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President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

Last July we had an excellent congress in Liverpool. This e-newsletter focuses nearly entirely on the congress: the Jury President has delivered her well-known report on the competition results, the organizer of the Team Relay Typing Challenge looks back on the first-ever informal competition between country groups, and finally, our editor shares her own impressions of the congress.

Those who attended can relive the memories, and those who didn't get a good overview of all the activities through this e-newsletter.

I'd like to draw special attention to the interview with our new Board member. She introduces herself by answering a few questions.

I hope you enjoy reading!

The next e-news will appear in Januari 2027. The deadline for submitting articles is at the end of December, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



From Jury's desk

By Georgette Sante, Jury President

The competition venue

An entire basement level was reserved exclusively for the competition, providing competitors with a quiet environment free from any disturbance caused by outside noise.



- There was no need to bring our boxes of electrical cables: all electrical installations were entirely provided and managed by the Adelphi Hotel.
- No computer had to be specifically allocated to the projection of instructions: A service provider completely managed this task.
- Infrared transmission system foreseen for the dictation

However, unlike at previous congresses and contrary to the instructions sent to competitors, the service provider chose to supply headphones that were already preconfigured to a specific channel for each language. Fortunately, the rear section of the hall included a counter area that allowed the organizing team to set up clearly identified distribution points and jury assistants were explaining this new procedure. Despite these precautions, some competitors inadvertently selected headphones intended for a different language or attempted to change the preset channel. Although such incidents remained limited, it is unfortunate that this procedure was not communicated earlier, to avoid unnecessary stress just before the competition.

- To ensure optimal comfort for the competitors, the organizing team rented tables and specially selected height-adjustable chairs.



The figures of our 2026-world championships

- **352** congress participants, **151** registered competitors, and ultimately **133** contestants
Despite the hotel's prestige, rich history, and particularly warm and festive atmosphere, which attracted approximately the same number of congress participants as in Katowice, the number of competitors was about 20% lower. This difference increases to 28% when the nearly 10% of registered competitors who either did not show up or ultimately did not take part in the competition are considered.
- **88** medals: 30 gold, 28 silver, 30 bronze.
At first glance, it might seem that nearly half of the competitors receive a medal, but this is not the case. Many participants enter several competitions, and some demonstrate exceptional proficiency across multiple disciplines.
This year, only four competitors, all from the Czech Republic, succeeded in ranking in all seven competitions, some of them also reaching the podium on several occasions.
However, the undisputed 2026-champion is the remarkably talented young **Filip Kempný** (Czech Rep.). Although he competed in only six of the seven events, he won six medals, including four gold, and earned a seventh gold medal in recognition of his multi-disciplinary excellence.
Nevertheless, all of them deserve our warmest congratulations, since performing efficiently across the seven disciplines represents a hugely impressive accomplishment.
To discover the Combined Winners and explore the full rankings, please visit our website, where all results are published: *2026 Intersteno World Championships Rankings*.



Competitions and technologies

- **TP** - Text Production remains the most popular competition, with 112 competitors. However, despite recording the highest success rate, it also seems to be facing a gradual decline in interest.

Competition	Competitors
Text Production	112
Audio Transcription	80
Text Correction	69
Speech Capturing	75
Real Time	64
Word Processing	34
Note Taking	40
	474



The well-known
Czech duo,
efficient as always
Helena Zaviačičová
&
Zdeňka Kundrátková

As you can see, jury leaders and jury assistants carry a substantial workload in evaluating the sizeable number of entries, particularly as all assessments must be completed within an extremely limited timeframe, although their work is supported by the ZAV software and Emendo. Furthermore, while the Professional Word Processing and Note Taking and Summary contests are held on Saturday, these two competitions still require a largely manual evaluation process.

Interinfo CZ provides access to its ZAV server for the upload and download of competition entries. Throughout the competitions, Helena Zaviačičová and Zdeňka Kundrátková closely monitor the process and verify that every entry has been successfully received before authorizing competitors to leave the competition hall.

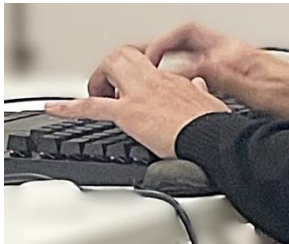
- **TP** – Text production also achieved the highest success rate among all the competitions.

Success rates	
Text Production	89%
Speech Capturing	88%
Note Taking	80%
Text Correction	71%
Real Time	56%
Word Processing	47%
Audio Transcription	46%



- The **standard keyboard** continues to prevail as the primary technology, mainly for Text Production.

Technology	TP	AT	SC	RT	NT
Standard Keyboard	94	72	26	31	24
Chord keyboard	18	7	31	31	12
Voice Writing	0	1	0	2	0
Graphic	x	x	18	0	4
	112	80	75	64	40



- **Chord keyboards** are mainly used during the speech capturing contests.

In text production, apart from the Chinese competitors, who are classified separately because their language does not use the Latin alphabet, only a small number of participants are using chorded keyboards. Most of them compete in Korean and English. But we are also pleased to regularly welcome two familiar faces at our congresses: Ms. **Daniela Busalacchi**, competing in Italian and Mr. **Wim Gerbecks**, competing in Dutch with his unique Velotype keyboard.

Moreover, this year, we are particularly pleased to highlight the remarkable achievement of a new competitor in the English-language: Mr. **Euan Williams** (United Kingdom): reaching 1022.13 gross characters per minute, he set the highest score ever achieved with a chorded keyboard.

Some observers have referred to this performance as a world record. However, focusing solely on gross characters per minute runs counter to Intersteno's quality standards. In text production, our rankings are based not only on a 30-minute typing test, but also on the **net result**, rather than on gross speed. Accuracy remains a fundamental principle and a key objective; consequently, a 100-point penalty is deducted for each uncorrected error. With 25,064 points and an error rate of just 0.183%, Mr. Euan Williams achieved a net speed of **835.47 cpm**, which did not surpass the record of 928 net cpm set by Helena Zaviačičová in 2003.

Korea mainly competes using chord keyboards.



At previous congresses, Korean competitors registered only for the Real Time Transcription. In Liverpool, for the first time, three Korean were able to register for and compete in the Text Production, Audio Transcription and Speech Capturing competitions. This achievement was made possible through the perseverance of Mr. Yeonhwan Choi and Carlo Eugeni, the close cooperation of Helena Zaviacicova and Boris Neubauer, the efforts of Francesca Marchionne and Alessio Popoli in adapting their software for character counting, and the commitment of Jari Niittuinperä. Ms **Sunhee Oh** achieved second place in **Text Production - Chord keyboard**.

- **Voice Writing**: although it was already featured at the Rome Congress in 2003 (then as Speech Recognition), this discipline still struggles to establish itself in our championships, despite the considerable progress achieved in speech recognition and automated correction over the last two decades.

We would like to extend our special appreciation to the two competitors who, as they did in 2024, represented and promoted this technique at our championships:

- **Daniele Casarola** (Italy), world champion in Real Time, capturing 10 min. with only 6 mistakes. Here with a speech mask for discreet computer dictation.



Tomáš Portych (Czech Rep.), classified at the 5th place in Audio transcription with a net speed of 621,2 cpm.



■ Graphic speech capturings

Among the senior competitors, participants from Germany, Hungary, and Austria still registered for the speech capturing graphic category, occasionally using traditional pen transcription.

Their commitment demonstrates a determination to preserve the original spirit of Intersteno and the art of manual shorthand, which forms part of humanity's intangible cultural heritage.

Closely connected with the origins of our organization, this tradition continues to inspire dedicated enthusiasts who ensure that these historic skills remain alive in the digital age.



The age categories

- With only a few exceptions (China), juniors and pupils use computer keyboards exclusively.
- The oldest competitor is 68, and the youngest just 10.

Age	TP	TC	AT	SC	RT	WP	NT
Seniors	62	40	39	57	39	14	22
Juniors	32	24	24	15	14	18	15
Pupils	18	5	17	3	11	2	3
	112	69	80	75	64	34	40



The Jury

- Helena Zaviačičová (Czech Rep.): Text Production.
- Krystian Wawrzynek (Poland): Text Correction.
- Francesca Marchionne (Italy): Audio transcription.
- Linda Drake (USA): Real Time Speech Capturing.
- Jari Niittuinperä (Finland): Speech Capturing.
- Georgette Sante (Belgium): Jury president and professional word processing leader.

Unfortunately, our dear Anita Dobos (Hungary) was unable to attend the event in Liverpool due to serious health issues. Ms. Pavla Mičková (Czech Republic) graciously agreed to take her place and successfully conducted the Note Taking and Summary Reporting, with the assistance of Helena Zaviačičová.

Danny Devriendt also plays a key role within the jury teams, carrying out tremendous and highly efficient work in organizing the competitions, managing the results lists, printing the diplomas, and handling many other essential tasks.



The national juries

Many thanks to all the jury assistants. Some started their work long before the congress, preparing, translating, counting, and dictating the competition texts, even though they knew they would not have the opportunity to enjoy the congress in Liverpool. Others assisted during the competitions, while many also contributed to the evaluation phase, providing valuable support to the leaders in their meticulous and time-consuming work.



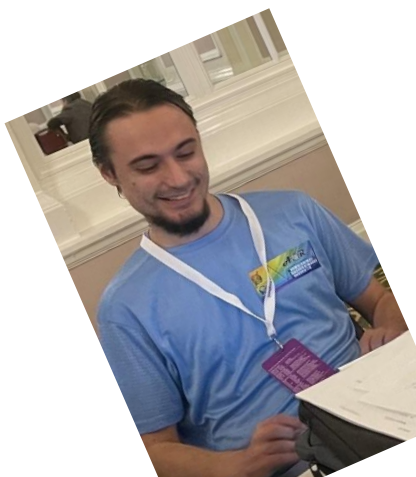
Their dedication and support are an essential part of the congress's success. Any inadvertent omission is regretted; please accept my apologies and kindly let me know if a name is missing.

Bernadett Berencsiné (Hungary), Virgene Biggers (USA), Marylène Brito (Luxembourg), Uwe Brüdigam (Germany), Alessandra Checcarelli (Italy), Yeonhwan Choi (Korea), Agnes Coeckelberghs (Belgium), Anna Dawidziuk (Poland), Andreja Džalto-Sipekk (Croatia), Laurence Defawe (Belgium), Danny Devriendt (Belgium), Monica Disser (Germany), Carlo Eugeni (Italy), Georgina Ford (UK), Terézia Garaiová (Slovakia), Elena Graziosi (Italy), Wolfgang Groth (Germany), Regina Groth (Germany), Sevilay Gündogdu (Turkey), Miriam Hasajová (Slovakia), Damien Hiver (France), Régina Hoffman (Germany), Neil Holley (UK), Zdeňka Kunderátová (Czech Rep.), Neil Holley (UK), Anna Jakabne Zubaly (Hungary), Kateřina Janíková (Czech Rep.), Jiří Janošík (Czech Rep.), Pascale Kassel (Luxembourg), Kateřina Kempná (Czech Rep.), Jum Dong Kim (Korea), Soňa Kristlová (Slovakia), Emrah Kuyumcu (Turkey), Julianne LaBadia (USA), Alessandro La Donna (Italy), Jean Charles Le Masso (France), Vlasta Martináková (Czech Rep.), Susanne Mersch (Germany), Hatice Mesci (Turkey), Ivana Meštrić (Croatia), Enrico Montanari (Italy), Boris Neubauer (Germany), Ladislav Novák (Czech Rep.), Russell Page (USA), Alessio Popoli (Italy), Liao Qing (China), Marta Riccò (Italy), Ian Roberts (UK), Robert Sigmund (Czech Rep.), Sheri Smargon (USA), Sabine Smolinski (Germany), Euijin Son (Korea), Tang Ji (China), Zbyněk Vala (Czech Rep.), Fabrizio Verruso (Italy), Yvonne Wagner (Germany), Pauline Wagner (Germany), Andrea Wawrzynek (Croatia), Teresa Wawrzynek (Poland), Seok Yeon Shon (Korea).



Let's highlight some of them working on site alongside the leaders, often well into the night

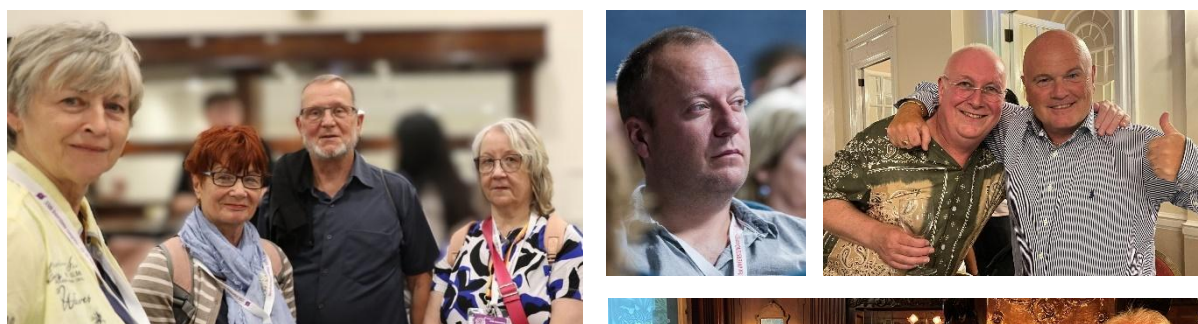






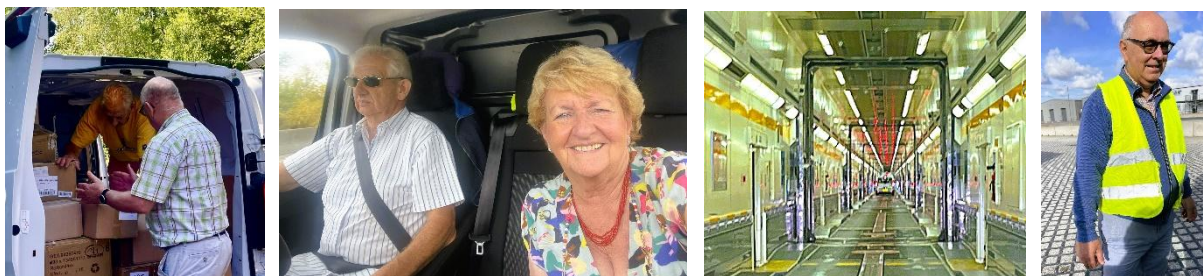
My special thanks to:

- The **Jury leaders** and **Danny Devriendt** for their professionalism and their tremendous workload.
- **Ian Roberts**, **Georgina Ford** and **Mary Sorene**, for the wonderful venue, the choice of Maddie Cole, and the karaoke evening, which added a special touch to our congress.
- The **competitors** for their support to skills that play a vital role in preserving our collective memory.
- **Susan Gosselink** and **Marleen Petrina-Bosch** who patiently checked, verified, sorted, corrected and rechecked the results, prepared the country envelopes, organized the medals and diplomas for the winners, and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that every official presented the correct diploma and medal to each champion.
- **Anneke Faaij-Nulle** who came to lend them valuable assistance during the prize-giving ceremony.
- **Sabine Smolinski**, who, besides her work as German jury, patiently supervised the entrance to the competition hall, ensuring a quiet and disturbance-free environment by preventing unwanted intrusions, unnecessary door slamming, and disruptive conversations in the corridor throughout the entire Sunday.
- **Robert Sigmund**, who took on the coordination of the team of controllers during the competition.
- The Word Processing evaluation team that made a quick and very good job while I was engaged in other duties: **Agnes Coeckelberghs**, **Laurence Defawe**, **Regina Hoffmann** and **Susanne Mersch**.
- **Aaron Cook-Belsom**, whose last-minute dash ensured that the final corrected medal arrived just as the prize-giving ceremony was about to begin.



The usual Belgian "travel" team

Once again, the **Belgian team** (Danny Devriendt, Georgette Sante, Joseph Lepièce) travelled to the congress venue by van. This transport operation helps ensure the smooth running of the event by carrying some essential technical equipment (*printers, computers, badges, welcome bags, T-shirts and promotional items*), ceremonial materials (*national flags for the opening ceremony, advertising banners, etc.*), and competition supplies (*printed contest texts, medals and other jury materials*).



To reach Liverpool, our driver **Joseph** even took on the challenge of driving on the left. The team also had to pass through three customs checks before boarding the Channel Shuttle in Calais. After an early departure, they stopped overnight in Milton Keynes, taking the opportunity to visit **Bletchley Park**, where Alan Turing and the famous codebreakers worked during World War II.



Widely regarded as the birthplace of modern computing and a precursor of artificial intelligence, Bletchley Park holds particular significance for Intersteno members as a symbol of the origins of information processing, communication technology, and text handling.

Arriving on Monday afternoon, the team immediately settled into its offices and got to work. Mary Sorene arrived on Tuesday (which was the Belgian National Day).

Georgina Ford and Ian Roberts arrived on Wednesday, July 22, and the preparation of the welcome bags (with the t-shirts folded and sorted by size, the congress leaflet, two different notebooks, a pen, a keyring bottle opener with Intersteno logo, a city map and BIVR candies and information's) was quickly accomplished.





We are very grateful to the staff of the Adelphi Hotel for their assistance in unloading the van upon our arrival and reloading it on Friday, 31 July, and for their constant willingness to help, ensuring that our stay at the hotel was both enjoyable and as productive as possible. And we thank Joke Bakker for her cheerful support.



We should not forget Agnès Coeckelberghs and Etienne Sterkendries, whose unwavering commitment to the Belgian team and dedicated service at the congress reception desk from the very first day, Wednesday, greatly contributed to the smooth running of the event.

The Podiums

Georgette Sante
Jury president

Warm congratulations to all competitors, whether medal winners or not. Simply taking part in such a challenge is already an achievement to be proud of!

Text production – Standard keyboard – Seniors			
1	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	837,5	0,09% 22924
2	Andrea A.Farsi (IT)	731,5	0,03% 21245
3	Hakan Kurt (TR)	728,5	0,04% 20954



Text production – Standard keyboard – Juniors			
1	Nisan Tunçoğlu (TR)	692,8	0,04% 19985
2	Sebastian Rabinsky (CZ)	630,9	0,05% 18028
3	Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	529,6	0,01% 15788



Text production – Standard keyboard – Pupils			
1	Merve Mutlu (TR)	585,9	0,06% 16576
2	Şevval E. Başoğlu (TR)	568,2	0,05% 16245
3	Filip Kempný (CZ)	547,5	0,02% 16126



Text production – Chord keyboard – Seniors			
1	Euan Williams	1022	0,18% 25064
2	Sunhee Oh	832	0,16% 21047
3	Wim Gerbecks	758	0,11% 20245



Text production – Seniors - China			
1	Dongsheng Li	9129	99,6% 9093
2	Na Ma	7637	95,0% 7256
3	Yan Liu	1683	97,3% 1637



Text production – Juniors - China			
1	Xinpeng An	10162	96,8% 9832
2	Tingxuan Zheng	9003	96,3% 8667
3	Lizhu Huang	8350	95,1% 7940



Text production – Pupils - China			
1	Jiashu Tang	2781	96,4% 2681



Unfortunately, Mr. Euan Williams, was unable to attend the prize-giving ceremony.



Text correction – Seniors			
1	Štěpán Kratochvíl (CZ)	242	1 23700
2	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	211	5 18600
3	Annemarie Mersch (DE)	216	7 18100



Text correction – Juniors			
1	Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	195	9 15000
2	Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	141	4 12100
3	Tereza Buková (CZ)	118	1 11300



Text correction – Pupils			
1	Terezie Štaffová (CZ)	137	5 11200
2	Filip Kempný (CZ)	92	7 5700



Professional word processing – seniors			
1	David Mašek (CZ)	92,0%	
2	Nele De Lie (BE)	86,5%	
3	Annemarie Mersch (DE)	85,0%	
	Martina Kadláčková (CZ)	85,0%	



Professional word processing – seniors			
1	Lukáš Nágl (CZ)	86,5%	
2	Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	78,0%	
3	Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	68,0%	



Audio Transcription – Seniors

1 Sunhee Oh (KR)	7975	0,288	6825
2 Andrea A. Farsi (IT)	7008	0,128	6558
3 Daniela Busalacchi (IT)	6971	0,129	6521



Audio Transcription – Juniors

1 Nisan M. Tunçoğlu (TR)	5772	0,121	5422
2 Wojciech Sadowski (PL)	5099	0,333	4249
3 Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	4216	0,047	4116



Audio Transcription – Pupils

1 Filip Kempný (CZ)	4349	0,046	4249
2 Patrik Saksun (CZ)	4005	0,325	3355
2 Merve Mutlu (TR)	3891	0,283	3341
3 Şevval E. Başoğlu (TR)	3340	0,090	3190



Due to a misinterpretation of the evaluation rules affecting the results of Mr Patrik Saksun (Czech Rep.), the pupils' audio transcription ranking had to be revised.

As a result, Patrik Saksun is now awarded second place and will receive a certificate and a silver medal. Merve Mutlu retains her second place ranking, while Şevval Erva Başoğlu remains in third place. Both keep their medals.

Speech capturing – Graphic - Seniors

1 Zsuzsánna Ferenc (HU)	B11	24	393
2 Wolfgang Groth (DE)	B9	30	343
3 Erika Vicai (HU)	B9	37	343



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard - Seniors

1 Andrea A. Farsi (IT)	B9	38	343
2 Hakan Kurt (TR)	B8	19	269
3 Jonáš Vala (CZ)	B8	34	279



Speech capturing – Chord keyboard - Seniors

1 Catherine Kollhof (UK)	A13	51	370
2 Claire Hill (UK)	B12	25	349
3 Douglas Zweizig (USA)	B12	40	349



Claire Hill with Catherine Kollhof

Speech capturing – Standard keyboard - Juniors

1 Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR)	C6	16	231
2 Jan Houdek (CZ)	C4	14	202
3 Wojciech Sadowski (PL)	C4	25	196



Speech capturing – Chord keyboard - Juniors

1 Xinpeng An (CN)	B11	5	328
2 Tingxuan Zheng (CN)	B11	24	328
3 Sichen Song (CN)	B10	28	307



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard - Pupils

1 Filip Kempný (CZ)	C4	13	202
2 Merve Mutlu (TR)	C4	26	196



Real time – Seniors

1 Tomáš Portych (CZ)	10	11	VW
2 Sunhee Oh (KR)	10	14	CK
3 Daniele Casarola (IT)	10	16	VW

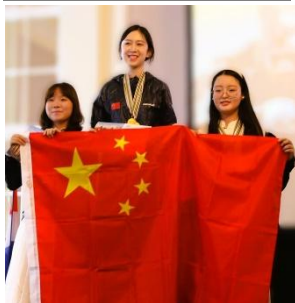


Real time – Seniors

3 Claire Hill (UK)	10	16	CK
3 Catherine Kollhof (UK)	10	16	CK

Real time – Juniors

1 Xinpeng An (CN)	9	22	CK
2 Tingxuan Zheng (CN)	8	13	CK
3 Sichen Song (CN)	8	18	CK



Real time – Pupils

1 XFilip Kempný (CZ)	4	2	KB
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Note taking – seniors

1 Johana Valová (CZ)	95 %
2 Petr Hais (CZ)	94 %
3 Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi (IT)	93 %



Note taking – juniors

1 Wojciech Sadowski (PL)	88 %
2 Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	83 %
3 Ádám Attila Tamási (HU)	79 %



Note taking – pupils

1 Filip Kempný (CZ)	85 %
2 Terezie Štaffová (CZ)	62 %
3 Nikola Benkus (CR)	61 %



Proud of his well earned medals



Combination list – seniors

1 Jonáš Vala (CZ)	7 comp.
2 Petr Hais (CZ)	7 comp.
3 Martina Kadláčková (CZ)	7 comp.



Combination list – juniors

1 Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	7 comp.
2 Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	6 comp.
3 Wojciech Sadowski (PL)	4 comp.

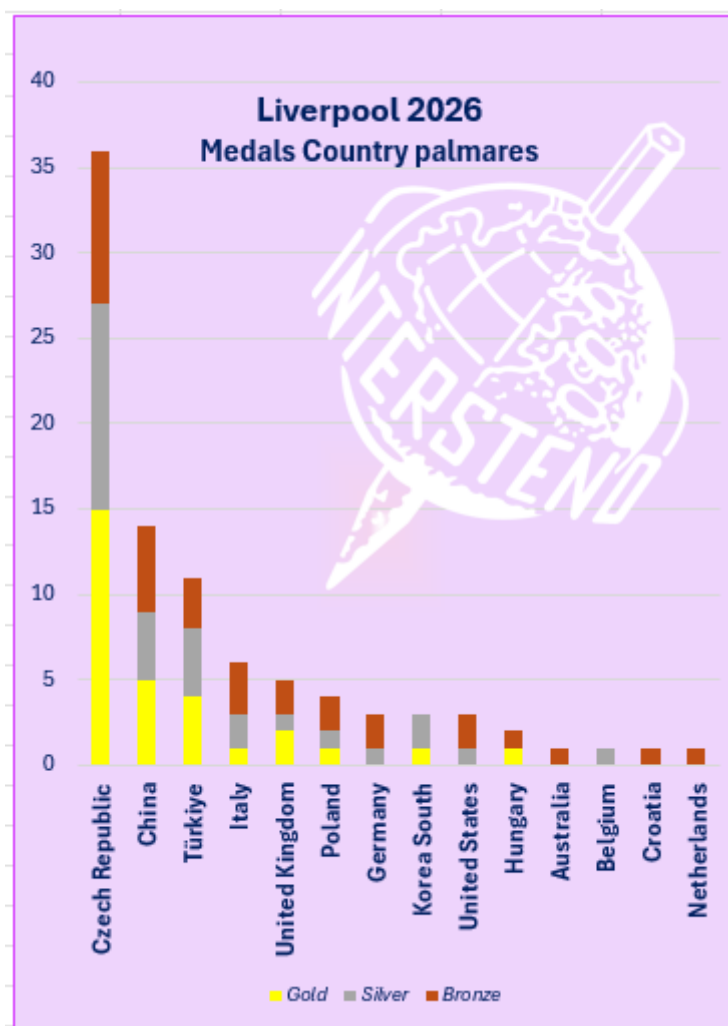


Combination list – pupils

1 Filip Kempný (CZ)	6 comp.
2 Terezie Štaffová (CZ)	4 comp.
3 Merve Mutlu (TR)	3 comp.



Special thanks to
Uwe Brüdigam
for sharing his photos.



The first Intersteno Team Relay Typing Challenge

By Andrea Wawrzynek

The idea for a Team Relay Typing Challenge came about in a typical Intersteno way: through conversations between friends about competitions, new ideas and what could be done differently at a future Congress. During one of such conversation, my husband Krystian and I started discussing whether typing could also be organised as a team competition, rather than only as an individual discipline.

The idea was to bring together four competitors who would work towards one common result, with each member taking a turn at the keyboard. We continued developing the concept, and I presented the proposal at the Intersteno Council meeting in Córdoba. The proposal was accepted, and the work on preparing the first edition for the Liverpool Congress began.

There was no existing format to follow, so the competition procedure and regulations had to be developed from the scratch. The basic principle was that each team would consist of four competitors, with each competitor typing for 2.5 minutes before handing over to the next teammate. After four rounds, the team would have completed ten minutes of typing.

The preparation involved not only defining the rules, but also finding practical solutions for the competition documents, timing, technical setup, result processing and communication with the participating teams. ZAV-JURY was used for checking and correcting the competition results, while Helena Zaviačičová provided valuable help throughout the preparation, particularly with questions concerning corrections and evaluation. Her advice and the many discussions we had during the preparation helped considerably in developing the procedure for the first edition.



There was also a considerable amount of practical preparation involved in bringing the idea to Liverpool. Competition texts, instructions and certificates had to be prepared and printed, trophies arranged, and the competition area organised. The hall had to be adapted so that the teams had their own workstations while leaving sufficient space for spectators. Screens, beamers and sound equipment also had to be prepared and tested.

The Congress schedule was very tight, which meant that we had only a limited amount of time to transform the hall for the competition. More than 50 tables and chairs had to be moved and rearranged to create the competition area, with space for the teams, the audience and the necessary

technical equipment. In such a short timeframe, the help of colleagues was invaluable. The final preparations therefore continued late into the night before the competition. Colleagues from Poland and the Czech Republic kindly joined in to help move the furniture, arrange the workstations and prepare the room. Thanks to their help, everything was ready for the competition the following day.

There was one further challenge: the entire process had to fit into a very strict one-hour time slot, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Within that hour, the teams had to arrive and prepare, receive the final instructions, complete the ten-minute competition, have their results checked, announce the final ranking and present the trophies. The procedure and result-processing workflow therefore had to be carefully prepared in advance, with very little room for delay.

And, in the end, it worked.

Everything was completed within the hour and there was even time for the obligatory photographs. **We finished with three minutes to spare.**



The competition in Liverpool

The first Team Relay Typing Challenge was held on 27 July 2026 during the Intersteno Congress in Liverpool. Ten teams from eleven countries participated in the competition: the Czech Republic, Turkey, Italy, Poland, the Netherlands, Croatia, Hungary, South Korea, Belgium, China and Slovakia.

The competition had a deliberately simple structure. Four competitors shared one workstation, with a change of competitor every 2.5 minutes. The competition lasted ten minutes in total, and the progress of the teams was projected for the audience.

The relay format created a noticeably different atmosphere from an individual typing competition. Competitors had to pay attention not only to their own performance but also to the timing of the handover and to the performance of their teammates. The audience could follow the competition live and support the teams, which gave the event a more dynamic and social character.





The final result was particularly close at the top. The Czech Republic finished first with 5,305 net characters, followed by Turkey with 5,299, only six characters behind. Italy finished third with 4,980.

The complete results:

Place	Country	Net result
1	Czech Republic	5,305
2	Turkey	5,299
3	Italy	4,980
4	Poland	4,390
5	The Netherlands	4,192
6	Croatia	3,957
7	Hungary	3,437
8	South Korea	3,229
9	Belgium	2,615
10	Slovakia	2,610
Category 2		
1	China	Result



The Chinese team also participated in the pilot edition in a separate group. Their participation brought an additional dimension to the first edition, as their use of Chinese characters and different input technology raised interesting questions about how the format could accommodate different writing systems in future competitions.



The participants' feedback

Following the competition, team representatives were invited to complete an anonymous evaluation questionnaire. The responses provided encouraging feedback about both the concept and its potential for future development.

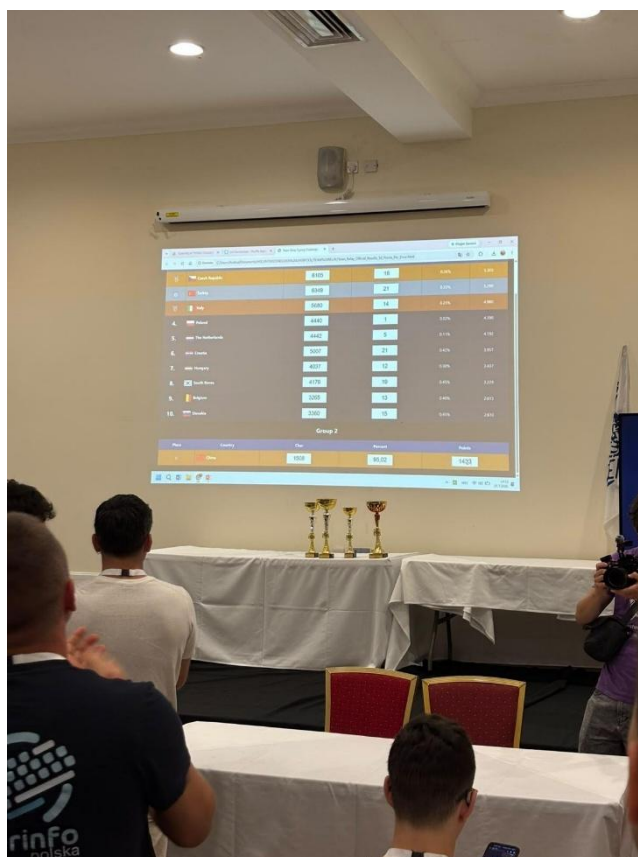
The enjoyment and the overall evaluation of the competition was evaluated with the score of **4.88** out of 5.

75 % of respondents said that they would **definitely** participate again at the next Intersteno Congress, while the rest answered **probably**.

The question of the future of the competition produced particularly interesting results. **Almost 90 % of respondents supported the idea of the Team Relay Typing Challenge becoming an official Intersteno competition**, either in its current form or with some minor regulation changes.

At the same time, the participants provided a number of constructive suggestions for future editions. These included improving the visual presentation of the competition for the audience, for example through a larger screen or a real-time display of the teams' progress, as well as possible changes to the competition duration, the physical arrangement of the workstations and further clarification of the regulations.

This combination of positive feedback and practical suggestions is perhaps one of the most useful outcomes of a pilot edition. The competition was tested in a real Congress environment, with real teams and real results, and the participants themselves have now contributed ideas for its further development.



I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Danny Devriendt and Georgette Sante for their trust, support and help in adapting the regulations; to Helena Zaviačičová for her valuable help with the correction and evaluation of the results; to Mr. Teng for the constructive discussions and efforts to find a way to include the Chinese team; and to Štěpán Kratochvíl for his excellent work on social media promotion, video production and live coverage of the competition. Their support was an important part of making this first edition possible.

Looking towards the future

The first Team Relay Typing Challenge was created as a pilot, and Liverpool showed both the potential of the format and the areas that can be improved.

For me, the experience also confirmed that a new competition requires much more than an initial idea. Developing the regulations, preparing the technical and organisational framework and making sure that everything works on the day requires a considerable investment of time and effort.

After having gone through that process once, I would very much like to see the relay develop beyond a one-time challenge or demonstration and, if there is sufficient interest within Intersteno, become an official competition with a permanent place in the programme.

The feedback from the first participants provides a very good starting point for that discussion. They have shown that the format is enjoyable, that it encourages teamwork and that there is interest in participating again. At the same time, their suggestions give us concrete directions for making the competition even better.

The first edition in Liverpool was therefore not intended to be the final version of the Team Relay Typing Challenge. It was the first opportunity to test the idea in practice, learn from the experience and see how competitors and spectators responded to it.

And after all the preparation, discussions and work that went into bringing the idea from that first conversation to the competition hall in Liverpool, it was particularly rewarding to see the teams working together, the audience following the competition and the first Team Relay results becoming part of the Congress.

I believe in the Team Relay Competition, and I truly believe that this is exactly what Intersteno needs right now. The Relay brings together everything that Intersteno stands for: the spirit of friendship, the very best people in their fields, teamwork, healthy competition, and, above all, respect. But we have also added two new and important elements: enthusiastic spectators and the opportunity for the media to see the competition and show the world the very best of Intersteno.

And now, as I write these words, I can still hear an echo in my head - the words I heard from so many people in the halls of the Adelphi Hotel after the Relay:

"Congratulations! That was great!" "Congratulations! What a success!"

Those words meant a lot. They showed me that the Relay is not just another competition. It is something that brings people together, creates excitement, and gives Intersteno a new energy.

And I believe this is exactly what we need.



Impression of the Intersteno Congress in Liverpool (25-30 July 2026)

By Marlene Rijkse

Thursday evening we arrived at the hotel. We quickly found the heart of the conference organization, Georgette and Danny's room, where all the administrative and other matters are handled. Of all the conferences where I've seen a bit behind the scenes, this time it immediately struck me that the atmosphere was relaxed. Everything was under control. That evening we quickly went nearby to grab some food with the Belgian staff at the conference.

Friday started with a Board meeting, where we talked about the agenda of the Council/General Assembly, with the main topic being the situation of the Turkey country group, where two groups claim representation in Intersteno. No common solution had been reached yet, but there's still hope that some compromise will be made before the deadline so that Turkey doesn't have to be suspended. Another topic was the changes in the Board after Russell Page's departure. Finally, it was about a few household/organizational matters during the conference.



After that, I went out with Rian to buy a few more gifts for this person and that. In the afternoon, we hung out by the reception desk and the game room.



On **Saturday afternoon**, I had a meeting with the Netherlands country group. It's always nice to get together with Gea, Joeke, and Anneke. The atmosphere among us is good. We talked, among other things, about a possible meeting to organize with some of the conference participants. And all of this accompanied by a real English high tea! The opening ceremony went smoothly—at least, I didn't see anything go wrong. Unfortunately, Anita Dobos, whom we tried to contact to sing to her, didn't pick up her phone, but she undoubtedly got a video from the obade in honor of her birthday.



On **Sunday morning**, there was time to explore Liverpool. It was my third time there. Every time, I notice the good vibe on the streets. The number of vagrants/homeless people seems to be increasing rather than decreasing, but somehow they are treated less dismissively than, say, in The Hague or Paris. Passersby give them something to eat and have a chat. I read somewhere that the English keep their sense of humor in any situation. It's probably the only country in the world where a man wearing a trash can on his head can run in elections; what a wonderful country.

In the afternoon, there was a workshop on parliamentary reporting strategies. There were so many participants that it wasn't possible to discuss topics in small groups. This was well managed by having the adjacent participants discuss the topics, followed by feedback to the whole group. It's always exciting to connect with random participants. It was a lively workshop.

At the end of the day, there was the IPRS Social Club. For me, several countries were attending for the first time, such as Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. But a Norwegian participant had already attended an Intersteno congress back in the nineties. It was so nice to get in touch with them about that.

At the end of the day, the Steering Committee of IPRS (Rian Schwarz-van Poppel, Pavel Dibelka, Eero Voutilainen and me) met together. They looked back on the workshop and looked ahead to possible new activities.

Monday was the first Diamesic conference. A range of topics was covered, with speakers Andrew Hill (Keynote), Jari Niittuinperä, Boris Neubauer (shorthand), Christian Dabeh T. Clerigo, PhilSteno, Laura van den Boogaard & Erik P.J. Vrinds, Biao Xu, Rachel Artis (skills), Giacomo Pirelli, Paula Hernandez Burguete (Audiovisual Accessibility).

On Monday afternoon, there was the Team Relay Typing challenge. Teams (of four participants) from the Czech Republic, Turkey, Italy, Poland, The Netherlands, Croatia, Hungary, South Korea, Belgium, and Slovakia typed a text for a total of 10 minutes. In the photo below is the result. Looking back on the congress, this was a highlight for me. Four parliamentary stenographers from the Netherlands managed to secure fifth place among the hardcore typists from prize-winning countries—what an achievement!



At the beginning of the evening, the Holland House Reception was organized by the Netherlands country group, a networking event for a select group of people who were expected to connect well on certain topics. In practice, this turned out to be the case; in a very relaxed, laid-back atmosphere, attendees talked about their work(processes).

On Monday evening, there was the karaoke night, a huge success. We all had to get into it at first, but soon one congress attendee after another took the microphone to perform their favorite song. Well past the planned time of 11:00 PM, the last participants left.



On **Tuesday**, the second Diamesic conference took place. The following speakers presented: Ana Luísa Reis, Yeonhwan Choi, Tatsuya Kawahara, Max van Winden (ASR Performance), Yang Chen, Eero Voutilainen, Katrien Van Mulders, Fabio Angeloni, and Paolo Antonio Michela Zucco (Agency).

In the afternoon, there was the Council meeting. The report from this meeting will be shared later this month.



Afterwards, there was the Liverpool city and Beatles tour. Contrary to what I thought, they all actually lived in fairly well-off middle-class neighborhoods. During the tour, the lyrics of the songs that played sometimes coincided with the street names you passed by, which was pretty special.

In the evening, there was the Council Dinner, on a boat in the harbor. Organizationally not everything went smoothly, but that didn't take away from the fun, especially handing out gifts. I already felt so at home in Liverpool that I could go pick up Joke Bakker from the train; due to circumstances, she

couldn't arrive before Wednesday. It was great that she still managed to catch the train to be there for the last few days.



Wednesday, the General Assembly was on the agenda. The usual agenda items were discussed. A nice moment was when the Turkish national representative announced that a joint solution had been found that evening/night for their internal issue regarding national representation. The relief in the 'Intersteno family' was immense.

Finally: all those happy medal winners, a joy to watch. A word of thanks to Marleen Petrina, Susan Gosselink, and Anneke Faaij-Nulle (of course together with Georgette Sante), who in the background worked at a hectic pace gathering medals and certificates, making everything run smoothly.



Really, finally: what a fun event the farewell dinner was, not so much because of the food but mainly because of the atmosphere and all the dancing.



I went home that Thursday, so I can't say anything about the North Wales trip and the visit to the Chetham's Library. Maybe someone who participated in this would like to write something about it in the next e-news.

Summaries of the presentations at the Diamesic conference can be found at:

<https://www.intersteno2026.org/downloads/Liverpool%20-%20abstracts%20conferences.pdf>

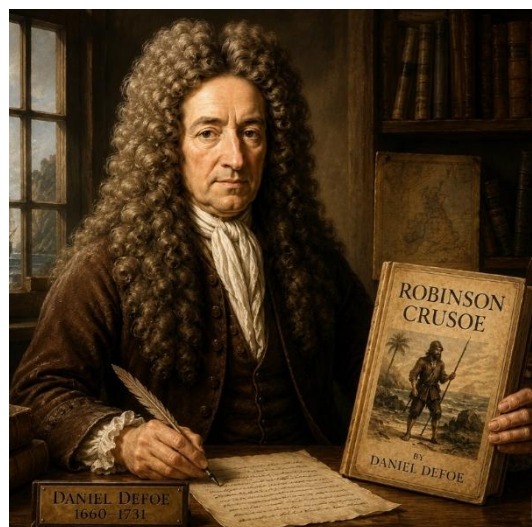
Reports from the Council and the General Assembly will appear in due course on the Intersteno website.

Daniel Defoe and Shorthand: A Little-Known Connection

By Marcela Kobe, shorthand writer, Tucumán Province, Argentina

When **Daniel Defoe** (1660–1731) is mentioned, most readers immediately think of *Robinson Crusoe*, one of the best-known novels in world literature. Published in 1719, the work has been published in countless editions and translated into many languages, as well as adapted for the stage, cinema and television, making its author a figure known throughout the world. However, in addition to being a novelist, **Defoe** was a journalist, pamphlet writer, political observer and one of the most prolific writers of his time.

The classic biography written by **William Minto** presents a man involved in many different activities: merchant, journalist, political controversialist, government agent, essayist and novelist. Throughout his life, he took an active part in the public debates of England in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, producing many articles, reports, pamphlets and literary works. This intense activity made writing an essential tool in his daily work.



Less well known is his connection with shorthand, a system of rapid writing that was widely used in England from the seventeenth century onwards. Although this aspect of his life is rarely highlighted in general biographies of the author, various studies allow us to state that **Defoe** knew and used this technique.

The Russian researcher **Irina Andrianova**, in her academic article *Stenography and Literature: What Did Western European and Russian Writers Master the Art of Shorthand Writing For?* (2019), includes **Defoe** among the European writers who mastered this system of abbreviated writing. According to her, the author of *Robinson Crusoe* studied shorthand at a dissenting academy during his youth. She also states that this knowledge was useful in his later professional activities as a journalist, writer and political agent.

British journalist and historian **Andrew Marr**, in his book *My Trade: A Short History of British Journalism* (2009), also mentions **Daniel Defoe** among the journalists who used shorthand to report on parliamentary activity. **Marr** states that **Defoe** used this skill when covering the Scottish Parliament at the beginning of the eighteenth century, providing a specific reference to the professional use of shorthand.

The observations of **Andrianova** and **Marr** allow us to consider shorthand as a tool that may have contributed to **Defoe's** intense intellectual and journalistic activity. At a time characterised by the constant circulation of political information and the need to record speeches, debates and observations quickly, knowledge of shorthand systems was a significant advantage.

The figure of **Daniel Defoe** thus provides an interesting example of the relationship between shorthand and the intellectual world of early modern England. His case shows that rapid writing was not only an administrative or parliamentary tool, but also a resource used by some of the most prominent figures in the written culture of their time. The story of the author of *Robinson Crusoe* reminds us that, behind one of the most famous novels in world literature, there was also a writer who knew shorthand and was able to make use of its possibilities in his many different activities.

Interview with Juli LaBadia, new member of the Intersteno Board

By Marlene Rijkse

This summer, Juli was appointed as a member of the Board at the Intersteno Congress in Liverpool on the recommendation of the NCRA, replacing Russell Page. Juli is no stranger to the world of Intersteno. For example, she provided subtitling for the General Assembly in Katowice. I also recall that she has sometimes been on stage during the award ceremony. To get to know her a little better, I would asked her a few questions.



Which Intersteno congresses have you attended?

My first Intersteno was in 2019 in Cagliari. Since then, I've attended each Congress - Maastricht, Katowice, and Liverpool.

Did you participate in the competitions? If so, which ones?

Yes, in Cagliari and Maastricht I participated in the Speech Capturing and RealtimeSpeech Capturing. Since then, I've assisted in marking the English-speaking competitors' competition papers.

Have you ever won a prize?

Yes, in both Cagliari and Maastricht, I won first place in Speech Capturing and Realtime Speech Capturing. (I had zero penalties in minute 15 of the Speech Capturing in Cagliari.)

How long have you been active in the field of subtitling?

I was an active subtitler for about 6 years, mostly subtitling American sports on TV. (I'm not sure if that's the same in Europe?) I have been a part of the subtitling team for Intersteno since the first time I attended, in Cagliari. It's really such a fun time to work with the stellar subtitlers there, and I learn so much. (As an example, in the U.S., subtitles are in all capitals, not mixed case, so it's a bit of a learning curve for me. I am used to verbatim reporting for my job, which is quite a bit different than subtitling, and writing for context instead of verbatim is still something I'm working on!) I feel very lucky to have formed the relationships I have with our Intersteno subtitling team.

What is your current job?

For the last six years I have been the chief court reporter in the Delaware (U.S.) Court of Chancery. I supervise 7 court reporters and 2 office staff. The Court of Chancery is a court of corporate litigation based on the English Court of Chancery. Our court is one of the oldest in the US, created in 1792. We hear business disputes (our Chancellor famously ruled that Elon Musk was not entitled to a \$56 billion bonus, causing him to reincorporate his companies in Texas.) And we also hear matters of guardianship to protect people who are unable to care for themselves, as well as estate disputes.

What does a typical day look like for you?

Every day is a new adventure. I am a working chief, which means I do all of the administration part of running my department as well as I am in court to make the record for my share of trials and other hearings. Depending on the hearings scheduled for the day, I am in hearings, editing and proofreading transcripts, meeting with my supervisors or the judicial officers, and interacting with and leading the team of people I supervise. We are an extremely busy court, so it's important that our department is a well-oiled machine to keep up. I've just hired our court's first respeaker, so I spend time each day training her on our procedures.

Where were you born and where do you live now?

I was born in upstate New York (farming country, not the Big City!). When I was 15 I moved to New Mexico, the beautiful high mountain desert part of our country, and about 20 years ago (when I was 40) I moved to Delaware, which is about 20 minutes from Philadelphia on the East Coast, along the Atlantic Ocean.

Can you tell us something more about yourself? What is your favorite hobby? What is your favorite place to go on holiday?

Music is my favorite hobby. I sing in a women's a cappella chorus. I'm currently taking piano lessons again, with the dream that I'll be a blues pianist when I grow up! And I also take a Rock Band class, where I sing and play the keyboard - that's just for fun. All the fun of jamming, none of the stress of performing. I also love gardening. It's great therapy to destress from work.

And I love to travel. I try to go to two new places a year. So far, my favorite places in the world are Scotland and Venice. My great-grandmother emigrated from Venice and my grandfather was a first-generation American. Scotland is just a magical place, especially around Skye and the highlands!

You have been nominated by the NCRA. How long have you been active in that organization? What does participation in it involve?

I have been a member of NCRA since 1989. For me, the best part of NCRA is the national certification tests that they offer. Professionally, it's the easiest and surest way to ensure that, if you're hiring someone, certifications are a way to know they are competent; and they're also the best way to let other people know that you care about your profession enough to put in the effort to constantly improve, since you need CEUs every year to maintain your certifications. It distresses me that there are those in our profession who think getting out of the school is the end of what's necessary, instead of just the beginning.

What do you hope to contribute to the board of Intersteno?

I hope to contribute a fresh perspective, since I've only been a part of the Intersteno community for seven years. I think that I have very good administration skills that will be an asset, some technical knowledge that can be helpful (although there is A LOT to understand about the many technical aspects of making the Congresses and internet competition work!). I bring an openness to other people's points of view and a willingness to learn all that I can. Plus, of course, my sparkling personality :)

Tiro's Spring 2026: A quick round-up of the latest issue

By Eero Voutilainen

Intersteno's journal Tiro – The Journal of Professional Reporting and Transcription published its thirteenth issue in June. The articles in the issue deal with various topics of professional reporting and transcription.

Carlo Eugeni begins by presenting an idea for a universal report. In this model, reporting professionals use improving technology and increasing automation to create a flexible, personalized report to better serve the needs of different recipients. **Daniela Eichmeyer-Hell & Anja Rau** write about user-centered speech-to-text interpreting. In their article, they suggest several tactics with which the interpreter can enhance the readability of the text so that it best serves the client's needs. **Henk-Jan Eras** from the Dutch Parliament describes special reporting services, such as live captioning and sign language interpreting, that have been specifically targeted to people with hard of hearing. He also depicts their use of customer panels that have provided them with essential information about what their target groups actually want.

Allowing for new working methods that are both efficient and supportive of staff well-being, new AI-based reporting tools have shown much promise around the world. **Louis Peckstadt, Katrien Van Mulders** and **Lieve Beullens** show how AI-supported parliamentary reporting has been implemented in the Flemish Parliament. **Julia Schöllauf, Bettina Brix** and **Dario Summer** present the new in-house speech-to-text system that has been developed for parliamentary reporters in the Austrian parliament. Both articles report great benefits in taking up the new, AI-based reporting system, even though it also presents some new challenges to solve.

After the first excitement about AI solutions, it has become more and more evident that the center stage still belongs to trained professionals who operate the tools and supervise their results. **D'Arcy McPherson** from the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada, presents how their reporting team renewed their work process after taking up AI-based reporting tools, so that they could strengthen the resilience of their workflow and make the best possible use of their professional reporters. **Ana Rita Pereira** and **Paulo Granja** emphasise that the AI is not just a technical tool, showing that it might have a considerable impact on the linguistic and editorial choices that are made in reporting.

Tiro continues to provide a forum for active discussion in the field of reporting and transcription. **Joanna Lipowska** gives an insightful conference report on the recent seminar of the Commonwealth Hansard Editors' Association. **Luz Belenguer-Cortez**, on the other hand, has made a thorough book review on a recent professional book on capturing talk.

Lastly, in his scientific column, **Carlo Eugeni** reminds us that in professional reporting capturing talk is sometimes not enough. The speech event consists also of various non-verbal elements, such as intonation and body language, which can be essential to the report. Their meaning and significance can also vary.

You can read all these articles for free at Tiro's website tiro.intersteno.org!

Eero Voutilainen is Tiro's editor-in-chief. This round-up of Tiro's Spring 2026 issue is re-published here with minor changes from his newest editorial.