

INTERSTENO Newsletter 58



June 2013

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From the President's desk

A total of 560 people from 30 countries and nearly 300 contenders: these are the magic numbers of the Intersteno Congress that will be starting in a few weeks in Ghent (Belgium) with an intense and attractive programme. In a time of economic crisis and dramatic professional changes, to have more than 500 registered people is already a great success. It means that our old-and-though-very-modern Association is able to call many young and experienced professionals from all over the world and continue playing a crucial role in the enhancement of related professions as well as in education.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank the Intersteno community for trusting and supporting us for in the past two years. We have put all our efforts into gaining new professional space and new friends sharing the Intersteno visions. We have worked well as a team and we present you with the outcomes of our activity. As often happens, only a few goals were achieved while many others remain as challenges. Despite this, we think that Intersteno is heading to the future and we are confident that those who will continue our job will find solid pillars upon which to build.

The publishing of this Intersteno e-news is an attempt to stay in touch with our community. It offers updated information on events, technologies and visions that are useful for the profession and for general knowledge. Through the Bulletin, the Intersteno website and the Facebook web pages (Intersteno, IPRS, 49th Congress and local community sites), our logo and our information have reached many more people, even in countries where Intersteno was not previously known; on the other hand, we have obtained more information, sometimes from new places and new people. We have included new professional groups (Speech To Text Translators, Digital Audio Transcribers etc.), confirming the approach of Intersteno as that of a worldwide leader and a reference partner for the profession, regardless of the technologies people use. In this connection the Council has decided to launch a new experimental audio transcription competition with the aim of following the evolution of the profession as it occurs in workplaces every day.

The cultural and scientific content deserves the utmost attention, as it represents the horizon of our activities. For the first time, thanks to the mission of the Presentation Committee, at the Ghent Congress we will be able to select and direct the conference presentations to the "Congress theme", which will be: "How to surf the information tsunami?" Thus, we seek to enhance Intersteno's capability of deepening and investigating the major professional topics, not only within our community but throughout society. Moreover, we welcome the improved activities of Intersteno Parliamentary and other Reporters' Section: in the meetings, held at the same venues and at the same time of Intersteno Council meetings, an increasing number of court and parliamentary reporters have followed up the many contemporary changes, providing precious solutions and expertise.

The Board, thanks to the suggestions of the Scientific Committee, has begun work on the certification programme too. It consists, so far, of a set of competences and abilities for transcribing and reporting-related professions. It is a challenge for Intersteno to be the accepted authority for education programmes all over the world and this goal will be achieved with the support and the cooperation of all of you.

Let me mention the work done and to be done by the Jury. The Coordinators and the Jury President have worked really hard to guarantee fair and well-organized competitions: those of you who are coming to Ghent to exhibit your high levels of

accuracy and speed will be proud of being part of this historical world contest, which is also an occasion of bringing peace and friendship among people.

The financial situation of the Federation is good. The Board has spent its resources accordingly to the decisions of the General Assembly. The Council has subsequently agreed that the budget shall be updated every year (instead than every two), in order to enable Intersteno to adapt its activities in a more flexible way. The contribution of our members remains the main and almost only way of meeting Intersteno expenses. Another relevant income comes from the Intersteno Keyboard Competition: this contest is now in its 12th edition. A larger number of students took part this year, but still more must be done to broaden the participation of more schools in other countries, which so far are not yet adequately involved.

It is of the utmost importance to meet the expectations of our members. We are aware that Intersteno is worth the annual fee that National Groups and Associated (in the future even Individual) members pay, but we need to make this even more concrete. In this sense, the Board agreed that Intersteno must be more promptly available to its members, by the means of a staff support, and to a larger section of people and entities by means of a marketing action plan. The celebration of the 125th anniversary from the foundation (London - February 2013) was not only the occasion for re-thinking the glorious past of Intersteno but for claiming a new pride for our community. Those who manage the communication process in order to allow the access of people to events and information find in Intersteno a place for exchanging problems and solutions: we are proud of serving this goal and of disclosing with due responsibility the future of competencies and technologies, just as we have done for over a century.

In less than two years we will be heading to the 50th Intersteno Congress (July 2015). We are clearly aware of the meaning of such a step. The financial uncertainties of National Groups and the complexity of the event suggest that Intersteno should accept a challenge for the future and organize the Congress by itself with the cooperation of the whole community, not just the local group. It is a difficult way to go, because this changes those habits and traditions that we are used to. Nevertheless, Intersteno is strong enough and I am sure it will succeed in such a plan.

In my first speech at the 48th Congress, when I was elected, I said "the main task for a President of a modern association like ours is coordinating a group of active people to lead and promote the activities." This was the case! I would like to thank the Board members and Gian Paolo Trivulzio, former President of Intersteno, who has actively worked with us, for what they did. It has been a privilege to work with them, to cooperate for the success of Intersteno, to learn different points of view and different approaches. They have gifted Intersteno with their minds, time, energies and even financial resources, and deserve your standing applause. Others will take over now and - I am sure - they will continue our work on the same lines.

Happy reading,

Fausto Ramondelli



With more than 550 registered participants, from which 300 competitors, Belgium awaits world's best professional reporters, world's fastest keyboarders and all who are contributing to convert spoken and written word into text-on-paper, reports... in Ghent from **13-19 July 2013**. Some important practical information after your arrival.

The sun is shining: after some uncertainty due to very-last minute registrations, a big audience will convene in Ghent: 87 from Germany, 73 from Czech Republic, 59 from Belgium, 49 from Italy, 38 from Turkey, 35 from China, to mention but a few.

Competitors will attend the 8-competitions as follows:

Text production	226	Text Corrections	147
Word Processing	101	Speech capturing	140
Realtime Speech capturing	113	Multilingual shorthand	41
Summary Reporting	76	Audiotranscription	75

In these competitions all technologies will be used: shorthand, stenotype, keyboarding and speech recognition, thus proving the validity of each of them for specific tasks.

Look for congress bag and badge

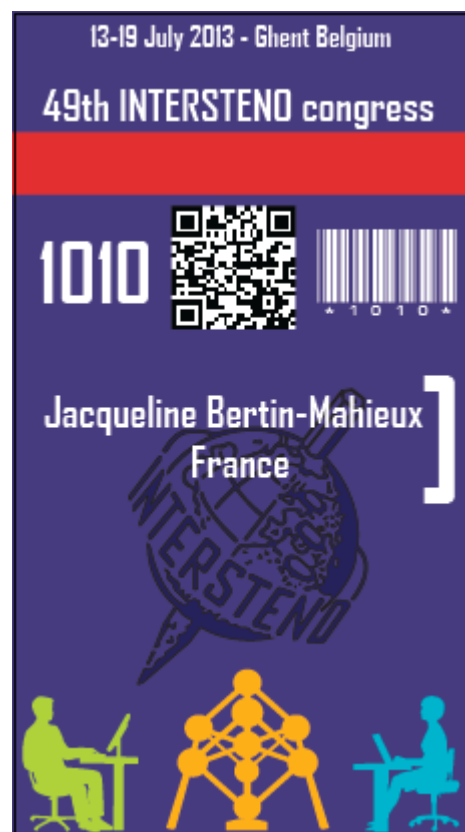
The first thing to do, is to register in the main congress venue, campus **Kantienberg** of the Artevelde University College, Voetweg 66, Ghent, nearby the Sint-Pietersplein in the south of the city center.

For countries where a big delegation is travelling in group, we will provide a **group check in**.

Please come and take your congress bag, badge and other material on

- Friday 12th July from 17.00 - 20.00 h
- Saturday 13th July from 08.00 - 12.00 h

It is very important to wear your **badge** on all congress events, beginning with the opening ceremony. Your badge is needed to enter events as the opening ceremony, the welcome cocktail, the thank you event on Tuesday...



Consult the congress website

In the coming weeks the final program of the congress will be published together with other practical information.

With the QR-code on your congress badge you can consult your personal data and personal program during the congress. This information can also be consulted with the menu **Login and personal data** where you can copy your personal QR-code. Immediately after registration you received by e-mail your login and password.

Please check carefully your individual data and report any **corrections** to **register@intersteno2013.org**.

In this area competitors will find also their competition results.

#intersteno

During the congress you can use the hashtag **#intersteno** to share information on the running activities.

Competitions

All competitions - inclusive text production, text corrections and professional word processing - will be organized parallel in several class rooms, divided by languages.

Each competitor has at his disposal one table and two chairs, as illustrated below. In short time each competitor will find his competition room(s) on the congress website when entering the page with personal data.

All competition rooms are grouped on two floors.



Scientific Committee meeting in Ghent

Mr. Jean-Charles Le Masson, coordinator of the Scientific Committee meeting, invites all members to attend a meeting on Monday 15th July at 14.00. The meeting will last till 16.00 and the goal of the discussion is about 'A new system to count the syllables of competition texts'.

The system of "columns", used for a long time in Intersteno contests, causes more and more claims from competitors or from national delegations, and the scientific principles on which this system is built are no more adapted to the new languages used now in Intersteno contests. A "grooming" is thus imperative. After a wide study of the various possible systems used for syllable count, the scientific Committee will have to set up foundations for a new system, which can become an applicable standard in every country.

Agenda:

- 1 Presentation and analysis of the current system
- 2 Report "The 3 ways to count syllables in a word"
- 3 Definition of working axes for the creation of a new system

Events you must not miss

The Congress program is full of many interesting events. Please check it at www.intersteno2013.org, but in any case plan to attend these important ones:

- **Opening ceremony:** Saturday 14th July at 15.00 sharp
- **Youth event** (if you are not over 26 years of age and if you subscribed): Tuesday 16th July, afternoon
- **Thank you evening** for all participants: Tuesday 16th July, 19.00 h.
- **Prizegiving ceremony:** Thursday 18th July, at 16.00 h

Don't forget to wear your congress badge to enter these events!

IPRS meetings and Conferences in Ghent

The programme of the conference with the latest updates is available at www.intersteno2013.org or www.intersteno.org (Congresses menu - Ghent 2013).

Contributions to the web-session will be released at the end of June, so everybody can see them and will be able to comment. The report of prof. Waldir Cury (video and text) is already on line.

All reports will be subtitled in English for an easier understanding of their contents.

We invite everybody to attend this important moment in the history of our Congresses, which shows the advances in the technologies and the relevant opportunities available to those wishing to become professionals in the field of communication.

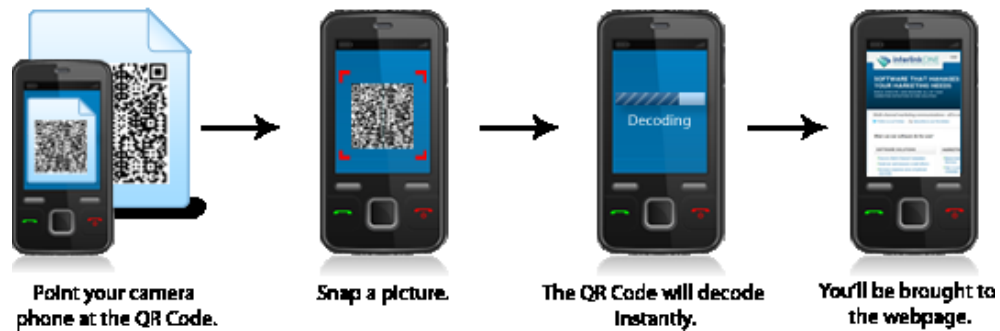
The mix of culture, human abilities and technological advances make the dreams true.

QR is not a mystery

In the confirmation form of your registration, you will have seen a square grid (like the one here on the right): this is QR (quick response) code, the answer to your urgent need for getting quick information.



For our congress, if you have a Smartphone, you could use an integrated app or download it from the website of the manufacturer of your equipment. When the code is read by the camera of your phone or computer you will be instantly taken to your personal page.



In your page, along with all your personal data and registration, you will be able to check the results of the competitions you have taken part in. Nobody can read your information, because you have to insert your personal password.

For a quick check of this feature you can use the code inserted here above.

Another important 'plus' of this congress.

Exhibitors at the 49th INTERSTENO congress

Korean Stenography Company 'Sorizava'

Korean Stenography Company 'Sorizava' loves 'Inter-Steno'.

In 2013 Sorizava will introduce new shorthand solution program "Multi Smart".



As name of it, 'Multi Smart' is a smart multi-tasking shorthand keyboard, which functioning various technologies at the same time.

Shorthand writers are now able to do shorthand writing while recording video clips in real time. Therefore if writers are lost, just play the recorded video to continue write.

Sorizava has 28 new technologies. Moreover, in Korea but also in the world we possess majority of stenography technology patent applications.

Immerse yourself in the charm of a 'Multi-Smart' at INTERSTENO 2013 Ghent!!

Technology Tel. 82-2-584-8181

E-mail. sorizava@sorizava.co.kr

Website: www.sorizava.co.kr

Waits for a lot of interest from the worlds shorthand. ;-)

Velotype VOF

Velotype VOF is a small company, founded by Wim Gerbecks and Sander Pasveer in 2009. It is the only company in the world that produces and sells the Velotype PRO© keyboard. The Velotype keyboard is a chord keyboard, suitable for many different languages. This ergonomic keyboard allows the user to type at the speed of speech with a minimal effort.



Besides the keyboard, Velotype VOF develops other products for realtime captioning solutions. Such as the Velotype Academy. Software learning how to use the Velotype Pro© keyboard. VeloNote, a special developed text editor, specially designed realtime text interpreters. VeloTitle, live subtitling software for television. And Text-on-Top©. This USB device enables text interpreters a lot of flexibility in live subtitling situation. Wireless sending text to a presenter's laptop and presenting it in the form of subtitles on top of any application.

E-mail: wim@velotype.com

Website: www.velotype.com and www.text-on-top.com

Stenograph

With 75 years of experience, Stenograph is the leading supplier of productivity tools for the court reporting and speech-to-text professions in the U.S. and abroad. Stenograph's products are engineered, built and supported by our friendly staff of 125 in metropolitan Chicago.

Stenograph's Prince Institute, with campuses in Alabama, Denver and Illinois, provides quality CART, court and realtime captioning education both on ground and on line.

Visit www.stenograph.com for more information.



Korea Steno Co., Ltd (Korea)

We Korea Steno Co., Ltd developed CAS shorthand keyboard in 1994 first in Korea. We not only have maintained the number 1 spot with the highest pass rate in national Korean shorthand examination but also held an unchallenged position in fostering stenographers.



With captioned TV programs in terrestrial broadcasting starting from KBS, the public broadcasting since 1999, we also have played a key role in expansion and development of captioned broadcasting in Korea and in welfare improvement of the hearing-impaired.

We are a leading company in shorthand field and jump into the first-class shorthand company in various fields such as shorthand keyboards, captioned broadcasting systems, subtitle for digital films, real-time image shorthand in many events at home and abroad.

We will introduce smarter shorthand keyboards and related technologies at this 2013 Intersteno congress, so we ask you to make sure to visit us.

E-mail : info@koreasteno.com

Website: www.koreasteno.com

Arbor Media - Broadcast and Conference Applications

Based upon our knowledge of AV digitizing and disclosure, in combination with years of experience in the International Broadcast and Conference market, we have the ability to

deliver innovative, proven-technology and open-standard solutions in order to achieve your business objectives on a turn-key / fixed-price basis.



Arbor Media specializes in digitally capturing, archiving, retrieving and making available audio and video. Quick, easy and based on state-of-the-art solutions. We deliver the technology to realise your goals!

For more information, please visit www.arbormedia.nl.

Inter Access

Inter Access has been a Dutch software company for over thirty years. The company built the RSS (Reporting Support System) for Dutch parliament.



The objectives of the RSS application are to make reports of meetings available sooner and to make these reports more accessible and searchable for the public and for politicians. This is achieved through the implementation of database technique that is linked to XML-coding. In the application, stenographs mark events such as speakers and motions during the meeting. Based on these marks, which are linked to digital audio fragments of the Arbor Media audio system, the stenographs produce their reports. This way, the reports in progress are already presented during the meeting through modern media such as smartphones and tablets via the intranet and Internet of the House of Representatives.

Members have the option to suggest changes to the report through a separately developed Correction Website, which is also accessible through smartphone or tablet. RSS uses data from the Parliamentary Information System (PARLIS) and these RSS data are stored in and are accessible through the GGM (Datawarehouse "Gegevensmagazijn") of the House of Representatives. Inter Access has input in these systems as well.

The RSS system will be presented by the Parliamentary Reporting Service (PRS) during the IPRS meeting on Monday 15th July.

E-mail: info@interaccess.nl ■ Website: www.interaccess.nl

Computype

Computype is active since 1986 in the field of typewriting courses for children (8 - 15) and also for students and companies.

Since 2007 we offer adaptive webbased typewriting courses which are available 24/7 on any computer with internet connection.

The courses for children offer an exciting adventure where pupils learn by means of serious gaming. Have a look in our free trial lessons on one of our websites: www.typtopia.nl, www.typeplanet.be, www.tiptopia.de and soon www.typtopia.co.uk. It's fun to train, it's cool to be able to type like this, I'm quicker than the rest of the class.

Are you interested in our franchise model in an other language? Contact us! office@computype.eu.



IPRS

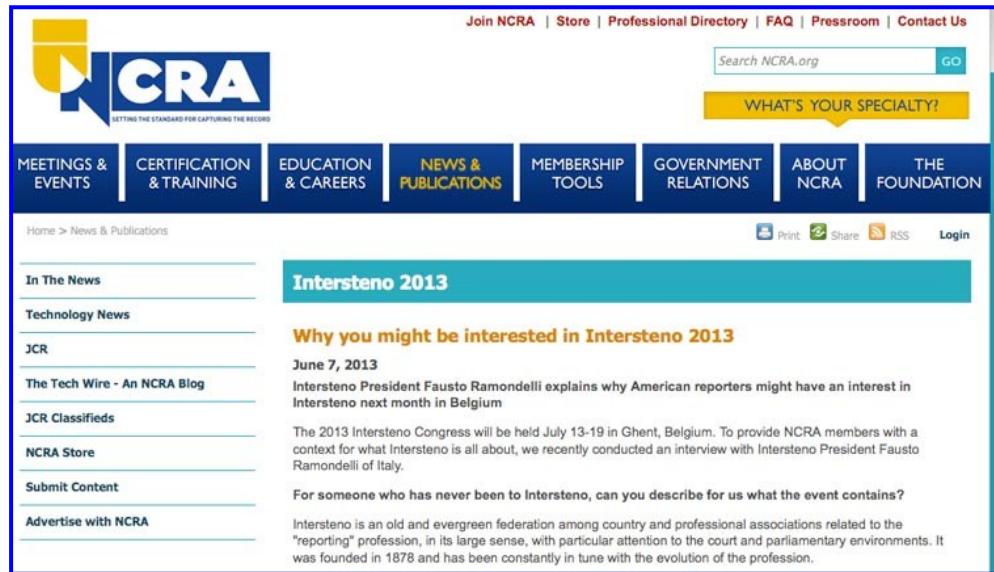
IPRS is the Intersteno Parliamentary and other professional Reporters' Section! Discover more on IPRS at the IPRS website:

Website: www.iprs-info.org



Why you might be interested in Intersteno 2013

This is the title of the interview released on June 7th by our President to the National Court Reporters Association of United States. You can read the full text on their web-site www.ncra.org.



The screenshot shows the NCRA website with a blue header and navigation bar. The main content area features an article titled "Intersteno 2013" with the subheading "Why you might be interested in Intersteno 2013". The article is dated June 7, 2013, and mentions that Intersteno President Fausto Ramondelli explains why American reporters might have an interest in Intersteno next month in Belgium. The article also states that the 2013 Intersteno Congress will be held July 13-19 in Ghent, Belgium, and provides a context for what Intersteno is all about, mentioning a recent interview with Intersteno President Fausto Ramondelli of Italy. The article concludes with a question: "For someone who has never been to Intersteno, can you describe for us what the event contains?" and a paragraph about Intersteno's history and mission.

Easy riding in Ghent with bicycles

You can use a bicycle for visiting Ghent and its beautiful surroundings, with no parking problems when you attend the Congress. A convenient parking place is available, which is no less important than the one at the Google I/O Conference in San Francisco, which is show in this photo



IAPRT cooperation for our Congress

Randel Raison is president and founder of IAPRT (International Alliance of Professional Reporters and Transcribers) and is president of All Professionals Litigation Support Team located in Houston, Texas. In 2007, Randel was selected as "Transcriber of the Year" by the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers.



Mr Randel will release a report at the IPRS meeting in Ghent, about the **The State of Electronic Reporting in the United States**.

We thanks Mr Randell, as well as IAPRT, for the timely release of information on our Congress and Intersteno activities, and we look forward to improving our relationships with their associate.

Internet2013 - a new banner year - 1712 participants! 270 successfully competed in up to 16 languages!

For the 11th edition of our international contest by Internet Danny Devriendt has created a new layout for the certificates.

However, that is not the reason for the great success of this contest which has shown an increased take-up of 28% compared with last year or of 20% compared with the best year. New countries, new schools, new teachers ... Our yearly contest becomes the rendezvous of all "keyboarders" wanting to test their ability and to compare it with other skilful typists.

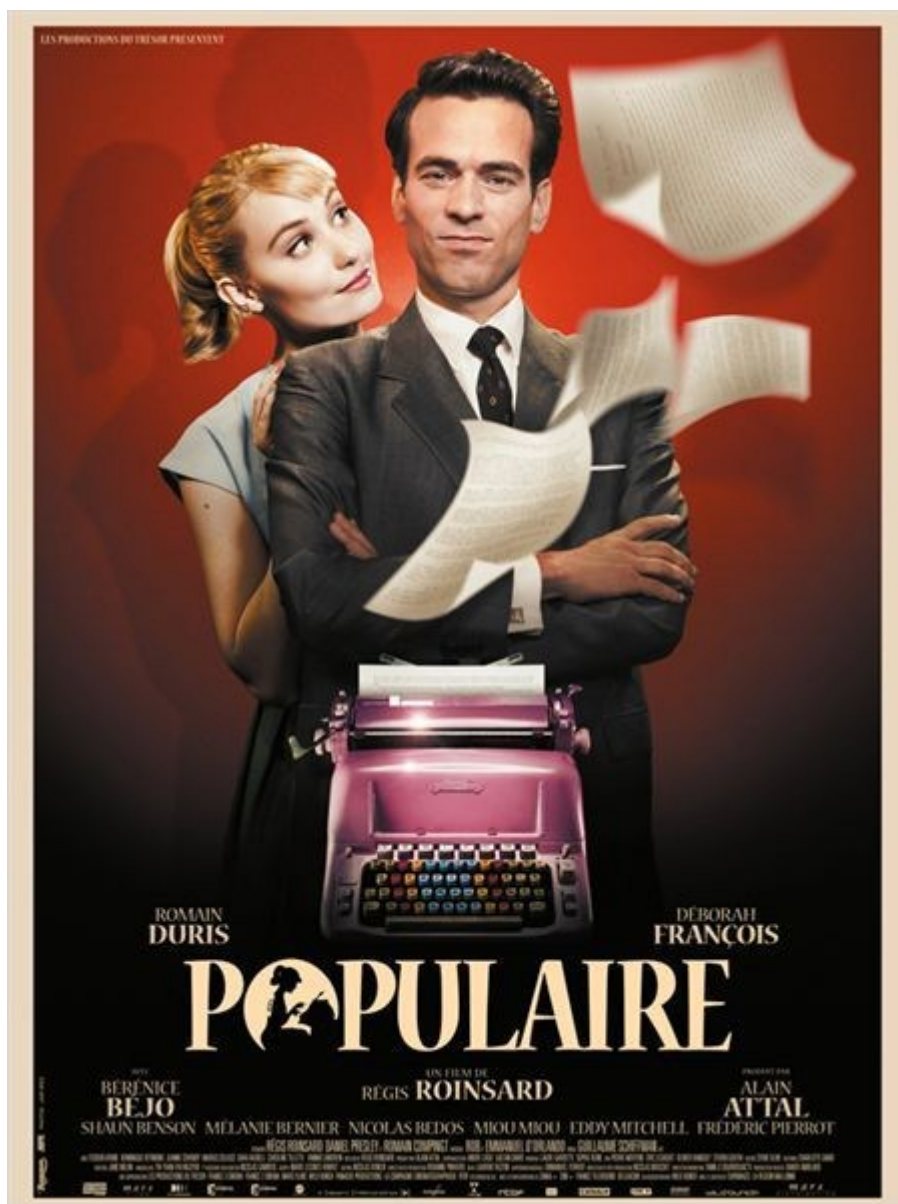
In the last three years we have found the same names in the first five places: Sean Wrona (USA), Celal Askin (Turkey), Hakan Kurt (Turkey), Carlo Parisi (Italy), Karen Koulakian, all with a vertiginous number of characters per minute. Apart from Carlo Parisi, who achieved 896 cpm last year, no one has yet succeeded in overtopping the record of Vaclav Mikula (Czech Rep.) with 872 characters in 2007.

Close to these "olympic" records, a lot of "slower" typists, who are in fact typing very quick and are worthy of their certificates and our warm-hearted congratulations.

Please don't forget the dates ... in 2014!

Film 'Populaire' shot with huge support from Intersteno competitors and teachers is a big success also in USA and Italy.

At the Seattle Film Festival that recently took place from 16th May to 2nd June this film achieved huge success. At the same time it was released in Italy with the title 'Tutti pazzi per Rose' (Everybody is crazy for Rose) fully dubbed into the Italian language. The German version is planned to be released from 6th September next.



Rose, played by Déborah François (a Belgian actress, living near Liège), applies for a job as a secretary in 1958, and even though she is not a good secretary she discovers how to be a very good typist. Her boss, who is fond of fast cars, motivates her to learn touch typing (moving from 2 to 10 fingers) and to do a lot

of training so as to take part in many regional, national and finally worldwide competitions.

This is nothing new for the majority of our readers, but this novel advertisement of the competitions could not have been so successful without the enormous help and support given by many Belgian and Czech competitors who took part in the filming, which was done in Paris in June of 2011, just before our Congress. which was what inspired the Director Régis Roinsard who was well known to Jean-Charles Le Masson (President of the Scientific Committee).

The whole activity was coordinated by Jean-Charles Le Masson and our Jury President, Ms Georgette Sante, who can be easily recognized in one of the backstage photos below, as well as Helena and Jaroslav Zaviačič.



The film includes, in its credits, the list of all competitors, but since these last part are seldom read by the audience in the cinemas, we take the liberty of let you know these names, with many thanks and rounds of applause to everybody.

Belgian teacher of Déborah François:
Jacqueline Marlet

Mrs Aude Delaage and Mrs Madeleine Lebaron have trained Berenice Bejo since the 48th congress in Paris.



Dactylos - Championnats régionaux

Laurence Defawe	Charlene Bawin	Michelle Chefneux	Sandra Theunissen	Catherine Fett

Belgium

Charlene Bawin
Gladys Brocard
Catherine Fett

Laurence Defawe
Sarah Scapolla
Michelle Chefneux
Sandra Theunissen

France

Corinne Bongrand
Marie Mingalon
Louise Gautelier
Anabela Dos Santos-
Vincente
Virginie Amar
Sylvie Auger
Yaëlle Carré-Lescarboursa

Czech Republic

Petra Vintrlíková
Klára Zubajová
Lucie Tajzlerová

Barbora Ondruchová
Veronika Zetochová
Marie Dorazilová
Barbora Čokavcová

Belgium

Nathalie Ortega
Angélique Boulay
Sarah Chiboub
Sylvie Julienne
Yolande Laffont
Lucie Renard

France

Déborah Cavennes
Christine Limayrac
Maddy Martinelli
Jacqueline Peaudeau
Catherine Portzert
Isabelle Delia Riffaud
Aurélië Roobroeck
Brigitte Soquet
Ety Marsan

Czech Republic

Kristýna Maráková



Dactylo championnat deFrance

Belgium

Nathalie Van Tongolen
Amandine Rath

France

Marie-Pierre Majoufre
Marianne Beaumont
Catherine Le Masson
Marine Beuret
Dorotheë Loison
Lisa Stirzel

Czech Republic

Kateřina Kunzeová
Erika Kvetoňová
Veronika Mikulenková
Lucie Nápravníková
Lucie Vomočilová
Simona Šustková
Aneta Urbanová
Veronika Vojkůvková

Czech Republic

Karin Cieslarová
Karolína Foukalová
Simona Fraňková
Renata Hončová
Petra Kinclová
Lucie Pavelková
Jana Popelková
Pavčina Šeligová

Dactylo championnat du monde

Belgium

Nathalie Stienen
Olivia Martini
Elodie Smoos
Romina Piccoli
Kelly Stratis

Joséphine Hong Vincart
Tubga Gullukaya
Irina Aleksandrova
Sabrina Goncalves Vieira

Czech Republic

Barbora Stejskalová
Barbora Sodomková

The following were on the podium in Paris

Barbora Stejskalová, Karin Cieslarová, Karolína Foukalová, Petra Vintřlková und Aneta Urbanová

Enjoy admiring all these beautiful ladies!





Amandine Rath



Amandine Rath



Enjoy seeing the trailers and other videos available:

- **Trailer in French:** <http://youtu.be/N64ghN3qLKg>
- **Trailer in Italian:** <http://www.cineblog.it/post/177495/tutti-pazzi-per-rose-populaire-poster-italiano-data-di-uscita-ed-interviste-con-attori-e-regista>

- **Interviews at the Seattle Film Festival - may 2013:** [www.youtube.com-watch?v=fgqRI-GYzbw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgqRI-GYzbw)
- **Trailer for the USA release:** <http://youtu.be/i6upoz9I7eg>
- **The first 6 minutes of the Italian version offered by La Repubblica:**
<http://video.repubblica.it/spettacoli-e-cultura/tutti-pazzi-per-rose-i-primi-6-minuti/129916/128433>

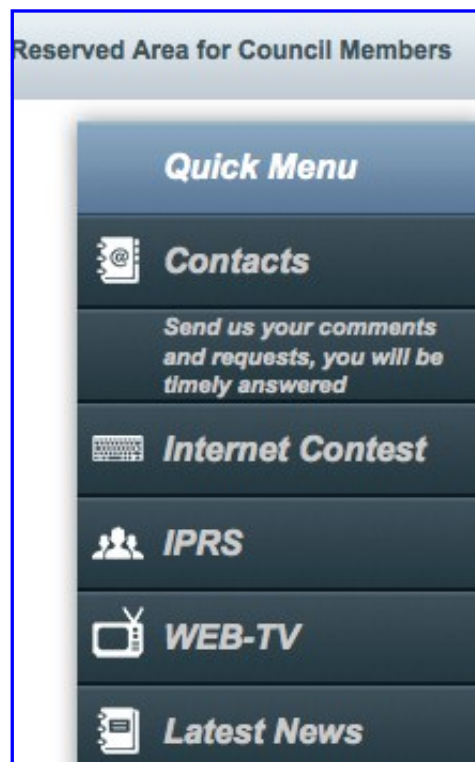
gpt/Georgette Sante

Contact us via www.intersteno.org

From the quick menu on the right side of the pages of our website you can easily access the pages which contain all the information for contacting our Federation and the Board members.

You are also welcome to send in comments or suggestions by clicking on the box 'Send us your comments and requests, you will receive a speedy response.' You will be able to send an email message, which Ms. Vera Arma, our public relations professional, will answer or redirect to the responsible person for follow-up.

If you would like to send in news which could be of interest for our international audience, you can fill in the form available at the sub-menu 'Submit your available news at the Home page. Your message will be submitted to a member of the Board and will appear on our site (latest news) within 48 hours of your sending it, or will be included in our e-news letter.'



(short review from SprachenNetz - March 2013)

Plattdeutsch, also known as Niederdeutsch is a West Germanic language that has spread in northern Germany and in the East of the Netherlands. It is a separate language and was included by the EU in their Language Charter. "Platt" is similar, in many ways to English. For example, the Plattdeutsch word "Water" (water) is pronounced differently, but is written as in English.

News from countries

As reported in the last issue of our e-news, the F keyboard is an improved version for the Turkish language, which was proposed by Mr Yener in his first speech at the Intersteno Congress in 1955 and constantly pushed with manufacturers and state authorities.

We have been requested to publish the picture with the values of the frequency of use of the keys in Turkish, which shows the well- balanced work to be done by each finger.

Events

ePIC 2013, the 11th ePortfolio and Identity Conference - London 8-9-10 July 2013, at the IET, Savoy Place, London

Contemporary media (digital, social and mobile) is transforming the landscape of identity, education and employment.

The centralised, top-down, mass media model on which most of our institutions are based is facing assaults from the emerging decentralised, bottom-up, networked, agile social knowledge media.

While old power centres are being challenged, new ones are emerging: they are based on the systematic collection, analysis and exploitation of the mass of data produced in our daily life. And we are busily coding our actions and thoughts for Google and Facebook to monetise them. In this context, how can we create the conditions for the emancipation of individuals towards a truly open society?

To reflect the need to address those issues, the title of ePIC 2013 is Open Me!

Several Intersteno people could be interested in joining this event, which unfortunately overlaps the events of our Congress. I invite you to read the very interesting editorial of Serge Ravet, ADPIOS, Europortfolio at the following link <http://www.epforum.eu/news/newsflash-march-april-2013>



InDialog - Mapping the field of community interpreting - Berlin 15 - 16 November 2013



This new international conference on dialogue interpreting targets government representatives, policy makers, service providers, users and commissioners of signed and spoken interpreting services, researchers, trainers, interpreters, language and cultural mediators, and students.

Due to the massive increase in migration worldwide, multilingualism and multiculturalism have become the norm rather than the exception in our societies. These impacts on the way individuals communicate with each other, the way officials and institutions communicate with their clients and the way in which citizens (can) make their wishes heard and have their human rights respected. Such effects of globalisation call for greater awareness of the need for dialogue interpreting as well as more and better professional interpreting services.

The level of professionalism and institutionalising of dialogue interpreting practice differs across the world. A few countries such as Australia, Canada and the UK have taken significant steps to establish professional dialogue interpreting services. Other countries and regions such as the Netherlands and Flanders struggle in times of austerity to maintain their established services, while others again, such as Germany and China, seek orientation in developing awareness of the need for professional dialogue interpreting, providing qualified training and securing appropriate remuneration for professionals working in the field.

The sheer mass of languages, including minority and aboriginal languages, underlines the need for research and development of new technologies and hybrid forms that support access to multilingual services.

The conference will be a forum for networking and the exchange of research findings and best practices and will bring together national and international professionals from a wide range of backgrounds and approaches to the subject.

The conference will be held in Berlin on 15 - 16 November 2013 at the Russisches Haus der Wissenschaft und Kultur in the centre of the city. It will take place in conjunction with Expolingua Berlin, the 26th International Fair for Languages and Cultures.

Additional information at www.indialog-conference.com/

What's new

KALK thumb-typing keyboard for tables and other touchscreen devices.

From the web site of the St. Andrews University (<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/>) we fully reproduce here, without any comment, the presentation of this software tool to be used in connection with tablets and other touchscreen devices.

It could be interesting for our Scientific and Education Committee members to discuss this new approach, perhaps hoping to see competitors using it in our next worldwide competitions.

gpt



Researchers at the University of St Andrews, the Max Planck Institute for Informatics and Montana Tech have created a new keyboard that enables faster thumb-typing on touchscreen devices.

The new system, dubbed KALQ, after the order the keys appear in the keyboard (in the tradition of QWERTY), allows people to thumb-type 34 per cent faster on tablets.

To create KALQ, the team used computational optimisation techniques in conjunction with a model of thumb movement to search among millions of potential layouts before identifying one that yields superior performance.

Dr Per Ola Kristensson, Lecturer in Human Computer Interaction in the School of Computer Science at the University of St Andrews, said: “The legacy of QWERTY has trapped users with suboptimal text entry interfaces on mobile devices.

“However, before abandoning QWERTY, users rightfully demand a compelling alternative. We believe KALQ provides a large enough performance improvement to incentivize users to switch and benefit from faster and more comfortable typing.”

Two-thumb typing is ergonomically very different from typing on a physical keyboard. The QWERTY layout is ill-suited to tablets and other touchscreen devices when typing with both thumbs.

It is established that normal users using a QWERTY on a touchscreen device are limited to typing at a rate around 20 words per minute, which is slow compared to the entry rates users can typically achieve on physical keyboards.

By rearranging the keys on the keyboard layout it is possible enable faster thumb typing. However, the researchers quickly realized that slight changes of the layout, such as exchanging a few keys, would not be sufficient for a significant improvement.

Words like “on, see, you, read, dear, based”, frequently used in texts, have to be typed on a split-QWERTY layout with a single thumb only. This makes the typing process cumbersome and slow. This insight initiated the process to develop a layout for two-thumb text entry that could speed up typing and minimise strain for the thumbs.

Dr Antti Oulasvirta, Senior Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Informatics in Germany, said: “The key to optimising a keyboard for two thumbs is to minimise long typing sequences that only involve a single thumb. It is also important to place frequently used letter keys centrally close to each other.

“Experienced typists move their thumbs simultaneously: while one thumb is selecting a particular key, the other thumb is approaching its next target. From these insights we derived a predictive behavioural model we could use to optimise the keyboard.”

The computational optimisation process had two goals: to minimise the moving time of the thumbs and to enable typing on alternating sides of the tablet as well as possible.

The results achieved by the computational optimisation procedure was surprising: in the new keyboard KALQ, all vowels, with the exception of the letter “y” (which can be regarded as both a vowel and a consonant), are placed in the area assigned to the right thumb, whereas the left thumb is assigned more keys.

To fully benefit from this layout participants in the user study were trained to move their thumbs simultaneously. While one thumb is approaching an intended letter key, the other thumb moves to its next target.

Finally, the authors developed probabilistic error correction methods that took into account the nature of thumb movements and statistical knowledge about the text users are typing. The error correction algorithm enabled trained users to speed up while retaining an acceptable error level.

With these improvements users were able to reach 37 words per minute, which is the highest ever reported entry rate for two-thumb typing on touchscreen devices, significantly higher than the approximately 20 words per minute entry rate users can normally reach on a regular split QWERTY layout.

The researchers will present their work at the CHI 2013 conference (the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems) in Paris on May 1st. CHI serves as the principal international forum for outstanding research and development in human-computer interaction.

KALQ will be available as a free app for Android-based smartphones.

Epson brings hand-free interaction with YouTube to its smart glasses.

Users wearing Epson's Moverio BT-100 smart glasses will be able to play, pause, rewind, fast forward or select a video by tilting or turning their head in a specific direction. The capability is made possible through an application developed to enhance the end-user experience of YouTube.



The smart glasses and hands-free YouTube capabilities have been demonstrated at the Google I/O conference, which was held in San Francisco from 15 to 17 May.

The smart glasses being demonstrated have gyroscopes, accelerometers and magnetometers to track head movement, which ultimately enables hands-free playback of videos on YouTube.

The Moverio glasses are tinted like sunglasses but are see-through. Users can also run Android applications on the glasses.

We do not mention the price, which is surely not cheap: we await better quotation in the near future.

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of this text

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