



Table of contents

| | |
|---|----|
| ■ President's message | 3 |
| ■ Slovak Fast Fingers 2022 | 4 |
| ■ Jonáš Vala set a new ZAV-100 record of 955.9 strokes | 6 |
| ■ 140th anniversary of Croatian Shorthand Association | 7 |
| ■ Interview with Anneke Faaij, chair of the Dutch country group | 9 |
| ■ New faces from Hungary | 12 |
| ■ Activities of the Parliament of Córdoba | 14 |
| ■ UNATAQ Meeting | 15 |
| ■ Night of the museums | 15 |
| ■ Conversation Meeting – Portugal | 16 |
| ■ Meeting with NCU | 16 |
| ■ ZAV-100 Contest participation | 17 |

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President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

I look back with gratitude on 2022, when the conference took place in Maastricht. No one could ever have imagined that what was ordinary, a biennial congress, was now so special. And now there were three years in between. The pandemic has changed our lives forever, and not just negatively. We all experience the benefits of online meetings. Maastricht, however, made it abundantly clear that Intersteno flourishes when we meet each other at competitions, meetings, excursions and when we can speak informally in the corridors.

At the council meeting in Maastricht, the Board promised to clarify the location of the next conference before the end of this year. The two options have been weighed against each other, with the result that the Board has decided that the congress in 2024 can best take place in Katowice (Poland). For 2026, the Board will investigate the proposal of Liverpool as next convention city.

I hope to be able to mention the dates for the Intersteno/IPRS meetings in Bordeaux in the next e-news.

The next e-news will appear at the end of March 2023. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar is the 15th of March, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

I wish you and your loved ones a happy new year and a good 2023!

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



Slovak Fast Fingers 2022

By Terézia Garaiová & Anna Škovierová (Interinfo Slovakia)

On 27 - 29 September 2022, the 3rd year of the national training camp in text processing Slovak Fast Fingers was held in the Bratislava Self-Governing Region's conference hall under the professional guarantee of Helena Zaviačičová and Jonáš Vala. Jaroslav Zaviačič supported the event online by preparing training instructions. The event was organized by the Nevädzová Business Academy Bratislava in partnership with Interinfo Slovakia, Interinfo Czech Republic, Internet School ZAV and the University of Economics Bratislava under the organizational leadership of Terézia Garaiová. It was attended by 35 of the most talented students from 11 secondary schools, mainly business academies, from all over Slovakia.



All participants at the end of the event

According to the Intersteno regulations, participants improved in Text Production, Audio Transcription and Speech Capturing. The innovative ZAV-JURY application was used to evaluate the works, which ensured very fast collection of works from students, as well as operative evaluation. Both pupils and teachers appreciated the quick feedback with the results of the different disciplines.

The data collection was also broadcast on a projection screen, where the actual collection as well as the results after processing were watched. This solution made the training camp more efficient, and the time saved (previously data was collected from a USB stick) was used for training activities with the pupils. We must mention that ZAV-JURY is also used by teachers in daily practice when teaching typing, and the software makes the teaching process much more efficient. As well as students improved their skills, teachers shared their knowledge and shared new inspiration for teaching in schools.

The winner of the camp was the current Slovak champion Tomáš Greguš from the Business Academy Nevädzová 3, Bratislava, the 2nd place was defended by Markéta Vinklerová from the Business Academy Senica, and the 3rd place was defended by Matúš Ušiak from the Business Academy Nevädzová 3, Bratislava. Although not all of them could become winners, it was a victory for everyone that they got to the national training camp. The efforts of all participating students as well as their teachers were awarded by the Bratislava Self-Governing Region with souvenirs. By the way, the Bratislava Self-Governing Region under the leadership of Juraj Droba also financially supported the trip to the Intersteno competition in Maastricht for Tomáš Greguš and his teacher Terézia Garaiová.



All the teachers who accompanied the students and learned a lot of new things



Terézia Garaiová, main organizer, and her student, Matúš Ušiak



The school director presented the medal to the winner Matúš Ušiak

Jonáš Vala set a new ZAV-100 record of 955.9 strokes

By Helena Zaviačičová

On 5 and 10 December 2023, the international ZAV-100 competition took place for the fourth time. It was created in 2019 to celebrate two anniversaries - 20 years of the Czech national group Interinfo ČR and 80 years of its founder Jaroslav Zaviačič. Since then, the Czech national group has offered it in cooperation with Intersteno every year before Christmas. This year, 1,328 contestants from 11 countries participated (alphabetically) - Argentina, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey.

The medals for the previous two editions, 2020 and 2021, were given to the competitors in all four age categories at the ceremony in Maastricht on a boat cruise on the river Maas.

And how did the competition go this year?

As usual, each participant completed 25 one-minute Text Production in his/her chosen language, with 100 strokes penalization. Everyone started at the same time, and Intersteno's Facebook profile streamed the interim results, with the TOP 15 participants in each age category - children under 12, pupils (13-16), juniors (17-20) and seniors (21+).

Among the seniors, Erdi Çiller (Turkey) won with 865 strokes ahead of second place Andrea Farsi Aklaghi (Italy) and third place Tomáš Portych (Czech Republic).

In the juniors category, Jonáš Vala (Czech Republic) competed for the last time and set a new competition record of 955.9 strokes per minute. The second place was taken by Italian Massimiliano Polilli (649 strokes) and the third place was also taken by Italian Giovanni Sponti (607).

The pupils category was dominated by the excellent and still improving young competitor from Turkey Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu, who wrote 787 strokes. The second place also belonged to the Turkish competitor, Bağdagül Özkan wrote 661 strokes. The third Italian Simone Cerasa achieved a performance of 571 strokes.

Hasan Enes Özkan won among children under 12 with 473 strokes ahead of the Czech competitor Filip Kempný (412 strokes), and the third place went to the competitor from Poland Martyna Gwizdała.

Thanks to all the competitors for their participation and to the national groups for their support in creating the competition texts. We look forward to competing virtually again next year!



Helena Zaviačičová and Jonáš Vala during training

140th anniversary of Croatian Shorthand Association

By Andrea Wawrzynek

This year Croatian Shorthand Association celebrated its 140th anniversary. Throughout the year, we carried out activities to mark this anniversary.

The Croatian Shorthand Association in cooperation with the Administrative School Zagreb through the extracurricular activity Creative Fingers, financed by the Ministry of Science and Education, set up the exhibition in the Library of Vladimir Nazor.

With this exhibition, we wanted to bring shorthand and typing closer to all citizens and show their development through the centuries.

This year we also started the project "Ljetna Tipkaonica" (Summer typing school). The project was implemented in the summer months of 2022 and included:

- two free typing courses for elementary school students,
- two free training modules for teachers (typing as a predisposition for digital literacy).



Students learning how to type



students with teacher Mario Marković



Students of elementary school

In the historic area of the Old Town Hall on Upper Town in Zagreb, on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, a ceremonial academy was held on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the foundation and work of the Croatian Shorthand Association, which has been operating since its foundation on June 25, 1882.



Academy in City hall

Guided by numerous international awards and a wide range of professional activities, the patronage of the celebration of this jubilee was accepted by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Zoran Milanović and the Mayor of the City of Zagreb, Mr. Tomislav Tomašević, and the host of the celebration was Mr. Joško Klisović, President of the City Assembly of the City of Zagreb.

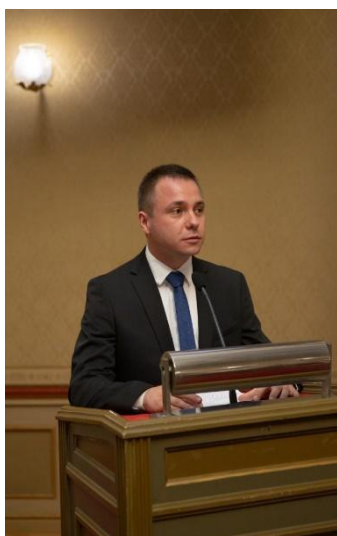
Along with numerous distinguished representatives of the public, political, scientific and cultural life of the Republic of Croatia and the City of Zagreb, as well as the representative of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Ms. Melita Mulić, the member of the Board of the Intersteno, Mr. Krystian Wawrzynek, attended and actively participated in this ceremony, for whom the President of the City Assembly of the City of Zagreb, Mr. Joško Klisović, hosted an official reception in his office before the academy itself.

Andrea Wawrzynek, president of the Association, gave a brief overview, along with an effective video presentation of the history, activities and perspectives of the Croatian Shorthand Society. The host of the formal academy, Mr. Joško Klisović, President of the City Assembly of the City of Zagreb, addressed the gathering, while the member of the Intersteno Board, Mr. Krystian Wawrzynek, gave a more detailed report on the Intersteno Federation and its activities, proudly emphasizing the role of the Croatian Shorthand Association and the Republic of Croatia among the active members of this world association. The representative of the President of the Republic of Croatia for human rights and civil society, Ms. Melita Mulić, also addressed the guests.

At the academy, by decision of the Assembly of the Croatian Shorthand Association the most prominent, most deserving, and most loyal members of the Association - Ms. Katarina Korenić, Ms. Vjera Adam, Ms. Zdravka Barac, Ms. Božena Dagelić and Mr. Slavko Adam - were awarded with the golden plaques for many years of dedicated work and contribution to the work and activities of the Croatian Shorthand Association.



President of the City Assembly Mr. Joško Klisović, Intersteno Board member Mr. Krystian Wawrzynek and President of Croatian Shorthand Association Ms. Andrea Wawrzynek



Intersteno Board member Mr. Krystian Wawrzynek



Ms. Katarina Korenić receives the golden plaque of the Croatian Shorthand Association



Mr. Slavko Adam receives the golden plaque of the Croatian Shorthand Association

Interview with Anneke Faaij, chair of the Dutch country group

By Marlene Rijkse

'Interinfo is the Dutch country group of the International Federation Intersteno. Intersteno is one of the oldest international professional associations. It was founded in 1887 as an international collaboration for shorthand and machine writing. In the meantime, it has developed into an international forum for all those who work professionally with spoken and written texts in business and education, as well as in parliaments and other representative bodies, or who are otherwise involved in information processing and communication. Due to the rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT), the working area of the professionals in the target group is constantly expanding. For that reason, the organization has been called the International Federation for Information Processing Intersteno for years now and several country groups have replaced the acronym "Intersteno" with "Interinfo" in their own names.'

(text: website <https://www.interinfo.nl/>).



During the third meeting of Interinfo in 2022 on October 27, in which some members also participated in the meeting from home, a new board was elected.

Anneke, you have been chairman of Interinfo, the Dutch country group of Intersteno, since October 27. What do you do in daily life and what is the background of the new or re-elected board members of Interinfo?

I am a team leader at the Reporting Division of the Dutch Parliament. The members of my team provide support to our parliamentary reporters. They make sure high quality audio is available and computer software runs smoothly. Before becoming a team leader, I was a parliamentary reporter for over 20 years.

Joeke Spierings is a new elected board member. She is owner of Spierings Opleidingen and works as a trainer in typing and typing education.

Gea Duister is re-elected as a board member. She works as a writing interpreter for the hearing impaired.

How many participants does Interinfo have? Is that a sufficient number to maintain Interinfo?

The member count of Interinfo has dropped throughout the past few years. At this moment, we have less than 30 members and only a handful of them are willing and able to actively participate in maintaining Interinfo. Still, the new members of the board, including me, recognize the importance of a healthy platform for reporters and text and information specialists. We want to make an ultimate effort in keeping Interinfo alive and relevant.

What are Interinfo's regular activities?

As a result of the Covid 19-outbreak, Interinfo activities were reduced to a minimum. In January the board will present a list of activities to the members of Interinfo. Hopefully this will lead to concrete decisions about events in 2023. Also preparations have been made for the Dutch Championships in Speed Typing, scheduled for April. And we are working very hard on renewing the website of Interinfo, to make it a more attractive and accessible source of information for our members and other people who are affiliated with text production.

What plans does the new board intend to carry out?

The list of proposals will be discussed in the members' consultation in January. The board would like to organize lectures, workshops and talks from professionals in the field of text editing and text production. The board is also looking at the possibilities of a newsletter and network meetings. In this respect, the board is looking forward to the response and advice of the members in January.

You attended the Intersteno conference in Maastricht. Was this your first conference?

No, I have been to the conference in Paris years ago, but liked this one in Maastricht much more. In my recollection, in Paris there were fewer presentations than there were in Maastricht. In Maastricht, I especially enjoyed the Diamesic conference on Thursday.

What were the highlights of the conference for you?

Again, the Diamesic conference. But I also enjoyed the visit to the Provinciehuis, and of course the beautiful city of Maastricht, especially the opening ceremony on the boat. And I found the prize-giving ceremony heart warming: the winners being so proud and all participants so enthusiastic. Very special.

Are there any topics that Interinfo will tackle as a result of the conference?

Foremost, Interinfo will try to keep the connection with Intersteno and the Intersteno friends alive. That international dimension is too important to neglect. Specifically, there will probably be a growing interest in live-captioning and speech recognition as a tool in text production.

In which city do you hope the next convention will take place (Liverpool or Katowice)? Why?

Interesting question! I am happy not having to make this decision. Both countries had a strong presentation on the Intersteno conference in Maastricht. Katowice seemed to me especially appealing because of the psysical activities that were presented: hiking, mountain biking. But Liverpool of course has a strong history and beautiful venues. I can honestly say that I have no preference.

Are there any topics about which you would like to have contact with other country groups in the meantime? If yes which one?

In Maastricht I had interesting talks with the delegate from British Columbia about my field of expertise: the control and support division. It would be exciting to see how a country like Finland has changed its support division, after having introduced speech recognition in its work process. Also, Germany has a magnificent multimedia platform. I wouldn't mind visiting Berlin sometime to see how the different information streams come together on this platform.

What would you like to focus on at the Intersteno/IPRS meeting in Bordeaux in 2023?

It will be exciting to experience if parliaments and reporters have made further advances in working hybrid, from the home and at the office. If so, it would be nice to focus on the consequences of this (if any) for the quality of our work and the necessities of doing our work.

Anneke, I wish you every success in your new position!



Handing over financial documents to Joeke Spierings



Transfer of gavel from Bernhard Boot to Anneke Faaij



New board members and some members of Interinfo in the meeting room of the Dutch parliament



f.l.t.r.: Bernhard Boot, Joke Boot, Marlene Rijkse, Gea Duister, Joke Bakker, Joeke Spierings and Anneke Faaij



New faces from Hungary

By Bernadett Berencsi and Anita Dobos

Our Association (Magyar Gyorsírók és Gépírók Országos Szövetsége; MAGYOSZ) organized a national championship in November for SC, TP, TC, NT, AT.

Some young talents also took part in this competition, who achieved really excellent results.

Luca Georgina Fehér (from Fáy András Görögkatolikus Technikum és Szakgimnázium) got 1st place by SC and Bernadett Juhász (from the same school) have 2nd place by SC. Both competitors are from Miskolc (a city in Northern Hungary); their teacher is Katalin Skernyókné Jeddi.

The very talented competitor, Balázs Orosz, also came from this school in Miskolc. He got place in TC competition! His teacher is Judit Oroszné Karmanoczki.

By NT Csongor Lénárt won the gold medal. Unfortunately, he became ill, so he could not receive the gold medal. His teacher is the same Ildikó Krizbai who was Marcell Muhel's trainer for the world championships in Maastricht. Hopefully, Ildikó's new student will also achieve great success in the NT at Intersteno congress too.

Their goal in the future is to participate in as many competitions as possible. They are really persistent in their objectives. We are sure there will be lots of practice too.

Of course, our competitors with a great routine and a lot of experience also took part in the Hungarian championship.

Melanie Horvát and Katalin Székely – both also participated at the Maastricht congress – won medals. Krisztina Kollárikné Terjéki and Tamás Tanai – who unfortunately could not be there in Maastricht but hopefully they will be there at the next world championships – got 1st places in several categories.

It was a great honor for us that Pál Ökrös, who previously represented Luxembourg at Intersteno, became a member of MAGYOSZ, so in the future he will participate at Intersteno congresses as a member of the Hungarian team.

We hope our new competitors will continue to achieve good results at Intersteno congresses and world championships as well.

Good luck, everyone, in Liverpool or Katowice too...

*Balázs Orosz**Katalin Székely and Krisztina Kollárikné Terjéki**Melanie is really good competitor**New competitors with Tamás**Detti, Tamás, Anita with Pál Ökrös*

Activities of the parliament of Córdoba

By Victor Gonzalez

The Parliament of the Province of Córdoba is currently chaired by our vice-governor, accountant Manuel Calvo. Together with the legislative secretary, Guillermo Arias; the secretary of operational coordination and commissions, Juan Manuel Gallo, and the technical secretary, Gabriel Roberi, they have been carrying out the Open Parliament Plan, which means an open state, whose core axes are innovation, transparency and the link with the citizenry.

In terms of innovation, it basically refers to an improvement in all the processes through a digital legislative management system.

Moreover, regarding transparency, the different parliaments of Latin America have been working to measure the efforts through the Latin American Transparency Index. For this reason, in the provincial and municipal parliaments, the government's information must be available to citizens, thus highlighting one of the fundamental attributes of the information, which must be timely, that is, accessible when needed. In addition, information must be available in a proactive way.

Likewise, the organization feature is being analyzed, giving great importance to social networks, which allows greater interaction with citizens.

The information is presented in a different format today and is available through audiovisual reports as well as the traditional written format through stenographic versions.

And finally, the third axis refers to the relationship with the citizens, which is an opening process. For example, in the different parliamentary meetings, about 800 people have participated in the last two and a half years, and approximately 400 of them had nothing to do with the state. Likewise, roundtables are held with the Culture Agency, the Deliberative Council, as well as forums.

In summary, this paradigm shift means opening the Legislature, with a concept of an open State.

Under this scheme, stenographers have experienced an increase in our services due to the increase in commission meetings. Since this process began, there have been 600 meetings, approximately 250 meetings per year. At the same time, in our stenographers' office there was a decrease in the staff, mainly due to the retirement of different co-workers. Therefore, the Córdoba Legislature Stenographers Office has the great challenge of training new applicants.



Legislature of the Province of Córdoba

UNATAQ Meeting

On November 11, 2022, the National Meeting of Parliamentary and Judicial Stenography of UNATAQ - National Union of Stenographers of Brazil- was held in Recife, Brazil, and the AATP participated remotely through Zoom. It was an important meeting where our Association was able to present some news and information about the activities that we have been carrying out, for example, an agreement with the National University of Córdoba as well as the participation of the AATP in the last Congress of Intersteno in Maastricht.



Night of the museums

The Night of the Museums was an activity held in the city of Córdoba, and the Provincial Parliament is one of the institutions that actively participates. This activity is a great opportunity to make our profession more noticeable and to show what we do from our area. People of different ages are interested in our profession.



Night of the Museums in the Parliament of Córdoba

Conversation Meeting – Portugal

On December 6, 2022, the AATP organized, together with Paulo Granja, a colleague from the Portuguese Parliament, the meeting "AATP: Conversation between Parliamentary Stenographers/Writers from Argentina and Portugal, News and Perspectives" through the Zoom platform, where we addressed different topics and current issues related to the profession. We exchanged experiences in the different parliamentary spheres. The meeting was very fruitful and interesting, and we had the participation of colleagues from Portugal, Chile and Brazil.



Portuguese Parliament

Meeting with NCU

The AATP participated in the meeting "Audio Description Experiences", carried out by the National University of Córdoba in the framework of the "Disability Week: Inclusion, Rights and Challenges", organized by the Office of Educational Inclusion for People with Disabilities, Office of Social Inclusion, Secretary of University Well-being and Modernization.

The AATP, through a team of volunteers that carry out the agreement with the University, has collaborated with the subtitling of the film "Cien Cuadras de Noche", where we shared a space for exchange and dialogue about accessibility and the challenges it entails. It was very nice to share the results of our work with the direct users, deaf and blind students who help us improve and understand their needs.



Exchange of experiences at the National University of Córdoba

ZAV-100 Contest participation

The AATP congratulates the participants of the ZAV-100 Contest, the students Melani Nicole Curcio and Cleveni Celeste Armas Bravo, who have been joining for some years. Our thanks for their enthusiasm and effort.

