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## From the President's desk

The 14th edition of the Internet Keyboarding Competition will be organized by the Intersteno Federation April 11th to May 2nd. The importance of this contest goes beyond the participation of an increasing number of students from every corner of the world. This year we welcome a larger number of US contestants and an improved procedure for those who take part using graphic characters (Japanese, Korean and Chinese).



The aim of Intersteno is to establish a worldwide platform where young typists can train and compete with other students around the world, where skills and equipment, hardware and software can be tested, where teachers can take advantage of the opportunities provided by the larger arena and by virtue of utilising different methods can encourage their students and help them face new challenges. In addition, the Keyboarding Competition is a means of promoting the Intersteno message through the younger generations, establishing our history and activities as a point of reference for the improvement of skills and enhancing awareness of the professions.

I invite you to have another look at our website ([www.intersteno.org](http://www.intersteno.org)), which is constantly becoming more comprehensive and improving in contents and layout. In recent days we have completed the archive containing the information for the 50th Congress (Budapest): you can find there pictures, videos, competition texts and results, speeches and curiosities, as well as souvenir of a great Jubilee Congress, including the laser animation that so surprised everyone at the farewell dinner on the Danube riverside.

In next e-news you will read the updated info on the program of the Council and IPRS meetings that will be held in Zagreb (Croatia) in October. The Council meeting is a part of the activities of the Federation. It is meant not only to define the organization of the next Congress but to ensure the continuation of the general activity of the organization. In this respect we need to make progress and it is hoped that we shall see such progress at the next Board meeting (Berlin February 18-21). In this regard I appeal to all National Groups and Intersteno members to be as active as possible in contributing to the life of our Association. By the end of April we expect that you will have forwarded to the Board proposals and comments on the main topics of our meeting: competition rules, projects, details on the Intersteno Set of professional Competences and Skills, proposals for scientific investigation, etc. Your opinions and your vision are of the utmost importance to the Intersteno management and essential if we are to achieve our common aims. It will be helpful in this respect to read the latest news from IPRS and the Scientific Committee on page 7.

By the way, please do not forget that every year Intersteno places at the disposal of members financial resources to be spent on the implementation of projects of international interest. The "call for projects" will be published in the next few weeks together with the rules and the deadlines for applying. However, you can start planning your actions in the places where you work and operate NOW!

On February 1st-5th the BIVR (British Institute of Verbatim Reporters), the leading organization for verbatim reporters (pen and machine shorthand) in the UK, is organising an exciting Awareness Week, when it will be promoting the profession of stenography throughout the country and showcasing the Institute. On Friday 5th February there will be an exhibition at what is the rather fitting venue of the former site of Pitman's central College in Southampton Row, London. I am grateful for the kind invitation to attend this event. I will take the greetings of the Intersteno Federation to our British colleagues and our appreciation of such an important event. I would like to stress how such an example of open vision and attention to the various techniques we employ was and always will be the leitmotif of Intersteno. The key to managing the future of the profession relies upon the contents of the report rather than on the tools we use for taking notes. I sincerely hope that the meeting in London will enhance the relationship between the BIVR and Intersteno enabling us to develop the formation of a British Intersteno National Group.

Let me finally draw your attention to the proposal of the Italian Accademia "Giuseppe Aliprandi - Flaviano Rodriguez", which calls for stenographic notes of the description of Florence that Dante Alighieri, the famous Italian poet, wrote in the 15th "Canto" of the Paradise part of the Divina Commedia. All papers will be displayed in the premises of the hall where the annual Assembly will be held, on February 27-28. Read more on page 8.

This 72 e-news also includes interesting and updated reports of the local competitions held in Turkey and the Czech Republic. We offer our thanks to the organizers and congratulations to all contestants: we hope that at least some of them will be able to show their skills at the next Intersteno Congress in Berlin on July 2017

Happy reading!

[Fausto Ramondelli](#)



## Internet contest - keyboarding competition by Internet

### It's time to think about it!

#### International championship 2016 - 14<sup>th</sup> edition

Since the first Internet contest in 2003 the number of competitors has continuously increased. Shall we reach more than 2000 participants for the 14th edition?



#### Keyboarding

A useful ability for producing documents and communicating with the aid of computers!

#### Internet contest

The opportunity for students:

- to compare their results with those of other competitors from all over the world
- to receive an international certificate stating their ability in this basic skill!

In order to plan the contest in due time in a period that is full of other duties and to organize it in the best way possible please note in your agenda the 14th edition schedule:

*Registration: from Monday March 14th to Sunday April 10th*

*Contest: from Monday April 11th to Monday May 2nd.*

Please pass on the information to your students so that they may take advantage of the imminent cold weather to train intensively and efficiently.

#### Internet Contest 2016



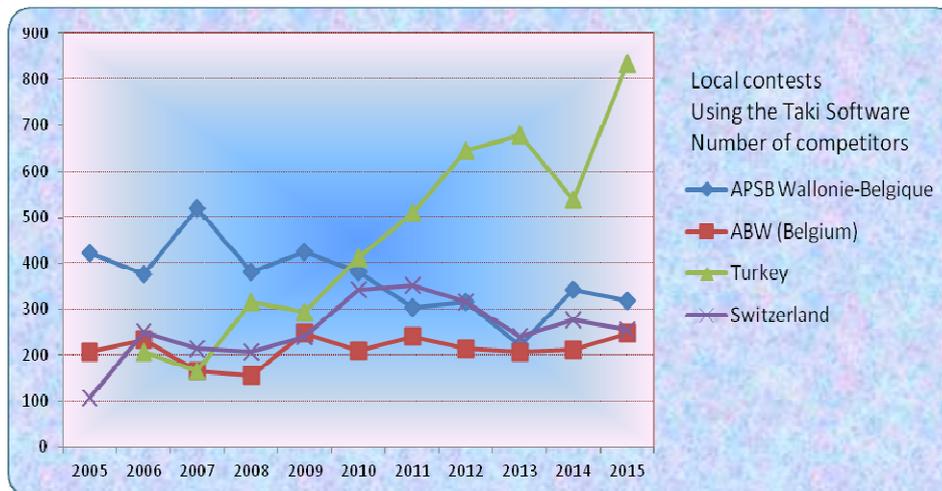
the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Keyboarding championship by Internet will take place Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> to Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**No extension of deadlines will be granted.**

Registration from March 14<sup>th</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup>

## Local contests

Since 2005 four countries (Belgium (South and North), Italy, Switzerland, Turkey) have been using the Taki software to organize their national keyboarding contests. If participation remains relatively equal, we shall see a substantial increase in the 2015 Turkish national contest.



We are also glad to welcome 2 additional countries using the Italian software and wish every success to:

- Croatia, and Marica Pirslin: a one-day-contest that takes place on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>;
- Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Nicole Gangolf who is organizing a contest in January/February in her country.

Best wishes, too, for an additional competition, organized for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Süleyman Demirel University in Isparta city, Turkey, involving around 130 students from for 65 universities within Turkey.

Georgette Sante  
Jury president

**Speed-Typing Luxembourg**  
**Edition 2016**  
Concours interscolaire de saisie rapide en ligne

Tu es un(e) des meilleur(e)s étudiant(e)s en saisie rapide de ta classe ?

**Participe !**

du 11 janvier 2016 au 19 février 2016

**Saisis 3 textes !**  
français 10 minutes  
anglais 10 minutes  
allemand 10 minutes

fruits de participation: 5 € par personne

**Diplôme accordé**  
octroyé pour les futures demandes de stage ou d'emploi

**Du 1er décembre 2015 au 10 janvier 2016**  
après du travail de ta classe

## Echoes of our 50th congress

### "Intersteno zwischen Gulash und Csardas"

This is the beginning of a very interesting three pages report released on 'Der Schweizer Stenograf' i.e. The Swiss Stenographer, by Erich Werner, the well known Swiss representative at Intersteno.



Written in a very attractive style, with a good mixture of personal impressions and technical comments, Mr Werner is

able to create a vivid landscape of our memorable Congress also for persons who where not able to attend.

He was also taking part in competitions with good results and also on this matter he is commenting with vivid humor.

It's the first time that a such wide report is released on this Swiss magazine, and the hope is that several Swiss participants and competitors will be motivated to attend the next Congress in Berlin.

Another report, also in German Language, was released by Mr Werner for the review Il Punto, of the Swiss Association 'Veloscrittura' which is headed by Mr Mauro Panzera. This association represents Intersteno in Switzerland.

This article, after recalling the history of Intersteno Congresses which were organized by Swiss people, contains detailed information about several events of our Congress but also very keen comments about several competitions. Also this article is written in a vivid style and is worth reading for whom knows the German language and can be read at this link: <http://veloscrittura.info/media/Punto/II%20Punto%202-2015.pdf>



50. Internationaler INTERSTENO-Kongress Budapest 2015

Wer die Wiederholung bestimmter Konstellationen am Sternenhimmel erleben will, muss sich unter Umständen eines langen Lebens erfreuen können. Gleich ergötzt es jenen, die Zeugen von Jubiläumskongressen der INTERSTENO-Föderation sein wollen.

eines Marksteins in der Geschichte von Intersteno - kein ganz riskoloses Unterfangen! Die Feuerstufe ist gelungen. Nicht zuletzt dank dem grossartigen Einsatz von Anita Dobos und Aliz Czuczor von der ungarischen Landesgruppe, die sich für alle Belange einspannen liessen, die Orts- und

Gian Paolo Trivulzio

## Intersteno Communication Project

The Scientific Committee is stronger and more active than ever thanks to the enthusiasm of the Intersteno President Fausto Ramondelli who is actively participating in our activities, and thanks also to the presence of 5 new members: Franca Orletti (Italy), Linda Drake (USA), Sergio Salinas (Argentina), Eero Voutilainen (Finland), and Monika Disser (Germany).



After the meeting in Budapest, the Scientific Committee has continued working on the priorities agreed: set of competencies, language comparison, recognition of shorthand as UNESCO masterpiece and creation of the International Shorthand Archive. Among the projects that were proposed, that concerning Intersteno communication deserves particular attention here because it potentially involves all delegations.

The main aim of the project is to create guideline that will ease international professional communication by exploiting the potential of the studies on Plain Language and Automatic Translation. Basically, the Scientific Committee intends to enhance the use of Google Translate in combination with the use of “plain language” to produce comprehensible texts even after automatic translation.

Plain Language is the reformulation of a language in order to make it clear, brief, and understandable, so as to avoid syntactically complex and semantically ambiguous structures, typical of professional communication. However, Plain Language can be applied to any types of text.

An experiment was carried out during the Budapest Conference thanks to the assistance of Stenotype. There, velotypist Wim Gerbecks captioned the speeches from English into English. The captions were then sent by a Velotype application to Google Translate that automatically translated the captions into 9 target languages that were then sent back to the Velotype application, allowing participants to read the captions into their language.

A BA thesis (supervisor Dr. Carlo Eugeni) is currently working in Pisa, Italy, to analyze the French and Italian automatic translations. By June 2016, his student (Illenia Manetti) will have established which grammar structures are comprehensibly translated, automatically, in French and Italian and which are not. Thanks to the research on “plain language”, Ms. Manetti will then develop a set of strategies that will allow the production of text in one language (in this case English) to be automatically translated into other languages (French and Italian) resulting in a comprehensible text, thus avoiding all the possible problems that each of us has experienced with Google Translate. All those who wish to make a contribution using the same project for other languages can contact Carlo Eugeni ([carloeugeni@gmail.com](mailto:carloeugeni@gmail.com)) to receive more details about the project structure.

Carlo Eugeni

## The Academy rewrites Dante's Paradise - Shorthand meets Florence and seals it with "letters maim'd"

On the occasion of the 750th anniversary of Dante's death, an ortho-/calli-/steno-graphic exposition will be organized during the next Annual General Assembly of the Italian Academy of Multimedia Writing and Communication - "Giuseppe Aliprandi - Flaviano Rodriguez" - to be held on February , Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th, 2016, in Florence.

The Academy calls for transcriptions in stenographic symbols of the description of Florence to be found in the 15th Canto of Dante's Paradise (lines corresponding to the 97-102 of the original version\*). Authors can choose the stenographic system they wish and can transcribe whatever version they wish.



The text is to be signed by the author(s) and sent by February

20th, 2016 to the Academy's postal or email address to be found below. Authors are also invited to provide information about time, place, translation, and stenographic system used for transcription. The Academy will thank participants with a Certificate of Attendance.

Texts will be displayed in the premises of the Academy, which is based in Dante's city of Florence. After the exposition texts will be sent to the City's Town Hall.

Postal address:

Accademia "Aliprandi - Rodriguez"

Via Ricasoli, 22

50122 Firenze – Italy

Email address: [c.rodriquez@idi-formazione.it](mailto:c.rodriquez@idi-formazione.it)

(\*) To help contributors, who can choose the version they choose, here is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's translation of the lines to be written in shorthand:

*"Florence, within the ancient boundary/From which she taketh still her tierce and nones,/ Abode in quiet, temperate and chaste.//No golden chain she had, nor coronal,/Nor ladies shod with sandal shoon, nor girdle/That caught the eye more than the person did."*

Carlo Eugeni

## Report of the IPRS Steering Committee

In the next two years, IPRS will have workshops and events in Zagreb and Berlin. Of course, this is new information, but we think that the results of our long-term planning sessions will pleasantly surprise you.

We will not “show our hand” in this report, but we will give a little insight to what’s in store for those who attend our meetings. The topics for our seminars will take into account many factors, to include: demographics, language diversity, sustainable employability, and the importance of ongoing information exchange.

Let us pique your interest ... Grammar! Tours! Host country navigation – city and language! Wellness! Demonstrations! (We add the exclamation points to emphasize our enthusiasm.)

As always, let us take a moment to remind and invite each of you to suggest topics of interest, to present a workshop/information session, and/or facilitate an examination of an issue pertinent to your specific situation. One of our goals is that the hours we spend together in continuing education and social hours build the camaraderie and friendships that bring us back for more!

And what a perfect segue to our standing invitation: as an attendee of Intersteno/IPRS meetings, you are automatically a member of the IPRS Social Club. Each year, the program will identify the time and place for the Social Club. We cordially invite you to attend to enjoy the cocktails and reconnect with colleagues and friends.

When you read our report, we will have celebrated the incoming of the New Year. We extend our best wishes to you all for a healthy, safe and happy 2016!



[Patti Calabro](#)



## TOP 09 - political reporting in Czech Republic

The Vice-President of Interinfo Czech Republic, Jaroslav Polacek, is a member of the Czech political party TOP 09. He has been involved in party Congresses for several years and has enabled the text of proceedings to be placed online. He has also been involved in the Czech version of the writing voice. We have asked him to tell us about his experiences in this respect. .



Since its establishment, TOP 09 has always offered a high quality service for journalists and members of the party or its supporters by providing video, online broadcasting and fast transcription of virtually everything that has been said. This information is used not only by the general public (on our websites or social networks) but by the professionals – journalists and analysts, who get speedy delivery of material for their work. In the last six years a whole range of procedures have been applied. This article deals with our experience of employing voice (or speech) recognition and transcription using the unique ZAV method.

Since the establishment of the TOP 09 convention at the end of November 2009, two technologies for record and information processing have been used. A typical audio record, which was simultaneously streamed on the internet, was created containing the record of speeches (in MP3 format), which served mainly for the transcription. Later, it was used for checking and proofreading the text, because two writers were able to catch most of the information in the real time. There were only two exceptions – speeches of the very fast speakers or these who did not deliver at least the outline of the speech before it was delivered.

In 2013 new technologies were deployed. Thanks to the spread of YouTube services it was possible not only to broadcast online, but to be able to return to a time in the broadcasting itself. This function replaced special MP3 records. The streaming is still backed by the second audio record, but it is done only for unexpected technical failures. We also started to use the technology for speech recording in 2013. It was backed by a numerous amount of writers – about 8 persons. These writers were processing text written by computer; they have to correct it and make the necessary stylistic changes. The original plan was to use four teams of two. When we launched the system, we found these disadvantages:

- 1) The record created by computer is available only after it is completely finished. Consequently the situation occurred when writers were waiting ten or more minutes until the speech was delivered. It could probably be solved by using further techniques, which would raise the cost of the transcription.
- 2) Many errors. The participants at the convention are not – for the most part – professional. The large amount of mistakes in the record made such a huge requirement on writers that it would be easier to re-write the complete text again.

So the voice recording systems were begun during the convention because of the circumstances described above causing a huge delay in the information processing. That was a big handicap, mainly in respect of professional use. The system of working was changed and

record was increased.

Two years later, based on the experience of 2013, a team of three writers was using the ZAV technology. The input data were provided by the TOP 09 YouTube channel. The offer of data processing from places other than the convention was considered, but not accepted due to random failure of the internet on the ZAV workplace. However, I am convinced that we will use it in future.

A combination of ten writers together with a differentiation of the roles within quite small team led to lower time losses. In 2015 there also was no need for special equipment but stable high speed internet was a necessity. For example: the hardest speech to transcribe was an eight minutes emotional speech. Despite the high speed at which it was delivered it was fully transcribed and ready for publishing twenty minutes after the speaker finished.

I would like to explain that – due to the huge pressure from the media for speedy results – TOP 09 is publishing the transcripts without proofreading and then (in tens of minutes) is publishing the proofread version of the text. A similar system is used in the Chamber of Deputies. In this case I am speaking about the final version of the text after corrections.

One of the reasons for the quality of the results was the professionals in the ZAV team. Not every group of writers can contain world champions or world vice champions. The ability to utilise several methods for recording and transcribing allowed the organizers of this event to define two conclusions:

- 1) For the Czech language and non-professional speakers the most advantageous method from a price point of view is to use all ten writer who also handle the Czech spelling.
- 2) The development of technologies is changing and making the whole process of transcription cheaper. It enables operators to work

Jaroslav Poláček



## ZAV in the business-school Olomouc

The traditional international ZAV competition for young people (upper secondary school examination) took place from 5th to 7th November. This was the 20th anniversary of this competition, which attracted almost 70 students from the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. During the two days participants could take part in four events – ZAV training and three disciplines of text production with penalties of 10, 50 and 100 points per mistake.



ZAV Olomouc - family foto

The winner in the training category was Jonáš Vala (Gymnázium Rožnov pod Radhoštěm) – with 548 strokes per minute. The winner of the main competition (the sum of all three competitions) was Klára Odehnalová (Slezské gymnázium Opava), whose speed was almost 600 strokes per minute. Second place went to Vojtěch Kucza (Obchodní akademie Český Těšín) and third place to Michal Rak (OA Valašské Meziříčí). All were successful participants in the Budapest world championships of 2015.



ZAV Olomouc - the best team  
Valašské Meziříčí

Very good results were achieved by our guests from Hungary: 7th place went to Enikő Szakos and 12th place to Mónika Domján.

In addition to the competitions participants were able to admire the historic city, Olomouc, with guided sight-seeing, a welcome in the city hall and a visit to the Zoo as well as a musical event.

We are looking forward to seeing all our young, talented participants at the beginning of November 2016!

ZAVis



ZAV Olomouc - individual winner



ZAV Olomouc - Hungarian team

*Interinfo CZ and School ZAV jointly organized the official 23th Czech championship in keyboarding and text processing in mid December 2015. The event was held in the north Moravian city of Litovel in primary schools in the Vítězná area. The schools are very helpful and have excellent spaces. There is a big hall in which all the competitions are held. There were 55 competitors and 15 teachers.*

*The competition's regulations are the same as those for the INTERSTENO World Championship and Competition, except for the fact that we calculate combinations in a different way (using the Olympic classification).*

*On the first day we held the two competitions that involve a large amount of evaluation: wordprocessing and note taking and reporting. We differentiate all three age categories (pupils, juniors and seniors). The best work in wordprocessing was by pupil Martina Ivanova. The winner in note taking and reporting was Petr Hais. Pupil Tereza Tomanová was best in the speech capturing competition while Petr Hais was the winner in text correction's and audio transcription. The best in text production was Karin Cieslarová. All these names are to be found in the world championships lists.*

*In the combinations competiton Klára Odehnalová was the best pupil. The best junior was Karolína Foukalová and the best senior Petr Hais.*



## New participation record to Turkish National Internet Contest

24.01.2016



Since the participation record of latest (10th) competition, Turkish Internet Keyboarding Competition got a new participation record again for the participation to the 11th Turkish Internet Keyboarding Competition on 2016.

At the beginning of every year it is organized by Intersteno-Türk with the participation of college, high school, elementary and even primary school students from all around Turkey, as well as interested individual seniors. Year by year it is getting more popular and more attractive by college and high school students and also especially by young professionals of court reporters from all around the country.

This year the competition was organized between 4th - 22nd January 2016 with an exceptional participation, totally 845 persons from 163 schools and from 54 cities - a new national record.

The names of Turkish champions in each categories shown as below.

Mother Tongue: Onur Demirbaş (364wpm - Pupils), İlyas Pamukçu (595wpm - Students), Kerem Yaprak (595wpm - Juniors), Celal Aşkın (774wpm - Seniors).

Multilingual: Ahmet Yasin Akmeşe (16 languages - Pupils), İlyas Pamukçu (14 languages - Students), Mehmet Kurt (15 languages - Juniors), Celal Aşkın (16 languages, Seniors).

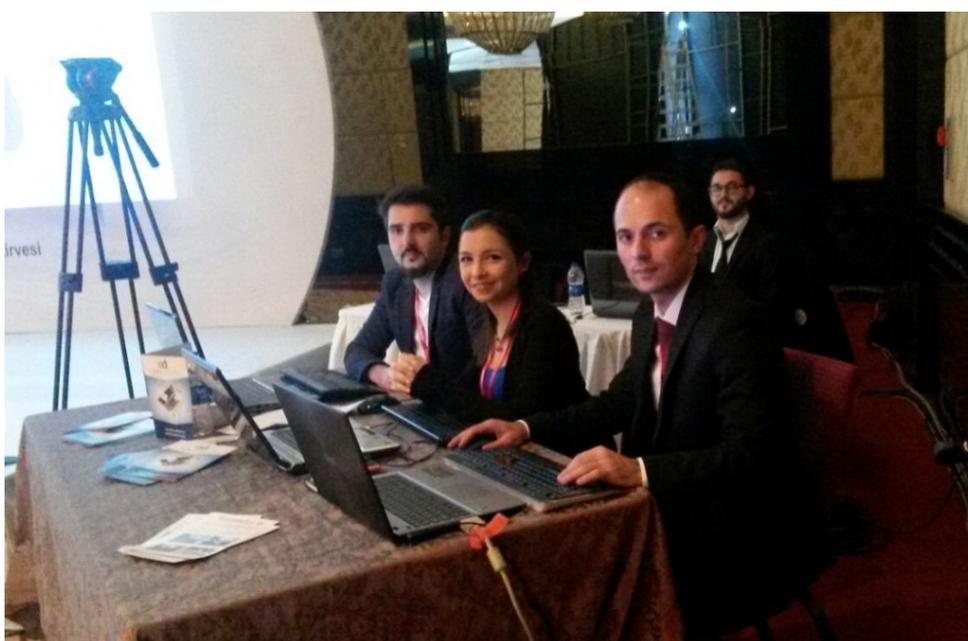
[Emrah Kuyumcu](#)

## Intersteno Turkish group attended the summit of education technologies



On 5th December 2015, the Turkish Ministry of Education organized the 2015 Summit of the Education Technologies in Ankara, consisting of presentations describing a number of projects, new technologies and professional tools in operation in Turkey. The Turkish Intersteno group was invited to make a presentation concerning the teaching of typing and activities the of Intersteno, with special reference to the launching of cooperation in new projects.

The Turkish group was represented at the summit by a large group of 29 persons including students, competitors and teachers led by Seçkin Köse, Intersteno Turkish Council Member.



For the first time formal speeches at the opening ceremony were live captioned and displayed on the main screen. The speeches of Nabi Avcı minister of education, Bram Bout, education director of Google and the remaining formal speeches were live captioned and transcribed by Celal Aşkın, Hakan Kurt, Emrah Kuyumcu, Arif Altuntaş and Ezgi Aktürk who each are very best of the Turkish Group and world champions.

In the exhibition area of the summit many young Turkish competitors and teachers gave presentation and live demonstrations of typing. Our very young competitors, Zehra Taşkale, İlyas Pamukçu, Mehmet Kurt, Ahmet Yasin Akmeşe, Onur Demirbaş, Efe Abdullah Taner and Mete Özen attended throughout the day at the exhibition stand.

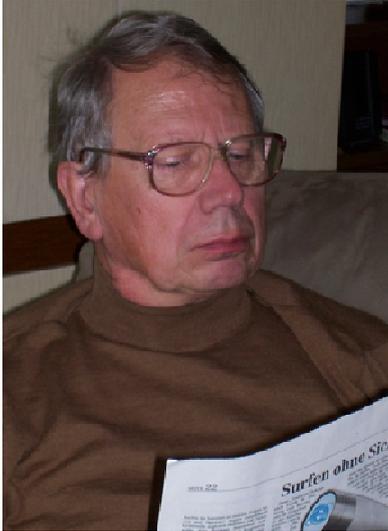
Emrah Kuyumcu



Nabi Avcı, minister of education, visited the event and congratulated the group.

## Deaths in the German Intersteno community

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### **Manfred Kehrer**

29th May 1936 (Erzgebirge) - † 6th January 2016 (Leipzig)

Manfred Kehrer was a shorthand legend not only in Germany but among the Intersteno family. Since his first world championship in Wiesbaden, in 1961, he participated in all but two Intersteno congresses up to the Prague congress in 2007 -20 congresses in total. He was four times world champion in the multilingual speech-capturing contest. Manfred wrote shorthand in eleven languages (German, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Russian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Interlingua, Italian, English, Dutch). In German, he wrote at more than 500 syllables per minute.

His mother was a shorthand teacher who ran private shorthand courses. As a result he entered his first competition when he was only 15 years old. Manfred worked freelance as a negotiating stenographer. Although this work frequently claimed him, he still found time to participate in competitions.

Manfred founded the stenographers' association "Leipzig 1990 e.V.", and was chairman since 1994.



### **Joseph Buschina**

† 14th December 2015

Joseph Buschina was an exceptional typewriting teacher. Thanks to his coaching many typists achieved national and world championship titles.

He was the father of the Brussels 1991 champion - Nicole Buschina, who succeeded on a electronic machine reaching a speed of 765 cpm and an accuracy rate of 0,061 %. She was later able to reach a higher speed of 813 cpm during the half-hour speed typing competition in Bad Neuenahr.

*Many thanks to Peter Walker for linguistic revision, and to Daniela Bertolini for the layout.*

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