words:

Lernstift is a great way to learn how to write faster. And what's more: Lernstift is great fun, too!

*Learning to write has two main challenges: 1) writing **legibly** and 2) writing **correctly**.*

Lernstift helps with both:

- In Calligraphy Mode the pen vibrates once if a letter is written wrongly or illegibly.
- In Orthography Mode the pen vibrates once for a misspelled word and twice to point out grammatical errors in a sentence.

The way to learn today:

Teacher-centered teaching, as it was done in the past,, does not meet the requirements of modern education. This is why more and more schools practise autonomous learning these days.

Lernstift supports this modern way to learn. Not by telling you the answer - but by telling you: "Hold on! Something's not quite right. Think again." Lernstift is like a devoted friend looking over your shoulder and tapping you on it when you've made a mistake.

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of this text

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