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Presidents message

Dear Intersteno Friends,

This is a message from a proud president. There are several reasons for this. First of all we look back on a great conference. You will find proof of this in this **e-news**. All articles and photos speak for themselves. Francesca and friends have done a great job. In this newsletter you will find her Facebook message in which she thanks everyone for all the help with organizing in a detailed review. It remains only for me to thank Francesca from this place for this enormous achievement.

I am also proud of the members of the Board, because of their commitment and support. The fact that this Board was re-elected at the conference in Cagliari confirms in my eyes that the Intersteno members feel that this Board works well together and enjoys this work. I am confident that the Board will continue its work with the same spirit for the next two years.

Another reason to be proud is the release of this e-news. Patti Calabro announced at the beginning of August that the time has come for her to stop working for Intersteno. Her activities have, under my watchful eye, been taken over by Marlene Rijkse and Paula Wansleeben. Russell Page reviews e-news for correct English.

A reason to be sad is the death of our beloved friend Ibolya Csilla Hegedűs. You can find beautiful, sweet farewell words from Danny Devriendt and Anita Dobos in this e-news.

The following e-news will appear in the second half of December. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar for the December e-news is December 5 (to be sent to m.rijkse@tweedekamer.nl).

With friendly regards!

Rian Schwarz van Poppel
Intersteno president



Intersteno board

Intersteno Cagliari 2019 - Opening Ceremony

By Georgette Sante

Some winners of the Internet contest

During the opening ceremony, we were pleased to welcome 8 winners of the Internet Contest (international keyboarding competition via Internet). It was a challenge for them to come in Cagliari and to compete in a large room during 30 minutes with strict requirements. Jaroslav Zaviačič and Helena Zaviačičová gave them their medals:

- **Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu** (Children) Turkey: Gold medal in mother language with 479 cpm / silver for 9 languages;
- **Valová Johana** (Pupils) Czech Rep.: bronze medal for 15 languages;
- **Skotnica Ondřej** (Pupils) Czech Rep.: bronze medal in mother language with 454 cpm;
- **İlyas Pamukçu** (Juniors) Turkey: bronze medal in mother language with 626 cpm;
- **Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi** (Juniors): Italy: silver medal in mother language with 695 cpm / gold medal for 15 languages;
- **Vala Jonáš** (Juniors) Czech Rep.: gold medal in mother language with 729 cpm / silver for 16 languages;
- **Erdi Çiller** (Seniors) Turkey: bronze medal in mother language with 698 cpm;
- **Celal Aşkın** (Seniors) Turkey: gold medal in mother language with 732 cpm / bronze for 16 languages.



All of them were successful for the text production contest but not always on the podium. For example, the youngest one, Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu, from Turkey (11 years old in July 2019) has succeeded with 373,2 cpm and an accuracy of 0,143 %.

Live demonstration

On Friday July 12, 18:30, the press and the public were invited to a demonstration of Live typing. Thank you to our best competitors showing their skills:

- **Evi Rossignoli** – Italy - Graphic stenography
- **Jonáš Vala** – Czech Rep. - Keyboarding
- **Celal Aşkın & Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu** (2018) – Turkey – Keyboarding
- **Hongxiu Shi, Xiaoyu Liu** and the dictator Xiuying Sun – China – Stenotype
- **Julien Lebon** – France – Stenotype
- **Giulia Torregrossa** - stenotype system Michela
- **Danilo Menghi** – Italy - voice writing

- **Annemarie Mersch** – Germany – Text corrections and professional word processing

Link to see the video done by Roberto Dessì: <https://www.intersteno2019.org/index.php>.



Intersteno Cagliari 2019 – From the Jury desk

By Georgette Sante

This 52nd congress had a wonderful venue with a very big room, well-lighted, enabling us not only to welcome 120 competitors all together.

About half of the congress participants are competitors. Twenty-five percent of these 206 skilled people are less than 20 years old and another quarter less than 30 years old. The youngest one was just 11 years old in July 2019, and the oldest ones had already counted 80 springs.

The teams were coming from 22 countries, the best represented ones remaining Germany (38) and the Czech Republic (27) and, because this year we were in an Italian island, Italy (29). There was also a strong turnout from China (24) and Hungary (20). About 10 countries registered fewer than 5 contestants.



Tables were specially built for our event, each table received its own electricity plug-in. On Thursday, a motivated staff changed this empty space in a pleasant competition room where each competitor was able to easily find his place to sit.



A big innovation this year was not only the competitors in the PC-Contests (this means Text production, Text correction, Audio transcription, and Professional word processing) gathered in one big room, but the competitors in the Speech capturing contests as well (SC, Real Time, Note taking), whatever the mother language and whatever the technology: graphic stenographers, stenotypists, keyboarders, voice writers ...

This was possible using an infrared system managed by a specialized company: all pre-recorded audio files were sent by the system to a device on which the competitors could plug in her/his headset, choose the correct language channel and adjust the sound to her/his own needs.

New for the SC-competitors as well: a diaporama recalling what to do.



Less than 20 % of competitors subscribe for only 1 or 2 contests; they prefer trying their luck in as many competitions as possible: 45 % have participated in 5 or 6 trials. But only 7 decided to participate in the 7 contests organized: 5 from Czech Republic and 2 from Turkey.

This means big stress for the competitors and huge work for the jury with 679 contests to evaluate according to the rules and the age category. When a contest is finished, the first work is to check if all the competitors files have correctly been saved on the USB. Just after, the work of correctors continues till late in the night.





Many thanks to all these free workers. I won't list their names here because I fear to forget some of them. The seven contests are managed by seven leaders who didn't spare their arduousness not only during the congress but a lot of months before by finding the right text, preparing it so that it can perfectly fit, submitting it to the country's officials for translation, dictation if necessary, controlling the work done ... all this is tedious! Here they are:

- Helena Zaviačičová: Text production
- Jari Niittuinperä: Speech capturing
- Georgette Sante: Word processing
- Sylvia Beckers: Text correction
- Uda Kuhn: Note taking and reporting
- Linda Drake: Real time speech capturing
- Francesca Marchionne: Audio transcription
- With the huge help of Danny Devriendt



Unhappily, 679 contests don't mean 679 certificates: if we consider all contests together, about 73 % are successful. However, there are big differences depending on the contest, as you can see in the table beside. It seems that the professional word processing competition is the worst. Not only did it have the smallest number of registered competitors, but only 35 % succeeded to get their certificate.

On the other hand, to the 497 successful works we must add the certificates attesting that 79 competitors were qualified in at least 3 faculties. So, the Intersteno President, Rian Schwarz-van Poppel has bravely signed manually 576 diplomas (and the jury president as well).

Contest	% success
TP	71 %
AT	57 %
TC	90 %
WP	35 %
SC	78 %
RT	88 %
NT	90 %
	73 %



But let's now go on to the champions! In the following pages, you find "photos / names / results" of the competitors called on the stage during the prize-giving ceremony to receive medals and certificates. For each competition, there is a name in red: it is the World Champion 2019.

Podiums

For many years and congresses, Danny Devriendt prepares a general result list and certificates based on the evaluation given by the jury leaders. He also prepares a PowerPoint helping the public to easily follow the names and results of the champions. Thank you to Anita Dobos, Colette Fettweis and Juliette Corbesier to prepare and give medals and diplomas during the ceremony.

Text production - TP

During 30 minutes, competitors copy, as fast and accurate as possible, text from a printed copy using mostly a standard PC keyboard but sometimes a Chord Keyboard (like a shorthand machine or a velotype), or even speech recognition software.

Helena Zaviačičová (TP leader). & Jaroslav Zaviačič



Text production - Standard keyboard - Seniors

1 Celal Aşkın (Turkey)	805,2 cpm	0,033 %	23355
2 Petr Hais (Czech Rep.)	686,8 cpm	0,024 %	20104
3 Karolína Foukalová (Czech Rep.)	697,9 cpm	0,043 %	20036



Text production - Standard keyboard - Juniors

1 Jonáš Vala (Czech Rep.)	726,0 cpm	0,096 %	19679
2 İlyas Pamukçu (Turkey)	650,7 cpm	0,097 %	17621
3 Mehmet Kurt (Turkey)	582,6 cpm	0,034 %	16877



Text production - Standard keyboard - Pupils

1 Johana Valová (Czech Rep.)	404,9 cpm	0,025 %	11848
2 Nikol Klementová (Czech Rep.)	385,0 cpm	0,035 %	11150
3 Adéla Klementová (Czech Rep.)	375,8 cpm	0,089 %	10274



Text production - Chord keyboard China - Seniors

1 Hongxiu Shi	10970	96,436	10579
2 Dongsheng Li	9817	98,156	9636
3 Huiyu Hua	10156	94,821	9630



Text production - Chord keyboard China - Juniors

1 Xiaoyu Liu	10161	97,510	9908
2 Yingbo Ma	9908	91,872	8308
3 Huimin Zou	8437	90,459	7632



Text production - Chord keyboard China - Pupils

1 Yang Li	7085	94,382	6687
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Text production - Chord keyboard - Seniors

1 Wim Gerbecks (Netherlands)	739,0 cpm	0,117 %	19571
2 Daniela Busalacchi (Italy)	547,2 cpm	0,110 %	14616



Text production Standard keyboard China - Juniors

1 Yuting Wang	6313	94,979	5996
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Text correction - TC

For 10 minutes, the competitor must perform, on a digitally delivered text, as many corrections as possible, such as delete, replace, reorder, insert, emphasize, indent ... according to a correction sheet.

Sylvia Beckers (TC leader) & Gerlinde Lanzinger



Text correction – Seniors

1 Krystian Wawrzynek (Poland)	282 cor.	3 mistakes
2 Annemarie Mersch (Germany)	261 cor.	3 mistakes
3 Nicole Csermak (Austria)	245 cor.	1 mistake



Text correction – Juniors

1 Martina Ivanova (Czech Rep.)	255 cor.	2 mistakes
2 Jonáš Vala (Czech Rep.)	213 cor.	6 mistakes
3 Štěpán Kratochvíl (Czech Rep.)	236 cor.	12 mistakes



Text correction – Pupils

1 Johana Valová (Czech Rep.)	160 cor.	3 mistakes
2 Eliška Smetanová (Czech Rep.)	174 cor.	6 mistakes
3 Michaela Venclová (Czech Rep.)	175 cor.	10 mistakes

Professional word processing - WP

For 75 minutes, competitors are working on long documents with professional word processing software (re)structuring and (re)formatting of text, inserting and smart positioning objects, selecting, sorting and merging structured data, automatic numbering, smart use of tables, advanced search replace, generating table of contents, index... within a limited timeframe.

Regina Hoffman & Danny Devriendt



Professional word processing – Seniors

1 Katrin Müller (Germany)	96.0 %
2 Václav Votruba (Czech Rep.)	85.5 %
3 Markus Knehans (Germany)	84.4 %



Professional word processing – Juniors

1 Jonáš Vala (Czech Rep.)	89.5 %
2 Martina Ivanova (Czech Rep.)	87.0 %
3 David Mašek (Czech Rep.)	74.5 %



Audio transcription – AT

For 10 minutes, transcribing as fast and accurate as possible a digitally recorded dictation with PC-keyboard, chord keyboard or voice recognition in re-speaking mode.

Francesca Marchionne (AT leader)





Audio transcription – Seniors

1	Deanna Boenau (USA)	736.9	0.326 %	6169 CK
2	Celal Aşkın (Turkey)	640.4	0.094 %	6104 Kb
3	Hakan Kurt (Turkey)	659.5	0.182 %	5995 Kb



Audio transcription – Juniors

1	Jonáš Vala (Czech Rep.)	597.5	0.184 %	5425 Kb
2	Klára Odehnalová (Czech Rep.)	525.7	0.228 %	4657 Kb
3	İlyas Pamukçu (Turkey)	481.8	0.104 %	4568 Kb



Audio transcription – Pupils

1	Johana Valová (Czech Rep.)	311.7	0.225 %	2767 Kb
2	Michaela Venclová (Czech Rep.)	289.6	0.138 %	2696 Kb
3	Ondřej Skotnica (Czech Rep.)	300.8	0.233 %	2658 Kb

Speech capturing - SC

Capturing and transcribing a 15-minute-long text, dictated at an increasing rate of speed, with graphic or machine shorthand (PC keyboard or chord keyboard) or voice writing in re-speaking mode. Dictation is followed by a transcription time for 150 min.

In the first column, you see the number of minutes of transcript, number of mistakes in column 2 and highest speed in the last one.

Georgette Sante (jury president) & Jari Niittuimperä (leader SC)



Speech capturing – Graphic – Seniors

1	Erika Vicai (Hungary)	B12	32	391
2	Judit Arvay-Dani (Hungary)	B9	15	321
3	Mária Madarász (Hungary)	B9	35	321



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Seniors

1	Hakan Kurt (Turkey)	B9	14	321
2	Celal Aşkın (Turkey)	B9	18	321
3	Karolina Foukalová (Czech Rep.)	B8	20	319



Speech capturing – Chord keyboard – Seniors

1	Julianne LaBadia (USA)	A15	0	412
2	Deanna Boenau (USA)	A15	13	412
3	Jennifer Schuck (USA)	A15	16	412



Speech capturing – Voice Writing – Seniors

1	Victoria Pittman (USA)	A15	11	412
1	Danilo Menghi (Italy)	A13	0	445
3	Tiziana Trapani (Italy)	B12	25	419



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Juniors

1	Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi (Italy)	B9	21	343
2	Klára Odehnalová (Czech Rep.)	C7	10	295
3	Martina Ivanova (Czech Rep.)	C7	15	295



Speech capturing – Chord keyboard – Juniors

1	Xiaoyu Liu (China)	B11	36	328
2	Yingbo Ma (China)	C7	31	250
3	Huimin Zou (China)	C6	22	231



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Pupils

1	Johana Valová (Czech Rep.)	C4	11	226
1	Nikol Klementová (Czech Rep.)	C4	11	226



Speech capturing – Chord keyboard – Pupils

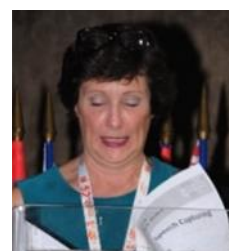
1	Yang Li (China)	C3	3	180
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Real time transcription

Capturing a 10-minute-long dictation with increasing speed. Immediate delivery after dictation without any additional corrections.

The first column indicates the number of minutes of the transcription, the second the number of mistakes, and the third the technology (Kb = standard keyboard; CK = Chord keyboard; VW = voice writing).

Linda Drake (RT leader) & Russell Page



Real time speech capturing – Seniors

1	Julianne LaBadia (USA)	10	2 CK
2	Jieun Jeong (Korea South)	10	4 VW
3	Deanna Boenau (USA)	10	6 CK



Real time speech capturing – Juniors

1	Jonáš Vala (Czech Rep.)	7	11 Kb
2	Xiaoyu Liu (China)	7	17 CK
3	Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi (Italy)	7	18 Kb



Real time speech capturing – Pupils

1	Onur Demirbaş (Turkey)	3	6 Kb
2	Yang Li (China)	3	13 CK

Note taking & summary

A 10-minute-long dictation. Title and headings to be transcribed verbatim, content summarized in own words and complete sentences. Notes taken by handwriting, graphic stenography, keyboarding, chord keyboarding or voice writing.

Unhappily, Štěpán Kratochvil (CZ) was not called on the stage but he should have been.

Uda Kuhn & Anita Dobos



Note taking & reporting – Seniors

1	Sylvia Beckers (Germany)	100 %	0
1	Krisztina Kollárikné Terjéki (Hungary)	95 %	0
3	Dongsheng Li (China)	96 %	1



Note taking & reporting – Juniors

1	Martina Ivanova (Czech Rep.)	94 %	0
1	Klára Odehnalová (Czech Rep.)	94 %	0
3	Huimin Zou (China)	93 %	0
3	Štěpán Kratochvil (Czech Rep.)	93 %	0



Note taking & reporting – Pupils

1	Yang Li (China)	87 %	2
2	Johana Valová (Czech Rep.)	69 %	0
3	Michaela Venclová (Czech Rep.)	65 %	0

Combined list

Multi-talented people, successful in at least 3 of the 7 organized competitions, received an attestation of their skills. Working out this list is a huge work for the jury.

Danny Devriendt & Neil Holley



**Combination list – Seniors**

1	Petr Hais (Czech Rep.)	7 competitions
2	Karolína Foukalová (Czech Rep.)	6 competitions
3	Celal Aşkın (Turkey)	6 competitions

**Combination list – Juniors**

1	Jonáš Vala (Czech Rep.)	7 competitions
2	Martina Ivanova (Czech Rep.)	7 competitions
3	Klára Odehnalová (Czech Rep.)	6 competitions

**Combination list – Pupils**

1	Johana Valová (Czech Rep.)	5 competitions
2	Yang Li (China)	5 competitions
3	Michaela Venclová (Czech Rep.)	4 competitions

Verba Manent – The spoken word remains Official Intersteno Anthem

By Carlo Eugeni

Wonderful surprise at the opening ceremony of the 52nd congress was the Intersteno Anthem, officially prepared for the first time in our history! The audience, deeply moved, stood up to applaud! Thank you, Carlo, for your determination! You will find more information below about the anthem, written by Carlo himself.

The Intersteno anthem

At the opening ceremony of the 52nd Intersteno Congress held in Cagliari, the “Banda di Monastir” music band directed by Alessandro Cabras, the “MusicàLIS” deaf choir directed by Stefania Coccoda and Luciana Ledda, and soprano Alice Madeddu premiered the Intersteno anthem, entitled “Verba Manent – The Spoken Word Remains,” written by lyricist Hannah Kohl and myself after a series of suggestions by many Intersteno members and to music by composer Matteo Martis. It was a momentous occasion for the audience, for me of course, and for Intersteno as a whole, because we finally have an anthem which tells the story and values of our Federation to the world. Let me explain here the anthem’s structure and its words.

The jingle initiating the anthem is a homage to the famous Europe-wide TV game show *Jeux Sans Frontières* (“It’s a knockout”), whose features exemplifies the multilingual and cross-cultural identity of many of us. After the countdown and whistle giving a start to the games follow several voices dictating in various languages, immediately followed by the sound of typewriters, which recall the sound of competitions when computer keyboards were not used yet. Typewriters gradually turn into drums and the anthem starts.

The first stanza pays tribute to Tiro, a freedman of the great Roman orator Cicero, to whom is attributed the invention of stenography, the technique around which first gathered Sir Gibson and his fellow colleagues in London in 1887 to found Intersteno. Another great figure is Marcel Racine who refounded Intersteno after WW2 and introduced the flag show, which has become an integral part of the Congress opening ceremony.

The refrain explains the anthem title. The Latin motto says “Verba Volant Scripta Manent,” which means that the spoken word flies away, while the written word remains. But professionals revolving around Intersteno are able to capture spoken words by writing them down. Hence “Verba Manent.”

The second and third stanza describe Intersteno as “an extended international family, made of hundreds of friends collectively” and of “delegates who discuss our craft respectfully”. I think there is no need for further explanations. This Intersteno family has been using different techniques: “from pencils and papers” (shorthand also called stenography) “to fingers and keys” (all forms of typing on a keyboard) “to voices and screens” (respeaking also called voice writing) “and fast minds and machines,” which are the elements needed to capture speech.

Finally, the last stanza tells what we do in our professions – with a “clever, open-minded, alert” attitude, we capture words not just quickly (“with thought, care and speed”) but also accurately (“immaculate, accurate, always complete”) – and during championships (“with excellent sportsmanship when we compete”).

The last part of the anthem celebrates one of our most well known competitions, Speech Capturing: 15 lines recalling the sound of the typewriting machine (“Clackity Clackity Clackity Clackity Clack”) as in

the jingle. Moreover, these lines are gathered into 3 groups (as the number of sections in Speech Capturing), each group ending with a “DING”, the sound of the bell signaling the end of the paper sheet. Finally, each group is sung at increasing speed, another peculiarity of the Speech Capturing competition.

A final liberating “Intersteno” brings with it passion, tension, and concentration as when the whistle puts an end to the historical Text Production competition. The lyrics and official version of the anthem are available at the Intersteno official webpage and are copyright free for all Intersteno people. You can also use this link: <https://www.intersteno2019.org/anthem.php>

- Text..... Hannah Kohl & Carlo Eugeni
- Music Matteo Magris
- Orchestra Banda di Monastir, conducted by Alessandro Cabras.
- Vocals Alice Madeddu, soprano.
- Chorus MusicàLIS, directed by Stefania Coccoda & Luciana Ledda.
- Link to the video <http://www.intersteno.org/anthem>



If you want to sing with us

Intersteno! Intersteno!
Oh, long live Intersteno! (2 times)
Inspired by Tiro preserving Cicero
And by the great transcribers of the modern age
From Sir Gibson to Racine - as Intersteno we convene
To humbly add our own names to the page.

Refrain

An extended international family
Made of hundreds of friends, collectively
Delegates who discuss our craft respectfully.
Intersteno! Intersteno! Intersteno! Intersteno!

Refrain

From pencils and papers, to fingers and keys,
To voices and screens and fast minds and machines.
Writing and editing, fingers that fly,
Capturing speech before words can fly by.
Refrain
"Clever! Open-minded! Alert" is our creed.
We make our advances with thought, care and speed.
Immaculate, accurate, always complete,
With excellent sportsmanship when we compete.
Clackity- Clackity-Clackity-Clackity-CLACK! (4 times)
Clackity- Clackity-Clackity-Clackity-DING!

Refrain

Verba volant, verba volant,
the spoken word flies away.
Scripta manent, scripta manent,
The written word remains.
But Intersteno captures words
so the spoken word remains!
Verba manent, verba manent
the spoken word remain

Youth Day in 52nd Intersteno Congress, 17th July 2019, Cagliari

By Emrah Kuyumcu



For especially young competitors, it's the best time to relax and have fun after the most exciting moments of the competitions within an Intersteno congress.

Herewith as one of the latest traditions of Intersteno, the Youth Day was held in Cagliari with all the participants under 26 years old, especially in order to have fun and friendship just after the exciting competitions.

This year, youth attractions were a bit different from before with also some new surprises. The all-day event consisted of two parts as inside activities in the morning and beach activities in the afternoon.

Morning: Challenges of Past and Today



According to the ideas and the decision of the scientific committee and organization committee of Cagliari congress, “**Intersteno WhatsApp Competition**” was presented and organized for the first time in a congress, indeed as a fun activity! But above all, it’s an Intersteno competition with real rules and it aims to combine the tradition with today’s technology for the youth.



Thanks to the Intersteno Italian Group’s ideas and surprises, especially Francesca Marchionne and Carlo Eugeni, the WhatsApp Competition was a real surprise and entertaining for all the young participants. The competition basically consisted of typing a 160-character text on mobile phones (with only visual keyboards) via WhatsApp. The fastest and most accurate competitor wins the competition. The winners (and top 3) were evaluated by being first to send the text and with the least mistakes.

A tiny but funny surprise was about the language of the text. There should be only one text in a language for everyone, but it should not have any advantage for anyone. So, the idea was to use the **Sardinian language**, which is quite different even from Italian! Smiles on all the faces were worth seeing!



The WhatsApp Competition was repeated as 3 times with different texts. The winners of three competitions were **rewarded with wireless mobile keyboards**. This new fun-type of competition will become probably a tradition for youth in future congresses of Intersteno.



After the competition, another surprising challenge was waiting for everyone. In the exhibition area of the congress, all the Intersteno youngsters were challenged to type on **manual typewriters**, which they even might have never seen before! As a workshop, everyone typed a short letter again in the Sardinian language. But this time the competition was typing most accurately rather than typing fast.

The winner was determined by the least mistakes and rewarded with historical books of typewriting and Intersteno. This workshop was a real combination of today's young people with the history and its challenges, thanks to the partnership of the **Museo della Macchina da Scrivere** (Typewriter Museum), based in Milano, Italy.



Afternoon: Beach Games

At the end of inside part of the day, everyone already deserved pizza! The best types of traditional Italian pizzas were ready for lunchtime.



After those exciting competitions and challenges, it's the best part of the day to have fun at the beach and sea, especially if you are in Sardinia in summer.

At Poetto Beach, the public beach of Cagliari, various beach and water games were planned in a reserved area for Intersteno youngsters. By dividing teams randomly, each team played beach volleyball, rugby, and water polo in turn. Of course, in the end everyone had spare time to get the rest of the fun in the sea.

More than the competitions, this was about friendship and fun. From all around the world, many young people came together, again thanks to an Intersteno Congress. Thanks to the organization committee and all the crew friends from the Italian group! Photos always tell more than words.

Keep your soul young and have fun!





The working of the organization committee

By Danny Devriendt

In the long history of our Intersteno federation, most of the time congresses were organized by national groups, who took the full responsibility and the financial risks of the congress organization. Sometimes the financial balance ended positively, other times the financial result ended in a loss of money for the organizing group.

Last decennia not many countries were able and available to take the challenge of a congress organization, afraid for the financial aspects and for the huge workload a congress brings. For that reason between 1995 and 2001, three years passed between the congresses of Amsterdam (1995), Lausanne (1998) and Hannover (2001). After 2001 – the year I was elected as secretary-general of our federation – congresses again were organized every 2 years and we succeeded to convince national groups to organize them. However, the last congress organized by a national group was the one of 2013 in Ghent, Belgium. After 2013 the organization of the congresses was taken over by the Intersteno board. It was a challenge with a lot of work and risks, but I felt privileged to coordinate the organization committee in 2015 Budapest and 2017 Berlin. Both the national groups of Hungary and Germany didn't want to be involved in the organization of the congress and they even expressed to be against a congress in their countries; although at the end in Budapest we had the help of the Hungarian group during the congress.

Already before Berlin, our dynamic and charming friend Francesca Marchionne proposed to come to her city of birth, Cagliari in Sardegna, where she saw opportunities to host the 52nd Intersteno congress. Of course we accepted this invitation and finally we came to a kind of joint venture construction in which both onA.I.R. Italy and the Intersteno federation worked together to organize the congress in Cagliari, the financial risk being taken by the Intersteno federation. An organization committee was established as follows:



Danny Devriendt - Rian Schwarz-van Poppel - Georgette Sante - Francesca Marchionne - Carlo Eugeni - Michele Demontis

Francesca and her team took care of all local aspects of the organization: there were a lot! All was prepared in detail and several times the organization committee met in Cagliari, including one board meeting. As a professional ambassador for her city and her island, Francesca guided us around and let us love many nice aspects of this stunning island and her people. We learned to love the local mirto

drink, especially when homemade by Francesca or Evi Rossignoli, who surprised us always with products from her garden and her culinary hospitality.

I didn't keep track of the frequent e-mail exchanges, but there were many hundreds.

Slowly but gradually choices were made and options were evaluated and decided, which ended in the congress program as presented and as most of you experienced it during the warm Cagliari days of July 2019. Registrations started at the 1st of January 2019, right on track.

The congress in Cagliari was in several aspects unique than the previous congresses:

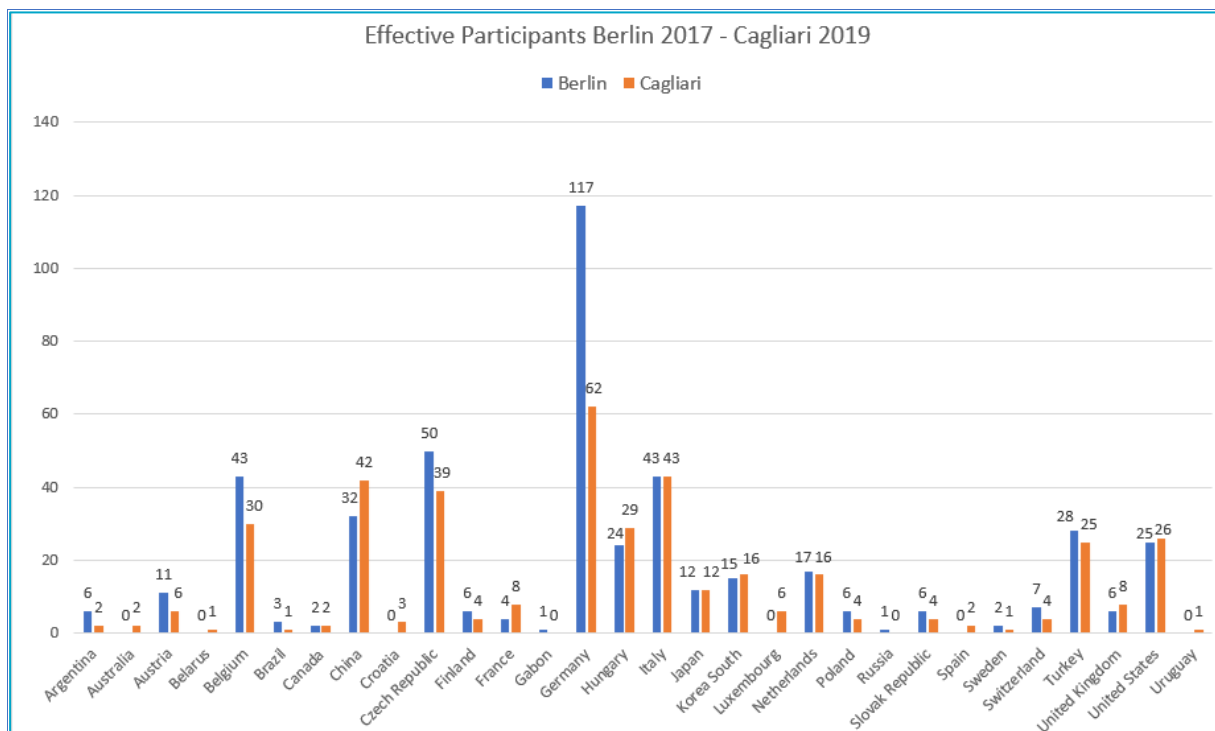
- we could rely on the impressive and persistent help of a local team, headed by Francesca and importantly supported by her family, her many friends and a large network of contacts.
- the main congress venue, the Manifattura Tabacchi, very well situated in the Marina district of Cagliari, was a kind of empty box with mainly large rooms that needed to be decorated and furnished. Furniture and technical equipment had to be found/rented, carried in before the congress and moved out after the congress, which needed detailed logistical planning and follow-up. 120 competition tables were manufactured especially for our competitions.
- notwithstanding some technical problems, the opening ceremony was composed by a rich variety of surprising items, including the launching of a brand new Intersteno anthem, worked out by Carlo Eugeni and Hannah Kohl (text), Matteo Magris (music) and performed by the choir MusicàLIS, directed by Stefania Coccoda and Luciana Ledda and the Banda di Monastir, directed by Alessandro Cabras. The soprano Alice Madeddu interpreted the anthem in a very moving way.
- moreover, a historical exhibition and cosy exposition, mainly based on the heritage of Gian Paolo Trivulzio, were added to the standard program, enriched by a successful live typing demonstration, based on the idea of Isa Corti-Crippa.
- the congress crew was assisted by a group of students from the Università degli Studi in Cagliari and the Scuola Superiore per Mediatori e Interpreti in Pisa, where Francesca and Carlo are teaching. All students did a great job, not only in translating in a professional way: all were very flexible problem-solvers and really responsible and helpful in the many tasks to execute.
- an impressive large competition hall was used for all competitions and included speech capturing, note taking and the real time competition, thanks to the use of an infrared audio distributing system for parallel distribution in about 10 languages; an excellent idea worked out by Francesca. The challenging but well prepared use of the audio distributing system is definitely the way to follow in the future, of course depending on infrastructure and availability. In the Manifattura Tabacchi we had limited but large rooms, and by using the audio distributing system, we avoided having to look for another venue for part of the competitions.
- the final farewell event at La Locanda di Baccalamanza brought 400 people together around the swimming pool in the heart of a romantic vineyard. The evening ended with a lot of ambiance at the dance floor, where multi-talented DJ Valentina showed our international community her professional skills. The free drinks at the American bar helped in creating an amazing atmosphere, except for a few people who frequented the drinks of the American bar slightly too much. Earlier that week council members were invited to La Pailotte for a fascinating and very well animated evening at the idyllic border of the soothing sea: one of the best council dinners ever.

After 2 years of hard work, I look back very satisfied and grateful to the fine collaboration with Francesca, family and friends. Besides large efforts and some tough moments, the period 2017-2019 gave us many agreeable and fascinating moments with huge satisfaction at the end. Thank you Francesca and all other people who contributed to this significant chapter of the Intersteno history!

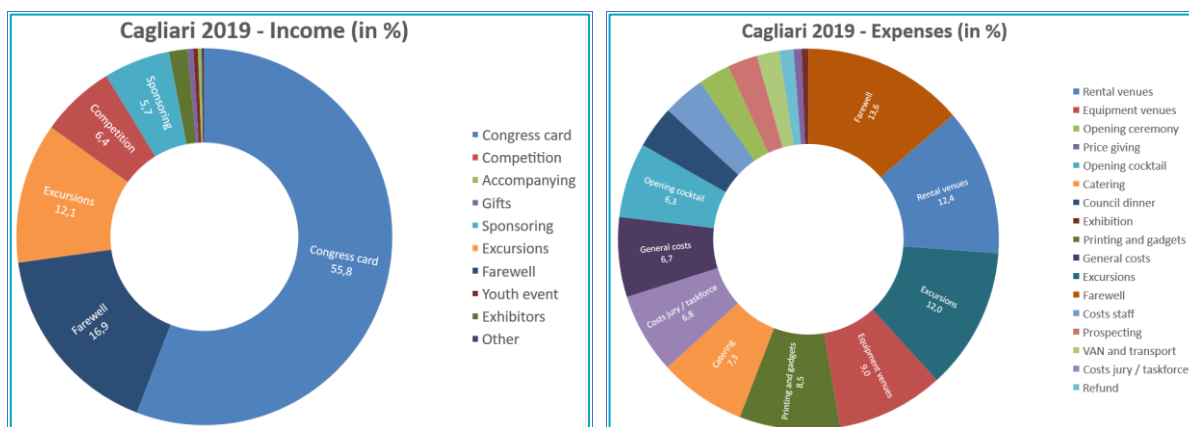
Cagliari: figures and finances

Questions on how many people participated at a congress are not so easy to answer and depend on how you count people. Based on effective participation and payment of the congress fee, we counted in Berlin **467** people out of **24** countries. In Cagliari we welcomed **399** people out of **28** countries. In reality, a lot of people bring family and friends to the congresses that do not register with the congress but only participate in the excursions and farewell events. If we count also all those people, we end up in Cagliari with far **over 500 people**. The farewell evening at Baccalamanza was visited by 400 people, the highest participation rate since several congresses.

In the graphic below, you find the participation figures for Berlin and Cagliari by country.



It is too early to communicate about the financial results of the Cagliari congress. Several topics are still on the table and need to be finalized. In the figures below you will find an overview of the main income and expenses, expressed in %.



The best we could wish for the next congress is to find another Francesca who is standing up with a proposal. We are working on it...

Review on the Cagliari congress

By Francesca Marchionne

We asked Francesca about her review of the congress. She stated that she wrote down everything she had to say about it in a message on Facebook. Her message below:

I am writing in Italian because expressing feelings in another language that is not my mother tongue is impossible. A more faithful translation will follow, most probably done by Carlo (and he already did even if not always so faithfully 😊)! I apologize in advance for its length, but I don't want to forget anything or anyone, and I apologize if this may look bizarre or "alternative": as far as I remember (in my short Intersteno experience) nobody made a similar address after a Congress.

I am speaking on behalf of myself, Francesca Marchionne, without a precise role except that of a proud person who welcomed you all in her country, Italy; her island, Sardinia; and the city where she was born, Cagliari. Over 500 people from 29 different countries came.

Almost a month after the official end of the 52nd Intersteno Congress, I find myself still immersed in papers, e-mails, bank transfers, tables to be moved from one place to the other, boxes, gifts, clothes, some regrets and ideas, but above all plenty of thoughts about how this event went. It was the event of my life for its complexity and grandeur and for the involvement of people I have known in different parts and times of my life and who have gathered together for one reason only. I still haven't realized that it's over. For me it still continues and will only end once we will have stopped talking about it.

For me it was an immense honor to organize an Intersteno Congress together with Danny, Georgette, Rian, Carlo and Michele. Perhaps some are not aware that this event is at its 52nd edition and involves a world federation with 132 years of history and made of great people. The Intersteno Congress has been historically hosted by the world's largest cities, from Chicago to Beijing, and stopped being organized only during the two world wars. An Intersteno Congress is a global conference and includes world competitions (not 1 but 7!), during which people of all ages - from all over the world, from all languages, with different techniques and technologies, from different backgrounds linked to the world of speech capturing, fast writing and word processing - compete. That is why it was a real honor to me – aged 33, after having spent only 7 years in Intersteno – to be one of the organizers of this Congress, quite alternative compared to previous ones.

My thanks begin here: to Tiziana Trapani, Michele Demontis and Carlo Eugeni, who first launched the idea in 2015 and believed we could do it; to Fausto Ramondelli, Maria Luisa Corti Crippa (Isa) and Gian Paolo Trivulzio, who did not think we were crazy, but who immediately gave us their support and their wise advice and above all their help, although I didn't take it for granted; to Rian, whose unconditional support and trust have never lacked; but above all thanks to Georgette and Danny, who not only did their best in a foreign country with many (too many) rules, but they also completely believed in a person with little experience (but a great desire to do), by running the risk that their consolidated certainties – well established after many years of experience – were jeopardized. They gave me a chance and let me do things my way; they came over and over again to explore Cagliari and its surroundings; they believed I could do it, despite the limits of an island and a small city; they made a never-ending journey in a van despite my hesitations (God knows how much that van was useful!). Thank you for your trust, understanding, lessons and shared thoughts and ideas that made me mature over these two long years.

I started from the very beginning because without these bases we would never have come to an Intersteno Congress in Cagliari. Now I would like to continue thanking those who, during these two long years, have made the pre-Congress and the Congress itself possible from an organizational and

logistical point of view. Thanks to the Municipality of Cagliari, which has provided us with the opportunity to best accommodate our guests; thanks to the Municipality of Carloforte and Natalia Lapicca for their warm welcome and logistical support; thanks to Region Sardinia for their support; thanks to the Foundation of Sardinia for their support and for their hall which we used for the general conference and the general assembly; thanks to the University of Cagliari and the High School for Mediators and Interpreters in Pisa, for the extraordinary collaborators and stagiaires: Giada, Caterina, Matteo, Youness, Gemma, Maddalena, Eleonora, Roberta, Benedetta, Nadia and Elisabetta, new and super enthusiastic member, immediately tested! Many thanks to Piero Comandini, Guido Portugese, Filippo Petrucci, Paolo Frau, Gianfranco Pisanu, who worked first to convince us to organise and then to better welcome the Congress in Cagliari. They helped us on all political and institutional sides.

Thanks to Antonello Boi, Michele Demontis, Stefano Meloni, Emanuele Frongia and Giancarlo Corrias, who shared their experience and their knowledge with us. This was very useful in terms of logistics, marketing and financing. Thanks to CFadda, Alessandro Bruno, Incaspisano, Proloco di Ottana, the two associations of Boes and Merdules, Proloco di Ussana, Folk Group "Sa Corona" of Nuraminis, Banda di Monastir, the Via Stoccolma Comprehensive School, Sabores, Il Mozzo, Studio SM2, Down Town, Il Brigantino, Crudo, La Lira, Terra e Mari, Antica hostaria, Picanha's, New Pizza, The House of Prometheus, Lucia and Valerio from BeachSport Village, Angela and Cesare from Mary Print, Marta from La Paillote, Enrico, Daniela and Antonella from La Locanda di Baccalanza, Basilio from Teatro Massimo, Mario and Loredana from the Stevelli Group, Stefano Floris, for the best entertainment ever.

Thanks to those who individually supported the Congress and to Caption Pros, by Jen Schuck. Thanks to the exhibitors Sorizava, Advantage Software, PerVoice and Text on Top by Sander Pasveer, great friend and collaborator. Thanks to the voluntary subtitlers/captioners who brilliantly, flexibly (always with professionalism and a smile even when they themselves didn't understand!), facilitated communication and understanding at conferences, councils and the assembly: Julianne LaBadia, Georgina Ford, Jen Schuck, Sheryll Holley, Wim Gerbecks and Carlo Eugeni.

Special thanks to Luciana Ledda and the National Institute of the Deaf who made us understand that (by participating with two of their members) deafness is not an obstacle and that everything is possible even when one does not compete to win. In addition, a big thank goes to your translation into Italian Sign Language and the performance of Stefania Coccodda and the White Hands Choir, which accompanied a unique and touching moment: the première of the Intersteno Anthem. Many thanks to Matteo Martis, Vincenzo La Ferla, Alessandro Cabras, Hannah Kohl, and Alice Madeddu, who turned the Intersteno anthem into reality, thanks to the masterful direction of Carlo Eugeni, who gave our Federation an important point of reference that will last for decades and centuries to come. I am proud of your success, especially yours, Carlo.

A heartfelt thanks to Carlo, Nicola, Danilo and Valeria from Panvideo, who accepted and pursued the revolutionary challenge of using the infrared system for Speech Capturing competitions with tenacity and patience. Professionalism and competence at the top. Thanks to Emrah for his remote support, his sincere friendship, his streaming assistance, his speech at the May press conference, and the social media advertising campaign.

Thanks to the Board (Georgette, Danny, Rian, Carlo, Emrah, Krystian, and Russell), to the Jury (Helena Zaviačková, Linda Boyd Drake, Jari Niittuinperä, Uda Kuhn, Sylvia Becker, Georgette, Danny) and all the Jury Helpers and Correctors. Without your work no Congress would be possible.

Thanks to all participants, but above all to competitors, champions from all over the world who not only passionately challenge your competitors; you also challenge yourselves! Thanks to the great champions of each competition, category, and technique who performed at the Live Typing

Competition, Jonáš Vala, Celal Aşkın, Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu, Julien Lebon, Annemarie Mersch, Hongxiu Shi, Xiaoyu Liu, Giulia Torregrossa, Danilo Menghi, Evi Diana Rossignoli.

A big thank to the experience, to the adaptability and to the great affection and help of the whole Belgian team: Joseph in the first place, a tireless worker, a handyman, always with a smile, patient when the spirits are heated and impatient when he is still without anything to do; Etienne, Agnès, Jean-Pierre, Magali, Flavio, Juliette, Jeannine, Colette, Lylia, Jean-Pierre, and all those who helped in one way or another. Thank you also for the help and patience of Rolf, Jacqueline and Anne.

Thanks to Umberto di Donato and Giuseppa Licata, precious guardians of an exceptional exhibition of typewriting machines in Milan, some of which were specially brought to Cagliari for an extraordinary exhibition. Thanks to Cristina Trivulzio, Augusto Trivulzio and Alberto Trivulzio, Fausto and Isa, for the material you helped us gather from Gian Paolo's home for another fantastic and unforgettable exhibition, that of Intersteno in honor of Gian Paolo Trivulzio.

I hope I didn't forget any of those who have worked with us in these years. Let me now turn to my final thanks, deliberately left at the end of this post.

It is not enough to say thanks to the whole team of onA.I.R. and of the Intersteno Italia Group, now a single group consolidated over 5 years together: Marta Riccò, Maura Morisi, Evi Rossignoli, tireless and patient, always available to help where they can, even if I did not have two minutes to sit with them and thank them, something I regret not a little; Elena Graziosi, the only one with all who is the only one who can manage the group so well, as she was able to demonstrate once again this year; Isa, creator of the new Live Typing Competition, with extraordinary success, and Fausto, always present even if physically absent; Alessandra Checcarelli, great professional, interpreter and respeaker, always ready to do her job in the best way and in the most desperate situations without giving up (and once again we did it!); Giulia Torregrossa, who organized the visit to the Senate alone. With tenacity, despite the many difficulties, you managed to act as the head of the group with infinite patience in all the excursions when you could simply enjoy them; you showed your great abilities at the Live Typing Competition and at the competitions; you were always nice and kind to everyone as only you know how to be in your simple greatness; Alessio Popoli, a champion and a good programmer. Even if not ready, your software program will do great things and you know it. You did a great job and I hope you won't give up; you will finalize it now that you finally have all the material; Andrea Farsi, our finally adult champion, you did very well, I'm sure that with time, you will make us even more proud of you; Danilo Menghi, a great champion and worker, always ready to do what is necessary to help the group, but above all a great professional with whom I have always been proud to collaborate; Enrico Montanari, unfailing special friend, ready to do what needs to be done, always available for everything and everyone. I will no longer ask you to move tables and chairs, I promise!

Thanks in particular to Carlo Rodriguez and Fabrizio Verruso, who have joined their Italian team in recent years with their valuable experience. Thanks to the old and new Italian competitors who have once again shown great participation and professionalism. Thanks to Daniele Casarola for his desire to do and help, his fourth place and, above all, thank you for reminding me, every single month, what was awaiting me! And finally, Carlo Eugeni, a non-existent vice president, messy, disorganized and a bit too superficial, but, guys, there's a reason why everyone loves him and looks for him. In his field he is unquestionably the first; in presenting he is a genius, fun and engaging; he is an incredible romantic, a dreamer. Carlo is Carlo. And although the most frequent question in any self-respecting Congress is "Where is Carlo?" he is there when no one else can replace him and does his work to perfection. I will continue to insult you and adore you at the same time.

Now, it would be too easy to thank the people outside Intersteno whom, for 7 days, you saw wearing an orange T-shirt. They did much more than what you could see. Few of the people who read know what happened a few months before the Congress. The Congress ran the risk of not being held

because I had a two-month setback. Two months during which I could have done so much to avoid those small problems that occurred during the Congress activities.

I apologize to those who experienced discomfort during trips or in any other Congress activity. Unfortunately, I cannot fix this. However, I can invite you to come and see me when you wish. I will try to give you what I could not give you during this week. Without my family and friends, this Congress would fall entirely on the central organization. They supported me during these two years, they helped me, they made me feel important and strong. They believed in this Congress first, caring about the local organization. And they did it for me. They looked out for me and motivated me when apathy devoured my days before the Congress. They stood outside my door for two hours just to make me feel their presence. They talked to me even though I didn't want to listen to them. They endured my long hours of silence. They endured my heavy and guilty outlets. They left me my space, they brought me something to eat and drink, they replaced me at work without asking why or for how long, without complaining, only acting and patience.

I want to name one by one these people that you saw during the Congress but whom I saw before, during, and after the Congress and whom I will never stop thanking for what they did without even knowing what Intersteno was:

- Stefano, my father, a man whom I admire in every respect and whom I never told this. I think it is superfluous to add anything else;
- Bonny, my mother, who has loved me and endured for almost 34 years despite I was her despair and didn't treat her the way a daughter should treat a mother;
- Simone, my brother, always discreetly by my side and always ready to help me in any part of the world I am or he is;
- Rossana, my best friend, a sister, who moved half of the Manifattura, cleaned tables, organized my place when I was elsewhere, in silence, put her hands in the garbage, endured my absence because I was doing something else. She made herself available for months, taking holidays and giving up herself to be present whenever there was a need, in these two years, and not just for Intersteno. I will never be able to repay what she has done all this time and I could not even list it because it is really too much. I can only say that I have seen everything and remember everything and I will never forget. Thank you.
- Valentina, more than a friend, one of the best people I know in the world and the world has confirmed me by acclaiming her as a DJ on the final evening and asking her as a French speaking tour guide, despite her being neither a tour guide nor speaking French... Well, you let yourself be understood. She made her home and parents-in-law available, she set up a beautiful and exciting exhibition, not only in the week of the Congress but starting 10 months earlier. You did the garbage the whole week, you acted as a porter and a PR, you went around halfway through Cagliari to ask for business cards and discounts for Intersteno participants, helping me in every situation and never losing heart even when many would have bailed, including the memorable day she forgot her son's 2-year birthday. Thanks, Valina.
- Tiziana, with many difficulties, yet a winner in friendship and a world champion. Aurora was on a podium even before she was born. I have no doubt she will go up on many other podiums in her life - I don't want to miss any of them - because with such parents it can't be otherwise. Thanks to you and Michele for your patience, for having been there, for having endured a house full of boxes, orange bags, t-shirts, pens, paper, water bottles for days. Thank you for the work done before, during and after and for not abandoning me when I was unbearable;
- Antonella, coming for the Congress and above all never regretting it, not even in the middle of garbage, shows, walkie-talkies, and messy trips. With lots of patience you faced the anger of unsatisfied tourists and managed. Thank you, thank you, thank you, and thanks again for talking to me, understanding, bearing me, advising me and having been there despite all the difficulties;
- Barbara, my cousin, who moved her transfer to Cambodia for the Congress, arrived in the middle of a

mess, and immediately and actively help those who were in need. A fundamental and silent aid in the previous months. Thank you for your support, for helping me from remote, for replacing me and for writing a speech I've never read because I'm tired, angry and nervous. I hope to be able to reciprocate as soon as possible;

- Thanks to Marina for being present with great professionalism, without being noticed, with discretion but effectiveness. If I can enjoy this Congress for years to come, it will be thanks to your shots, Roberto's perfect video, and what will come from Julien Lebon.
- My friends who were not physically present at the Congress but who have helped me and tolerated me behind the scenes during all this time;
- Enzo, for all he has done and he knows very well, too complicated and long to list. Thank you for your great professionalism, action, and affection in doing what needed to be done, taking care of me with food, water and mint, ginseng coffee and Martini, which I drank after 30-40 minutes they were ready. Thanks to him and to the whole team for perfect food and beverage about which I have not had to worry about. Chef Antonio Sanna, chapeau...

I have received many compliments and appreciations from various people around the world and I thank you, but if this Congress was so special, you must not thank me. I only gave orders and directed people who lowered their heads and performed what was clear only in my head and they did it beyond all expectations, even when I was not right and / or didn't have respect for your selfless help. I therefore ask you, if you have time and desire and if you really loved this Congress, to thank those who made this Congress possible.

I write these words to you not only because my family and my friends deserve worldwide recognition and thanks, but because they can be an example. At Intersteno we too often talk about friendship and family, but we are rarely there for each other apart during the Congress. We should all learn from them, including myself, because only when we reach such levels we feel rich and complete like a true family. I feel rich and lucky because I have them.

Thank you all for participating in this Congress. I do not tell you that we will see you in one or two years, but I hope to see you again as soon as possible and in any possible context, so as to remember together the 52nd Intersteno Congress as one of the most alternative congresses in our common history.

Addition afterwards from Francesca: another person too to thank is the graphic designer of the Congress logo and all gadgets: Viola Orgiano.



Thoughts about the Cagliari congress

By Anita Dobos

In the middle of July we arrived from 29 countries to Sardinia.

I'm sure that several reports were posted, so I would like to write just a short article from my point of view about Cagliari congress.

Of course I'm most thankful to the Italian group for their huge work, for organising and for their hospitality and kindness! Thank you very much to All of you! You made these days in your wonderful island/city truly memorable for us!

Thank you for all Intersteno colleagues and friends for their support also in the Board, in the Jury and/or in the Council!

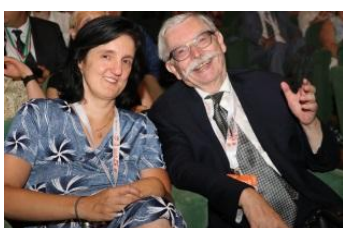
Congratulations to Waltraut Dierks for her Honorary Member title and Jaroslav Zaviačič for his Honorary President title!

In addition to the congress, the participants took part in several events and we got to know this beautiful island, its cities and beaches. Everything was unforgettable!

Last, but not least, I'm grateful to everyone in Hungary who (from the first minute to the last!) supported and helped me! I did of course everything that I could and they helped me effectively when I needed it!

I hope the following years will be as successful as the first more than 130 years for our Intersteno, which is an important pillar of our profession, not just a professional organization, but also really good people and good friends, very valuable people, family atmosphere and agreement. Challenges, tolerance, thinking together, harmony, friendship, learning from each other. Learn to compromise and community, to know different cultures, togetherness and understanding.

Hopefully we can meet at the 53rd Intersteno congress (or maybe even sooner than that who knows... 😊)! As the great sportsman Muhammad Ali said, impossible is nothing!



"Thank you" of the new honorary president

By Jaroslav Zaviačič

Seit 1963 konnte ich fast immer die Siegerehrung der Weltmeisterschaft Intersteno beiwohnen. Zuerst als aktiver Wettschreiber, später in verschiedenen Rollen (vom Trainer, Landesvertreter bis Präsidenten). Noch vor Cagliari 2019 konnte ich eine virtuelle Ergebnisliste in der Tiefe und Stärke von Emotionen nur schwierig zusammensetzen: 1965 Vizeweltmeister? 1975 Bundestrainer Österreichs? 2003 Roma – Als tschechischer Trainer „mitschuldig“ beim Helenas Weltrekord? 2007 Gastgeber des Kongresses und WM in Prag? 2011 Paris – Landesvertreter und Mitarbeiter mit Helena und fast 30 tschechischen Wettschreiberinnen beim Filmdrehen Populaire? 2017 Berlin – Als tschechischer Trainer der „goldenen Mannschaft“ mit dem neuen Stern Jonas Vala? ...

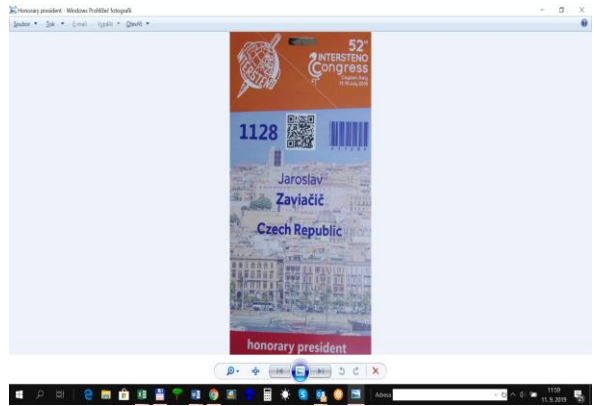
Doch nach Cagliari 2019 alles klar: bei dieser Siegerehrung haben mich Rian und Geo auf der Bühne mit der Verleihung des Ehrenpräsidententitel total überrascht. Der Applaus und Sympathieausdrücke dauerte so lange, dass ich inzwischen zwar paar „Danke schön-Sätze“ in Gedanken zusammengestellt habe, doch nur der Anfang in meinem „Halbenglisch“ aussprechen konnte: „I'm a little part of Intersteno since 1963 ...“

Bitte um Erlaubnis den Rest auszusprechen: „Danke für die riesige Ehre, die mich nicht nur unendliche Freude bereitet hat, sondern auch viel Energie aufgepumpt.“ - Als konkrete Nutzung dieser Energie entstand nun neues Projekt von mehreren Internet-Wettbewerbsarten aus der „ZAV-Küche“ unter dem Namen „ZAV-100“: dazu mehr von der besten „Mitköchin“ Helena ...

Since 1963 I have almost always attended the awards ceremony of the Intersteno World Championship, first as an active competitor, later in different roles (from coach, country representative to president). Even before Cagliari 2019, I found it difficult to put together a virtual list of results in the depth and strength of emotions: Vice World Champion in 1965? 1975 national coach of Austria? 2003 Roma - As a Czech coach "complicit" in Helena's world record? 2007 host of the congress and world championship in Prague? 2011 Paris - Representatives of the country and employees with Helena and almost 30 Czech women writers during filming Populaire? 2017 Berlin - As the Czech coach of the "golden team" with the new star Jonas Vala? ...

But after Cagliari 2019 all clear: at this award ceremony Rian and Geo surprised me on stage with the award of the honorary president title. The applause and sympathy expressions lasted so long that in the meantime I put together a couple of "Thank you sentences" in my mind, but only the beginning in my "Half English" could pronounce: "I'm a little part of Intersteno since 1963 ..."

Please allow the rest to say: "Thank you for the huge honor that not only gave me immense pleasure, but also pumped a lot of energy." - As a concrete use of this energy, a new project of several Internet contests from the "ZAV- Kitchen "under the name" ZAV-100 ": in addition more of the best "cook" Helena ...



Remembering of Csilla

At the beginning of September we received the sad message that Ibolya Csilla Hegedűs had died. Danny Devriendt and Anita Dobos have written down their memories of her, which you will find below.

By Danny Devriendt

Beginning as a young student, Csilla started her international career in shorthand and typewriting at the UNESCO youth competition in Vienna, about 25 years ago.

Participations at world championships in Istanbul, Amsterdam, Vienna, Prag and Beijing followed, first as competitor, later as talented delegation leader of the important Hungarian group and as council member of the Intersteno Federation.

In 1995 Csilla was awarded as junior world champion in the combined ranking shorthand and typewriting at the Amsterdam congress.

In 2010 Csilla hosted, already being a young mother, the successful Intersteno council meeting in Budapest. During that meeting, she informed us that she would like to spend the next few years with her family, as if she knew that her time would be limited by her unfair destiny. Information from Hungarian friends and through social media let us follow the further main stepstones in her life.

The message that she lost her struggle and left us so young, came very hard and shocked our Intersteno community. As Federation dealing with spoken and written words, we have no words but only tears, sadness, and the unanswered question: why?

The many nice memories and anecdotes that remain from the several moments we met Csilla should soften a little our pain. It was a big privilege to have known her: modest but ambitious, always friendly and elegant, helpful and smiling, devoted with passion. So we will remember Csilla.

To her husband Géza, her son Marcell and her family and friends, the Intersteno Federation expresses her deep condolences. May Csilla rest in peace.

By Anita Dobos

- Child, sister, wife, mother...
- Colleague and friend.
- Successful competitor.
- Great professional.
- Employee at Porsche Hungaria.
- Member of the Hungarian Association and has been a Hungarian representative of Intersteno for many years.
- She learned typewriting at an elementary school in an autodidact way. After many Hungarian competitions also participated in international competitions and Intersteno congresses.

Some results and activities:

- Istanbul (1993) typewriting junior 4th place.
- Amsterdam (1995) junior world champion in the combined ranking shorthand and typewriting.
- Vienna (2005) Hungarian delegation leader and council member of the Intersteno.
- Prague (2007) Hungarian delegation leader and council member of the Intersteno.



- In Vienna and in Hodonín international competitions (Hungarian delegation leader).
- In Budapest (2008) organization and realization of international youth competition.
- Beijing (2009) Hungarian delegation leader and council member of the Intersteno.
- In Budapest (2010) organization of Intersteno Council Meeting.

Since 2011 she has not been actively involved in Hungarian and international professional life, but she has always kept an eye on the development of the profession and kept in touch with the colleagues/friends.

She was extremely kind, friendly, and very intelligent. She had many friends not only in Hungarian Association but also in Intersteno.

The message that she passed away was shocking... She was very young, only 43 years old...

The day of her funeral was a very hard and terrible day, but – If I can say that in this situation – it was a very intimate commemoration...

I would like to thank all Intersteno colleagues and friends who wrote kind words, e-mails and text messages.

Very special thank to Helena! She came to the funeral ceremony and helped me to lay the floral wreath on behalf of Intersteno!

Thank you very much to Geo and Rian for the e-mail on the day of the funeral ceremony!

Thank you very much to Danny for the text message the morning before the funeral ceremony!

Thank you very much to Jorge, who made a tribute to her in 'Palabras Dibujadas' radio program.

Thank you very much to Victor and Carolina for many emotional messages!

Once again, thank you so much All colleagues and friends for all the kind messages!

Every message gave me a lot of power!

To Csilla's husband Géza, her son Marci, family and friends, I express my deep condolences.

With our minds we know that our destiny and life are not always fair, but we don't want to believe it with our hearts...

I didn't want to believe it... I don't want to believe it...

We worked together for many years in Hungarian Association and in Intersteno. So with words I can't express, I just try to express who she was to me. Who we lost...

Dear Csilla!

I've known your name since my high school years. You were a really successful competitor. You were one of my role models.

It was a pleasure and honor for me to have worked with you in the Hungarian Association and later in Intersteno! I have always been proud to work with you!

I have many memories. Despite a lot of work, it was always a lot of smiles and joy. You were always very kind and helpful. You always stood by me. You gave me always very wise advice. You were my teacher, you taught me how I can work in Intersteno. Your surprises to me at the Intersteno congresses are also unforgettable. Your Christmas gifts were also really sweet.

It is very difficult to accept that you are no longer with us...

We miss you really! I miss you really!

I'm looking for the words but I still can't find them...

So I just remember you.

The unique, the extraordinary, and irreplaceable Csilla.

Dear Csilla!

Thank you for your life! Thank you for being with us for many years! We loved you so much!

I'm sure that you stay in our hearts and memories and we will always remember you!

Your tomb is at the Budapest cemetery behind an angel statue.

Now already you are among the angels...

What you always wrote at the end of your e-mails to me: Lots of kisses, Csilla.

I can't write anything else: Lots of kisses, Anita...

Rest in peace our beloved friend!



Scientific Committee meeting

By Carlo Eugeni

On Wednesday 17th 2019 in Cagliari, I chaired the Scientific Committee meeting which has made interesting steps forward in several directions and started new initiatives.

First of all, we have launched the online journal of Intersteno, called **Tiro**, a tribute to the famous freedman of Roman orator Cicero, to whom is attributed the invention of shorthand. Editor in chief of Tiro was appointed last time **Eero Voutilainen**, who also reported on the event in the last enews. The editorial committee will be made of Henk-Jan Eras (professional matters), Carlo Eugeni (scientific matters) and Christine Phipps (technological matters and vice-editor in chief). The aim is to start publishing an issue per year, with articles coming not all at once but little by little as they are ready. Tiro is not going to be a competitor of the enews, because it will deal with international communication, not internal communication. Every issue will contain around ten articles (1,000 words max.) on not just scientific issues but also professional and technical matters revolving around reporting and transcription in general, including for instance stenography and live subtitling. For the first issue that will be published early 2020, all authors of the IPRS and General Conference-presentations have been asked to contribute an article based on their presentation. By doing so, our conferences will have a second life on the Web as a forum for professionals in the field. Other contributions will be also considered.

A second important topic is that of a **new Language Comparison system**, a project led by **Jean-Charles Le Masson**. The project is directed towards a universal counting system for Intersteno speech-to-text competition results (AT, SC and RT). The general idea is to abandon the syllable-count and to start comparing languages on the basis of a fairer measurement based on the ratio between spoken and written language: the rate between the quantity of sounds (phonemes) produced by a speaker of a language and the corresponding quantity of characters (graphemes) needed to write them down. By doing so, each language will have a specific coefficient that will tell exactly how many characters are needed to write down a language. Competitors will then be able to participate in fair contests where language is no longer an advantage or a disadvantage. A group of my students have created the corpus of written and spoken language for all 16 languages of Intersteno competitions. And while data are in the process of being validated by Jean-Charles, an MA thesis I supervise is precisely devoted to that. The aim is that of presenting the new system at the next Intersteno council.

Newly appointed member of the scientific committee **Rocío Bernabé Caro** (Germany) presented the European Union project called **Live Text Access** (<https://ltaproject.eu/>) or LTA, which Intersteno is a supporting partner of. LTA aims at creating academic and vocational training materials (all in English, some in Spanish, German, Italian and Dutch) for people who want to train in real-time subtitling through two fast-writing techniques: respeaking and Velotyping. The free training materials will be open source and available online. These materials will try to bridge a gap: at present, many companies are searching in vain for skilled or trained subtitlers, who have no clear nor recognised status. The Dutch Parliament provides an example, as it currently is retraining its own reporters as subtitlers without any guidelines. As the project ends in 2021, LTA is interested in creating a network of people within IPRS to allow the project to continue existing once funds will be over. Intersteno will, then, inherit all the work done during the three years of the project and care about its distribution around the world, by enriching the project with the possibility of internships in the various parliaments or associations IPRS is partner of.

Invited speaker at the scientific committee meeting Ms. **Gabriele Sauberer** from the European Certification and Qualification Association (ECQA) presented the idea of an **international certification** for the professions included within Intersteno in all the languages of the delegates. Board member

Krystian Wawrzynek has been appointed as coordinator of an exploratory Certification Committee (for more information read his article in this enews).

I then reported on three projects of the Scientific Committee without a rapporteur:

- a joint project with the Jury consisting in the evaluation of **ASR** + editing as a technique to be included among the ones that are allowed to participate in the AT, RT, and SC contests (for more information read Jury Leader **Georgette Sante**'s article in this enews);
- a project led by **Ezgi Aktürk** and **Allen Rotz** on the creation of a **Wikipedia article** about Intersteno. Ezgi has already prepared a first draft of the article, while Allen will capitalize on the Communication Project we have presented in Berlin 2017 to turn it into a Plain Language article. Once the article in English is ready, we will call for volunteers to translate the article into the various languages of Intersteno;
- a joint project with **Emrah Kuyumcu**, board member in charge of the relations with young Intersteno people, aimed at creating a new competition, the **WhatsApp competition**. The first non official competition took place during the Youth Event in Cagliari, together with the typewriting competition organised by the Milan Museum of Typewriters, who exhibited 30 old models coming from all corners of the world, which fascinated so many Congress attendants (for more information read Emrah Kuyumcu's article in this enews).

The last issue we discussed is the **Education Committee**. The chairman of the Education Committee, Tang Kewei, addressed the scientific committee with a detailed project: with the idea of making it an active body of Intersteno, he proposes updating the membership of the committee, meeting every year during both Congresses and Council Meetings on the topic of education and proposing projects to work on. That means motivating old and hopefully new members who want to participate actively. A further goal of the Education Committee is to update the research carried out on the educational situation around the world with an inventory and appreciation of the available training in conjunction with the LTA project. Finally, Chinese delegate **Liao Qing** suggests to publish Tiro on paper as well, so as to further strengthen the relations between China and Intersteno.



ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) Experience

By Carlo Eugeni

During the contests in Cagliari, we made a test competition in order to be able to answer this question: what about having ASR (the machine does the transcription job assisted by the competitor) as a technique to compete in the Intersteno contests?

Ms. **Veronica Cerbaro**, from **PerVoice** company, with a machine called Verbamatic Steno and used for court reporting purposes in Italy, agreed to participate in 3 contests with a new experimental modality: ASR + live editing. The results have been used for research purposes only in the context of a joint project by the Scientific Committee and the Jury.



Results of this experiment provide evidence that Ms. Veronica Cerbaro was successful in the Speech Capturing contest with excellent results (15 minutes, 4 mistakes, 497 syllables per minute). These were only possible thanks to her use of the machine. She also participated in AT and RT, but she encountered technical problems with the audio feed provided by the infrared system. Though she performed very well from a professional point of view (2.75% error rate), she wouldn't have been admitted in the classification. Given these results, we understand that the person is still essential in the competition process.

Hence, if the council decided to accept ASR-technology in the championships, we would not assess "*how good the machine is*" – as some fear – but "*how good the competitor is with the machine,*" as we do with other techniques.

Certification Committee

By Krystian Wawrzynek

Intersteno, in cooperation with ECQA (European Certification and Qualification Association), is starting a new project that will benefit all Intersteno members and will contribute to the importance of many professions. We want to create a certification system (similar to ECDL), of knowledge and skills for professions that Intersteno cares about. Intersteno would decide about the content of exams for each language and appoint jury members for certification. In this way, Intersteno will gain further international visibility and importance.

The need of creating a set of skills concerning text processing and communication, together with defining levels and minimal thresholds for these skills exists already for a longer time. Recently we got an opportunity to start cooperation with ECQA. It is an association providing a world-wide unified certification schema for numerous professions, and nowadays world-wide unified certification for professions related with Intersteno activities seems to be a real need. ECQA, through its activities, promotes and supports the certification and accreditation process of job roles for businesses and higher education institutions on a regional, national, and transnational level. Given that ECQA supports professional communities by creating certificates for different jobs, the partnership with Intersteno in this project will allow for developing standards in the field of reporting, subtitling, and secretarial professions, similar to what happens with the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) for the use of computers. That will benefit the whole professional community, for instance, by introducing skills cards and stating which skills are needed to become a professional.

The idea of our project is to create an international certification system available for people around the world. After the project is finished, it will be possible to take exams for a specific skill or profession and to obtain a certificate that confirms a certain level of skill. This kind of certificate will be valid not only in home countries but in all other supporting countries. This will be possible thanks to creating common minimal thresholds for competencies and conducting exams with the same rules in every participating country. Also, trainers / training organizations and jury members are going to be defined and verified by Intersteno. Only verified and approved organizations and individuals may become jury members for conducting the exams.

Through the certification we want to obtain international recognition of acquired skills and competencies that Intersteno cares about.

During the last Intersteno Congress in Cagliari, a small team was selected to work on that project: From ECQA it is Gabriele Sauberer (Austria) – director. From Intersteno it is Georgette Sante (Belgium) as a Jury President, Carlo Eugeni (Italy) as a Coordinator of the Scientific Committee, Liao Qing (China), Tori Pittman (United States), Jean Charles le Masson (France) and I – Krystian Wawrzynek (Poland) as a team coordinator. Everyone who wants to contribute to the project is welcome to contact me. However, every national association is going to be asked for their opinion at some point. Right now we are on the very beginning of a long process. The next meeting of the whole project team will take place during the next Council Meeting. Until that time we will make every effort to push the work as far as possible.

IPRS -Conference day

Below you will find the summaries of the presentations on the congress during the IPRS meeting and the conference day.

Diamesic translation: a theoretical framework for reporting and captioning disciplines

Carlo Eugeni (Italy)

I will talk of the notion of Diamesic Translation as a discipline. Reporters usually do a job which is considered as transcription. However, transcription is not an automatic or simple job, because it requires an understanding of the text as in translation. That is why a new framework where to understand the profession of the reporter is to be proposed scientifically. In this paper I will try to sketch a theoretical framework of diamesic translation with examples that show how the translation strategies first ideated by Vinay and Darbelnet in 1958 can also be applied to reporting. Plus, a call to reporters will be made to check against this new approach to the discipline.

Linguistic ideologies and editorial principles in parliamentary reporting

Eero Voutilainen (Finland)

In my presentation, I will analyze and compare linguistic and editorial principles of 35 national parliamentary reporting offices around the world. My data consists of answers given to a comprehensive survey of 84 questions about general premises and detailed practices of parliamentary reporting. In this presentation, I will focus on general themes that I consider as some of the key topics and essential phenomena in parliamentary reporting, such as reporting technologies, organization of the reporting process, target audiences, language ideologies, and fundamental strategies of representing speech in written form. Theoretically, I connect my findings to concepts such as 'entextualization', 'speech-to-text transcription', and 'diamesic translation'. Methodologically, in the analysis of survey data, I will combine statistical approaches with qualitative linguistic discourse analysis.

Italian shorthand machines in the open source era

Giulia Torregrossa & Daniele Casarola (Italy)

The advent of the first open source realtime transcription software and the appearance on the market of kits for the construction of very cheap steno keyboards is widening the field of application of shorthand machines - traditionally focused on parliamentary and court reporting or subtitling for the hard of hearing - from using it as a substitute for the QWERTY keyboard, to applications for communicating dedicated to the visually-impaired and the disabled in general, up to the quick writing of computer programs.

In this presentation, an overview will be given on the Italian open source shorthand reality, with particular reference to the two main shorthand machine systems currently used.

Harmonised training in real-time intralingual subtitling

Rocío Bernabé Caro, Estella Oncins & Pilar Orero (Spain)

The evolving legal framework surrounding inclusion has enabled greater participation of all audiences in the communication process. In this scenario, communication mediators such as real-time intralingual subtitlers face the challenge to satisfy the needs and expectations of authors, audiences, and providers

while generating qualitative outputs. Despite EU legislation, the provision across Europe is still uneven (European Federation of Hard of Hearing People, 2015) or insufficient (Romero, 2015) and not necessarily provided by trained experts. Moreover, training is not based on a common skills framework or shares quality standards (Eugeni & Bernabé, 2019). The need for harmonised training to equip professionals and prospective trainees with the skills required in the labor market should be tackled. The European co-funded project Live Text Access (LTA) has taken on this task.

The LTA is a collaboration between educational and non-educational partners which gathers trainers, employers, service providers, end users, and certifiers. The LTA training for real-time intralingual will have suitable skills to provide high-quality subtitles by respeaking or Velotype, which are the two techniques covering the highest number of languages and working scenarios. LTA will also train in five different contexts (cultural events, parliamentary assemblies, workplace, broadcasts and education) and for three working settings (face-to-face, online and by relay). The presentation at the Intersteno conference will focus on the rationale behind the competence-based LTA curriculum design and will describe implementation pathways within and outside higher education settings.

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Captioning Software using Automatic Speech Recognition

Tatsuya Kawahara (Japan)

We have investigated the use of automatic speech recognition (ASR) technology for captioning lectures and meetings. In this talk, I will introduce the recent software development and its trials. There are two scenarios: one is video captioning and the other is live captioning. Video captioning demands higher quality while live captioning requires small latency. In the trials in lectures of Online University, we concluded that the ASR accuracy of 87% is a threshold for usability, and the captioning time can be reduced by 1/3 with an accuracy of 93%. For live captioning, free software named IPTalk is widely used in Japan. We have developed an ASR plug-in for this software, so ASR results can be post-edited easily. There are two ASR options: one is a Google cloud-based server and the other is our own software Julius, which can run on a PC without the Internet connection and allows for adaptation of the lexicon and language model for technical terms in lectures. Use of ASR in captioning is increasing in Japan but still faces some difficulty for wide prevalence, which will be discussed in this talk.

Tatsuya Kawahara

Professor, Kyoto University, Japan

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The history of stenographic reviews in the world

Jorge Bravo, Azat Ambartsoumian and Diana Campi (Argentina)

Today we have the honor of being nothing more or less than in Italy, the cradle of the Shorthand. It is here in this country where many, many years ago in the Roman Senate, Cicero felt the need for his speeches to be recorded. That is why Tiron, his slave, created what is known as "tironianas notes".

They, without knowing it, accepted a great challenge: to create a writing system that could leave for history famous debates and speeches, such as the so-called "Catilinaria". As we all know, that invention was spread throughout Rome.

The same can be said of what happened after the revival of shorthand in England, the cradle of modern shorthand and parliamentary democracy. Once again, those who created the first systems, which were then adapted in dozens of countries -even in our America- felt the need to publicize the parliamentary debates and took charge of the challenges of those times. We could mention many more examples, but we believe that these are enough to show that in different moments of history, there have been and continue to be challenges in all professions, and particularly in all those that our Federation includes.

Today as yesterday, or rather today more than yesterday, we must be permanently permeable to changes in the ways of carrying out our profession. This does not mean that we should leave aside all that our ancestors have done. We could not carry on INTERSTENO without knowing everything that was done from 1887 onwards. We could not go our way without going to the invaluable libraries that contain authentic treasures, treasures that allow us to know the successes and mistakes of those who preceded us. We could not leave out all the forms of communication that technology offers us today. It is our obligation to use these forms of communication, not only for the development of our professions but also to share knowledge, to generate contact channels, to generate digital files, to develop projects such as the ISA project carried out by our Federation.

Today, everything is not limited to a pencil and a paper or a typewriter and paper. Today we have many more elements. And let us ask another question: How much longer will there be computer keyboards and stenotype machines, at least as we know them today?

Today, no profession develops as it did 50, 25, or 10 years ago. Why should we be the exception? Let's use all the elements that are within our reach. Technology today makes our task easier, including dissemination. So, why not talk about these issues that interest us all in a radio program, as we do in Argentina? Why do not we do a comparative study of shorthand, typing, information and communication using digital tools and making information more accessible? Specifically in the case of shorthand, we share the history, the main systems, the main authors. In this sense, as well as in Ghent, we proposed to create a catalog of shorthand libraries from different countries of the world, which gave rise to INTERSTENO's ISA project. Today we want to make another proposal: the creation of a digital platform with information accessible through hyperlinks -history of the profession, authors, systems, evolution in different countries, past and present of associations in each country, history of national and international championships, etc.- that should be permanently updated.

To conclude, let us be aware that the future of the professions that are part of our Federation is in our hands, which must also adapt to new times.

What better to remember here in Italy than our admired GIAN PAOLO TRIVULZIO, a passionate and a visionary who always bet on the future, as he demonstrated with the proposal of using tablets to write in shorthand, as we are doing today in Argentina and in Brazil. Gian Paolo said: "other adjustments will undoubtedly be necessary and the story will continue. We may have to provide answers to new questions. " Today it is in us to perform that task.

Towards the creation of an international library on shorthand

Boris Neubauer (Germany)

Digitizing Shorthand Resources - The Dream of a Digital Shorthand Library

For more than ten years, the author is collecting digital resources to assemble information about shorthand. The difficult situation of classic libraries containing shorthand books makes it necessary to increase their availability by digitizing and to improve their access by OCR (thus reducing the necessity

of catalogues). However, the digital world is not without problems: Copyright issues block an uncontrolled distribution of the newer sources in digitized form. In addition, Intersteno, as well as other organisations with shorthand know-how, is interested in combining these efforts with the installation of discussion groups, keeping up the know-how in these traditional fields. The presentation could lead to the introduction of a new discussion forum in the framework of Intersteno.

Opening doors through legislation, machine shorthand and technological collaboration

D'Arcy McPherson (Canada)

The principles of open Parliament continue to challenge and offer opportunities for those who support the work of parliamentarians. The Debates and Publications Office at the Senate of Canada has been providing access through live captioning via machine shorthand since 1999. However, changing technology combined with legislation to reduce barriers to access for people who are disabled or hard of hearing means that there is an increasing responsibility on the part of those who support chamber services to meet these needs and be technologically aware.

The Senate of Canada has a mandate to represent the needs and concerns of minorities and to ensure that their role in Canadian society is participatory, inclusive, and valued. Bill C-81, an Act to Ensure a Barrier Free Canada also known as the Accessible Canada Act, is currently at second reading before the Senate and is expected to be passed by June.

Once passed, Bill C-81 would give the Government of Canada the authority to work with stakeholders and Canadians with disabilities to create new accessibility standards and regulations that would apply to sectors in the federal jurisdiction, such as banking, telecommunications, transportation industries like air and rail, and the Government of Canada itself. These new regulated standards would set out requirements for organizations to follow in order to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility.

If passed, Bill C-81 will help to change the way that the Government of Canada and organizations in the federal jurisdiction interact with Canadians. It defines a proposal for standards development, regulations, compliance and enforcement measures, the complaints process, and roles and responsibilities for implementation.

It is no surprise that the speech-to-text industry has been a large part of providing access for people who are hard of hearing. In my presentation, I wish to address the ways in which XML technology can be applied in a parliamentary reporting office environment in order to provide enhanced services not only for parliamentarians but also to provide greater access for all Canadians and particularly those Canadians who face barriers to information. By leveraging existing machine shorthand skill sets and combining that with digital technology and XML applications, Parliament can truly become a house for all people.

Live subtitling of debates in the Dutch House of Representatives

Michiel Haanen (the Netherlands)

Parliaments are democratic institutes run and owned by the people. Openness, transparency, and accessibility are essential for such institutes. Thus, the idea to disclose to the public everything that is discussed and decided in parliament as much as possible, including people with disabilities, is not far-fetched.

In our presentation we would like to try to answer the following questions:

- What does Dutch Parliament do to make it possible for the hearing-impaired to follow (live) debates? Which goals has the House of Representatives set itself?

- What national and European regulation is there on accessibility?
- How did the service of live subtitling take shape at the Parliamentary Reporting Office? Past, present, future.
- How does live subtitling work at the moment? Short film of subtitling of question time.

House of Commons Procedure: Access and Scrutiny

Tony Minichiello (UK)

As the opportunities for political discourse widen with the increase in internet-based communication, so authoritative, accessible sources for that discourse increase in importance. Analysis of the role of parliaments is crucial in that context. Historically, parliamentary procedure has been seen as arcane, confusing, and a barrier to participation. The aim of the latest House of Commons guide to procedure is to reverse that process through a new approach to language and technology to shed new light on how the House of Commons conducts its business and reaches its decisions.

The way in which the guide was produced embodied its principles: it was written over two years completely in-house by people who work in the UK parliament with a strong commitment to increasing participation in politics by the general public and to maximizing the opportunities for MPs to hold the Government of the day accountable. Content is regularly updated and the structure reviewed to maximise accessibility.

The guide can be viewed at <https://beta.parliament.uk/collections/6i8XQAfD>

Tony Minichiello
Managing Editor
Official Report
Hansard, House of Commons, UK

Audio Description: future perspectives into parliamentary accessibility

Joel Snyder, Ph.D. (USA)

President, Audio Description Associates, LLC (USA)
Director, Audio Description Project, American Council of the Blind

The Intersteno community is a cadre of communication professionals at “capturing the spoken words in all environments and by different techniques and technologies and presenting it in various formats to various categories of users.” When visual images are a part of a presentation, a special challenge exists: how can words be used to “translate” images to words for the benefit of those who cannot see the presentation—whether they are simply not in the same room or perhaps they are people who are blind or have low vision.

Audio Description is the use of words that are succinct, vivid, and imaginative to convey the visual image from television and film that is not fully accessible to a significant segment of the population (more than 21 million Americans experience significant vision loss - American Foundation for the Blind, 2008). Audio Description is a translation of images to words — the visual is made verbal — and has been shown to provide access to the wide range of media and arts (television, film, performing arts, museums) that comprise any culture as well as the myriad live presentations at conferences, in educational institutions, and in a wide range of formats.

This audio description session will provide an overview of the “Fundamentals of Audio Description” (developed by Dr. Snyder) and access awareness, particularly with respect to people who are blind or have low vision. The focus of this Intersteno 2019 presentation will be on how presenters in live events

can use audio description techniques to create accessibility and how Intersteno professionals can capture the visual image of any media and use words most effectively to convey meaning.

*Session Presenter: Dr. Joel Snyder is known internationally as one of the world's first "audio describers," a pioneer in the field of Audio Description, a translation of visual images to vivid language for the benefit, primarily, of people who are blind or have a vision impairment: the visual is made verbal—and aural, and oral. Since 1981, he has introduced audio description techniques in over 40 states and 62 countries and has made hundreds of live events, media projects and museums accessible. In 2014, the American Council of the Blind published Dr. Snyder's book, *The Visual Made Verbal – A Comprehensive Training Manual and Guide to the History and Applications of Audio Description*, now available as an audio book voiced by Dr. Snyder, in screen reader accessible formats, and in English, Polish, Russian and Portuguese. Dr. Snyder is the President of Audio Description Associates, LLC (www.audiodescribe.com) and he serves as the Director of the Audio Description Project of the American Council of the Blind (www.acb.org/adp).*

Ethics and Technologies: Do businesses address ethical issues when developing new tools?

Iulia Mihalache (Canada)

According to the TAUS Speech-to-Speech Translation Technology Report Technology (2017), real-world speech-to-speech translation (S2ST) applications have been developed over the past years to serve various needs in different areas such as the medical or military fields, in humanitarian settings, or in multilingual communication contexts. The spread of realtime technologies for communication, the spike in the use of social technologies, the blending or convergence of tools and professions, the new translation technology trends (augmented translation, virtual reality, deep learning, machine translation, AI and big data), all these social and technological changes underline the need to help people around the world engage in borderless communication.

However, technology is not perfect and the use of translation technologies will always require human skills. In this context, how do businesses or users remain sensitive of such technological imperfections with regard to S2ST applications? Do businesses equip themselves with a technology ethical framework which governs their product development? Ethics pertains to detecting bias in product development, complying with privacy laws, operating reliably, safely, and consistently in order to prevent cyberattacks, tailoring the system to different audiences and contexts, making sure the users know if a system is being used, and how and why the system suggested certain outcomes. What is, therefore, the companies' rhetoric around ethics in relationship to technology?

In this presentation, we will try to answer the question if S2ST tools can be considered "ethical IT innovations". These innovations are driven by values which are not associated with short-term profit (a view which translates to the idea that humans serve the machines) but rather to a desire to help people grow, by fulfilling higher individual and social needs such as reputation, creativity or belongingness.

The international Michela alphabets, an idea that is still current

Paolo Michela Zucco & Fabio Angeloni (Italy)

Language development (English, French, Spanish); fine-tuning the new system for Arabic; Live Subtitling at RAI.

The international Michela alphabets, an idea that is still current.

The Michela method was born as "phonographic" and universal and already in the first manual of 1882 where it illustrated the basis for English, French, and German theories. In this brief overview will be

showed the most recent attempts to develop in practice the original theories for foreign languages and their adaptation to the digital scenario.

PerVoice technological solutions in diamesic translation

Paolo Paravento (Italy)

The use of ASR can bring to new scenarios in the field of reporting, such as respeaking (which can also be used for captioning and live accessibility) but also live editing, made possible by advances in the field of ASR. During the presentation an experiment will show participants what PerVoice has been able to produce in terms of applications in the field of diamesic translation, as Eugeni calls it: reporting, live captioning, transcription, live editing.

Sorizava Collaborative Artificial Intelligence Solutions

Sang Gyu Kang (Korea)

Some people inadvertently assume that the field of stenography would be altered by the speech recognition system based on AI technology. However, is this a reasonable supposition? In order to discuss the issue, we briefly review the development of speech recognition based on AI and its limitation in the current state. We propose our 'Sorizava Approach' as a solution by accelerating the collaboration between AI and human stenographer. Our product improves the accuracy of voice-recognition technology by utilizing the AI MIC and a new type of voice transmitter system. Easy AI deep learning toolkit and local server-based the engine made us surpass other commercialized technologies in concreteness and security. Time tracking modification and the multi-cursor system help the human stenographer efficiently review transcription while the automated system transcribes what it recognizes. We will also introduce examples of our product in use. We expect our 'Sorizava Approach' will create a new type of job 'AI stenographer'- harmony of human and AI technology - rather than alteration by the automated speech recognition technology.

Everyday linguistic and editorial choices in parliamentary reporting

Eero Voutilainen (Finland)

In my presentation, I will analyze and compare detailed linguistic and editorial practices of 35 national parliamentary reporting offices in different countries. My data consists of answers given to a comprehensive survey of 84 questions about fundamental principles and everyday practices of parliamentary reporting. In this presentation, I will focus on the perspective of everyday editorial work and concrete linguistic choices that are made in parliamentary reporting. This includes phenomena such as inclusion and removal of linguistic features and interactional details, dealing with non-standard grammar, editing expressions with complex or "non-parliamentary" style, correcting incorrect facts and processing inaudible parts of speech. During the presentation, these minute details will also be discussed with certain more general notions, like 'authenticity', 'readability' and 'linguistic correctness'. Methodologically, to analyze the survey data, I will utilize both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

We have seen the reporting future and its name is...

Henk-Jan Eras, Deru Schelhaas, Germ Sikma (the Netherlands)

What will the reporting workplace of the future look like? How will a parliamentary report look in, say, 20 years? What will then be the necessary skills for a parliamentary reporter? What about artificial

intelligence, robotisation, data visualisation, et cetera? How will the profession of a reporter change? Is innovation a necessity or a luxury?

Are you uncertain about your professional reporting future? We will provide you with all the answers in an interactive presentation on the future of parliamentary reporting. We will present our findings on innovation and look into the future and at trends in the field of parliamentary reporting.

The Dutch Parliamentary Reporting (PRO) has introduced and looked into several innovations in the last decade, such as video on demand, live video application, live subtitling and (automatic) speech recognition. We have experience with both introducing new technologies and the transition management that is essential to adopt these new technologies.

The statements that were discussed during this presentation were as follows:

The Future of Reporting 2030

Robots will take over our jobs in 2030

What does research say?

The probability of losing your job as a parliamentary reporter to a machine is 50% according to Willrobotstakemyjob.com. In general, the assumption is that all predictable or repeatable actions are likely to be automated. Reporting, however, is an intellectual activity and, as such, not an easy task to automate. It is more likely that the work of a parliamentary reporter will not be replaced but supported by automation. An example may be the introduction of automatic speaker recognition.

The Official Report in 2030 is a video

What does research say?

In the case of the Netherlands, video reports on average get 10 times more clicks or views than the Official Report. It is generally believed that visual content is easier to consume than a text message. Video has the added benefit of the impression of "being there", of experiencing an event, live and uncut.

The increasing popularity of video and video reports poses two problems:

- 1 There is no best practice yet on the subject of authorization of video content. How to protect videos from image manipulation or Deep Fakes? Where the Official Report is consulted almost exclusively on the website, a video report can be shared, embedded and downloaded and, after manipulation, put back in circulation.
- 2 Research in the Netherlands on the introduction of video reports in local councils (as an alternative to written reports) shows a negative sentiment among both councilmembers and journalists. They feel that the task of democratic control is harder due to the absence of written reports. Compare searching a text document versus a video for statements.

VAR will be used in parliament before 2030

What does research say?

Not a lot! On 25 January 2018, an MP of the DENK-group proposed, during a debate on Rules of Order of the House of Representatives, to introduce a VAR in the Dutch Parliament with the theme of transparency in mind. VAR was proposed as a weapon against a non-objective chairman who misuses the rules and thus brings inequality between the established parties and rebellious newcomers like DENK

The parallel between politics and sport is that they are both subject to rules. However, the results of working with a VAR in both football and Formula 1 suggest that VAR will not be instrumental in ending discussions but will in itself be the subject of discussion.



NCRA Convention and Expo – Denver, Colorado

By Russell Page

The National Court Reporters Association held its annual Convention and Expo in Denver, Colorado August 15 to 18. Hundreds of reporters from the U.S. and other countries around the world gathered for four days of seminars, workshops, and events.

Among the highlights was keynote speaker Erin Brockovich, an environmental activist who became famous in the U.S. after a movie by the same name was released almost 20 years ago. She spoke about the importance of being devoted to community and issues that are meaningful to each of us.

With over 40 different seminars and workshops to choose from, it was a very busy time in Denver! Tori Pittman, who won first place in Speech Capturing (Voice) at Cagliari, presented two seminars on voice writing and a third on Intersteno. Anissa Nierenberger shared tips on building and setting up job dictionaries as well as reminding reporters that our dictionaries are the most valuable realtime tool.

Georgina Ford's seminar entitled "Mind Your Language: Idioms and Accents, a Survivor's Guide" was both informative and entertaining. There was a very interesting panel discussion centered on international reporting which was conducted by Linda Hallworth, Stacey Donison, Leah Willersdorf, Heidi Thomas, and Jason Meadors. They shared not only their considerable expertise in handling international assignments but also practical advice on essential equipment to take along.

Another panel discussion called "CAT and AI: Getting the Most from your Software" highlighted advances being made in software, particularly in the area of artificial intelligence. The consensus seemed to be that no matter the advances in AI, having a live reporter in proceedings will always assure the highest quality product.

One new feature at this convention was the NCRA app. It was a valuable tool for everyone and provided useful information on the schedule of seminars, locations, speakers, exhibitors, etc. It even had a tab with suggestions of things to do and places to visit in Denver.

The Awards Luncheon on Saturday is a favorite event. While having a three-course lunch, attendees have a chance to become acquainted with reporters from all over the U.S. and share professional experiences. The results of the Speed and Realtime Contests are revealed at the luncheon. This year's champions are Jeffrey Weigl (Canada) in the speed category and Doug Zweizig (US) in the realtime category. For a complete breakdown of the results, go to www.thejcr.com/2019/08/17.

NCRA's new president, Max Curry, gave an inspiring speech about the role of change in our lives. He shared personal experiences that taught him the value of change, something that the court reporting field has seen many times over the years. As Max Curry put it, "Our industry is over 100 years young. We have survived and thrived because of that word: Change. As change happened, we have not run from it; we have embraced it and evolved." Wise words for us all.





ZAV-100

By Helena Zaviačičová

At Council's meeting held in Istanbul the Czech national group suggested and later in Cagliari specified that a "ZAV-Minutes" contest could be held. Following that, the Council agreed to organise the ZAV-100 contest in cooperation with the Intersteno federation.

Why "ZAV-100"? Interinfo Czech Republic celebrates the 20th anniversary of its existence and the author of the ZAV method, Jaroslav Zaviačič, celebrates his 80th birthday. Thus the idea to celebrate the concurrence of these events with a new competition, the sum of the both jubilees, occurred.

Many of you who have already participated in some of the ZAV contests are acquainted with the "minutes". The competition itself was already held within the ZAV Olomouc international competition in 2017 with an international long-distance participation and the feedback was thoroughly positive.

The aim of the contest is to pass 25 one-minute transcripts from the computer screen in a selected language. The penalization for leaving an uncorrected error is 100 penalty points. Errors can be corrected both by using Backspace and by using CTRL + Backspace (which erases the whole word). At the beginning of the competition, each competitor's score is 0 characters per minute. After having reached a better score, half of the improvement of the result counts in comparison with the current score.

Example:

- First minute's score was 400 points -> 200 points was admitted. Why? $[0 + (400-0)/2]$
- Second minute's score was 420 points -> 310 points were admitted. Why? $[200 + (420-200)/2]$
- Third minute's score was 300 points -> 310 points were admitted. Why? Because the score was lower than the up-to-now marked one.
- Fourth minute's score was 460 points -> 385 points were admitted. Why? $[310 + (460-310)/2]$

When? On **November 13th, 2019** – according to the time zones:

- the West of USA (-8) 05:00
- the East of USA (New York) (-5) 08:00
- Córdoba (Argentina) (-3) 10:00
- Brazil (-3) 10:00
- Western Europe, Portugal (+0) 13:00
- Central Europe, Prague (+1) 14:00
- Turkey: Istanbul, Ankara (+2) 15:00
- Moscow (+3) 16:00
- Shanghai, Beijing (+8) 21:00

Registration form, result list and all information on **100.zav.cz**.

Live streaming via Intersteno's Facebook page.

The King Felipe VI of Spain received the stenographers and stenotypists of parliament

By Jorge Bravo

On July 18 during our visit to Madrid, Spain, it took place a fact of historical characteristics for the profession of stenographers and stenotypists which we want to share with the entire INTERSTENO community.

We refer to the official act in which Felipe VI, King of Spain, received in the “Palacio de la Zarzuela” a large representation of more than 30 members of the Corps of Stenographers and Stenotypists of Parliament - Deputies and Senate -, who presented him with a book with the history of the Corps of Stenographers and with the speeches given by the king in solemn acts in the Congress of Deputies.



The King Felipe VI of Spain, with stenographers and stenotypists of the Senate and Deputies

Recall that the first shorthand version in Spain dates from 1810, when the General and Extraordinary Courts were constituted on the Royal Island of León (Cádiz).

We emphasize the importance of this act because it is the first time that a Spanish king receives a Group of Parliament professionals, in this case the stenographers, although it is true that there is a history of the Royal recognition of shorthand.

For example, on August 30, 1814, King Ferdinand VII visited the Shorthand School promoted by Francisco de Paula Marti (the inventor of Spanish shorthand) where he had the opportunity to witness a demonstration of shorthand writing, which was in charge of Maria, Marti's daughter.

Then on March 2, 1817, who visited that school was Queen Isabel de Braganza. Finally, something very important for the international shorthand community and for INTERSTENO is that in 1912 the X International Congress of Stenography was held in Madrid, under the patronage of King Alfonso XIII.

As noted on the official website of the Royal House, “The Sessions Journals of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate,” prepared by the Corps of Stenographers and Stenotypists of the General Courts, constitute the essence of the principle of publicity that all parliaments must have.

These Session Journals record transcendent events in the historical evolution of our history and constitute the best way to know the political, economic, and social history of our country.

During the audience, the King showed to have a thorough knowledge of the work of stenographers and the history of their function. He also showed his interest for the present and the future of the stenographer's profession.

This historic event was the fruit of the special impulse of two colleagues who have actively participated in Intersteno Congresses. We refer to Javier Núñez Hidalgo and Encarnación Ramos Villajos, stenotypist of the Spanish Senate and stenographer of the Congress, respectively. But beyond that, it has been the recognition to all Spanish stenographers of yesterday and all Spanish stenographers of today for their contribution to parliamentary history and freedom, because as the famous Francisco de Paula Martí said, "Shorthand has always been the inseparable companion of the freedom of nations."

Next, we transcribe the words pronounced by the colleague Javier Núñez Hidalgo before the King of Spain, representing the stenographers and stenographers present at the historic meeting:

MAJESTY,

I want to begin by expressing the gratitude of the Parliament Stenographers and stenotypists and Stenotypists for this reception, a fact that is a great honor for us.

MAJESTY,

Parliamentary shorthand, as Mr. Francisco de Paula Martí, creator of Spanish stenography, said at the beginning of the 19th century, parliamentary shorthand has been an inseparable companion to the freedom of nations. This was understood by the deputies the Cortes of Cádiz, who since the beginning of their sessions in 1810 entrusted the Stenographers Corps with the enormous responsibility of publicizing their deliberations in a complete, faithful, and transparent manner.

With this spirit we come here today, not only as the Stenographer and Stenotypist of the Parliament, but as depositories of a historical legacy more than two centuries old; Stenographers and Stenotypists inexorably are faithfully linked to the Parliament where every day we try to keep in force the expression "with light and stenographers," pronounced by Mr. Antonio Maura and that has passed to our cultural heritage as a synonym for transparency and clarity in any field.

MAJESTY,

The Sessions Journals of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate, whose elaboration corresponds to us, constitute the essence of the principle of publicity that must govern in every Parliament. They have reflected transcendent facts that have marked the future of our history, such as the debates that allowed the elaboration and approval of our constitutions or the solemn acts of proclamation of our kings. For that, the Stenographers and Stenotypists of the Parliament have worked, making the Sessions Journals one of the best tools to know the political, economic, and social history of our country.

MAJESTY,

This commitment to Parliament is more alive than ever, and the Stenographer and Stenotypist will continue to carry out their work as in the last two hundred years, with total dedication and fidelity to the responsibility entrusted to them.

Thank you."



Javier Núñez Hidalgo and Encarnación Ramos Villajos, during the reading of the words pronounced before King Felipe VI

The physiology of the fast writing

By Azat Ambartsoumian and Diana Campi

Miguel Palant was a renowned Argentine doctor and stenographer, standing out in both professions.

As he was also a doctor, he conducted studies published in the magazine "Escritura Veloz" ("Fast Writing" in English), published by the Association of Stenographic Studies. Among them, we find interesting to rescue the published work with the title "Physiology of Speedy Writing" and "Science and Shorthand".

He took as a basis the work carried out by Johannes Schlag "Old and New Devices for the Investigation of the Process of Writing" (Leipzig, 1918) and Publications of the Institute of Experimental Pedagogy of the Leipzig Teacher's Center (volume 9, translated by Alida Nolte). Miguel Palant begins his study with specific reference to the cursive script, and he asks himself, among other things, what is easier: the right angle or the curved angle?

Palant says that there are two factors that influence the writing or the act of writing: "Force and Action". And he adds: "If one takes into account the force that is used in the writing of the letters, the muscular groups that intervene in the different directions of the writing must be taken into consideration.

"A part of the expenditure of force of the fingers is applied to hold the writing instrument ... It is known that those who are initiated in writing make excessive wear and tear of strength and will that is not related to the weight of the writing instrument or the delicacy of pencil and paper.

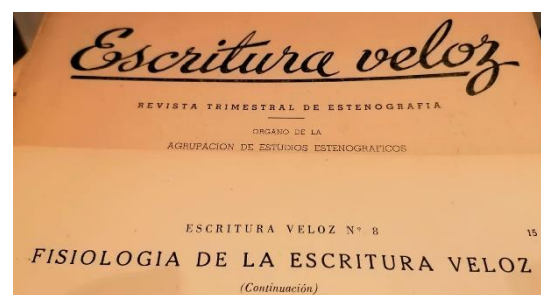
"Another part of muscular energy is spent in the movement of translation of the instrument of writing on paper, and here intervene the fingers but also the wrist, the forearm and the arm, and in some cases the whole trunk or movements of the head.

"The rubbing of the tip of the pencil or on the paper produces some resistance. And the clerk squeezes the pencil in different ways. The mode of tightening is not even: it changes according to the class and direction of the sign that is drawn. He who has experience writes the ascending traits with little wear of strength, increasing it for the descending traits and for those parts that require some pressure. That difference between weak and strong is due to the different pressure of the fingers in the movements of the writing: to a weak stroke corresponds a stretch of the fingers and to a strong one a shrinkage. This is accompanied with an increase in tension of the will, while there is distension in the stretch. So the distinction between thin and thick lines is a natural consequence of the ascending and descending form of writing. It is not a simple reason of aesthetics or historical tradition but based on physiological laws of movement.

(The magazine "Escritura Veloz" ("Fast Writing"), where Dr. Palant published his studies of the "Physiology of Fast Writing")

In general, we can consider 4 stages in the development of force during the act of writing:

- 1 The fingers hold the writing instrument.
- 2 The hand moves it on the paper parallel to the writing plane.



- 3 The hand overcomes the resistance produced by friction on paper.
- 4 The hand squeezes the instrument on paper because of the RESISTANCE produced by the rubbing; the INTENTION to produce a legible writing; the alternative MOVEMENT of the strokes in relation to tension and muscular relaxation.

In all these movements is involved a lot of muscles, directly or indirectly.

The physiological process of speed writing (Palant says in the work "Physiology of Speedy Writing") is similar to that of common writing, but the speed with which it is made gives him reliefs of extraordinary interest. The word heard, seen or thought begins by forming a known mental image (you cannot write what is not understood), and gives rise to the graphic image that precedes the motor impulse. This is where the differences between the physiological process of common writing and that of speed are most clearly manifested.

The mind performs a rapid analysis of the word, which in common writing is almost completely reduced to its alphabetic components, which do not need to be integrated into the word as a whole to give rise to the motor image, since as this process is fulfilled of analysis the hand is tracing the corresponding letters. On the other hand, in speedy writing, the analysis has to be completed until all the elements that constitute the tachygram have been integrated, whose image must be presented clearly in our consciousness in order to originate the motor impulse that is translated into its layout on paper.

This mental and manual process requires very special conditions. That is why the famous psychologist and psychiatrist Mira y López has said: "Not all of us also serve to be stenographers. To be a good stenographer you have to have four fundamental qualities, difficult to gather in the same person: a) speed of perception and auditory-motor reaction b) precision and agility of small digital movements, c) excellent logical memory, and d) perfect objectivity and serenity."

On the other hand, Dr. Mauricio de Medeiros, a prominent parliamentary professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Brazil, considered shorthand as an exhaustive intellectual gymnastics.

Dr. Fioravanti di Piero, who was a medical consultant to the Ministry of Labor of Brazil, analyzed the mechanism of brain uptake of the shorthand work. And Dr. Giulio Garibbo, creator of an Italian system, in his study on "The Factors that Intervene in the Stenographic Speed" analyzed the mechanical, professional, mental, nervous and psychic factors of the shorthand work.

We could quote many more opinions on this matter, but we do not want to extend this article any more. For that reason, we will only add that the Brazilian professor Prado Valadares calls the pathological state that derives from the intense effort to which the stenographer is subjected at the most culminating moment of his profession with the name "cerebral ergastenia of the stenographers."

This is, very succinctly, only a part of the studies carried out by the stenographer and Dr. Miguel Palant, whose works were published in the magazine "Escritura Veloz", which is in the Palant Stenography Collection of the National Congress in Argentina.

A stenographer, protagonist of Love in the Margin, novel of the Japanese writer Yoko Ogawa

By Jorge Bravo and Silvana Castro

Literature and shorthand always, historically, have had an intimate relationship. The cases of famous writers who, in addition to writers, were also professional stenographers are well known; others used shorthand as a means to write their books, and others have chosen stenographers as protagonists in their books.

In the ENEWS 86 (September 2018), we refer to the book "From the Corner of the Oval," by Beck Dorey Stein in which she recounts her experiences as stenographer of the president of the United States, Barack Obama.

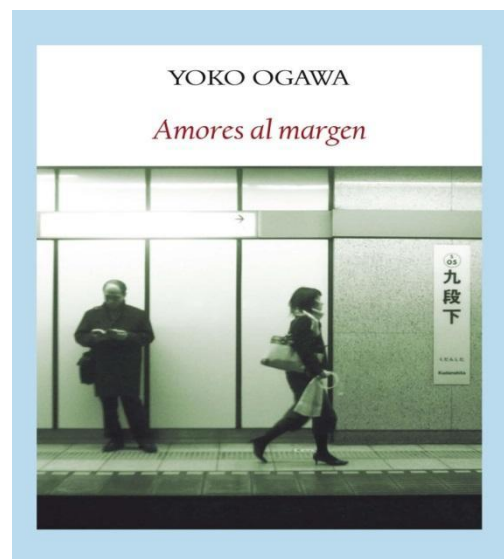
Today we recommend another book, in this case a fiction book. This is "Love in the Margin" (Yohaku no ai), by the Japanese writer Yoko Ogawa.

The protagonists are a 23-year-old girl and a stenographer.

The young protagonist, recently separated from her husband, begins to suffer strange noises or hums and also suffers great pain before any outside noise. She goes to a hospital several times, but they can not reveal the origin of the disease. That is why she meets with other people who have the same problem, and at the proposal of a health magazine, she decides to participate in a roundtable to tell her problem and the symptoms of her illness. It is there where she meets the other protagonist of the novel: the stenographer who writes everything that is spoken at the roundtable, which will then be published by the magazine that has organized the meeting. While she tells the symptoms of her strange illness, she is fascinated by the stenographer and in particular by those fingers that write signs at the speed of the spoken word, those fingers that attract her attention and for which she is attracted.

It is an enigmatic, intimate, intriguing, and detailed novel, even in what has to do with the function of the stenographer.

"Love in the Margin" has been published in Japanese and translated into French, German, and Spanish. Yoko Ogawa is also the author of the bestseller "The Gift of Numbers," which deals with a math teacher who, after an accident, only has a memory of 80 minutes, a novel for which she won the Yomiuri Prize, the Prize of the Japanese Bookstores, and the National Mathematics Society.



Shorthand update conference in the city of Escobar (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

By Pataricia López

Throughout June 21st and 22nd, professionals from Argentina came together in Escobar city.

On Friday 21st the symposium began, warmly opened by Escobar Council Chief of Tachygraphy, Patricia López, and Escobar Council President Pablo Ramos as hosts, with the involvement of representative Laura Russo Sujarchuk standing in for Mayor Ariel Sujarchuk.

Several topics were developed over two days, such as: experiences of the digital tachygraphy course, remote and local courses, details on tachygraphy internships, a brief overview of the methods to apply tachygraphy using a computer and a digitizer tablet, personal accounts of students and professionals, medical care concerns in the workplace and the legislative relevance of this tool as a public resource, as well as its constitutional origins, dissertation of representatives of different provinces about activities institutionally for the development of the profession, analyses and perspectives on the recording of judicial parlance, tachygraphy in both Argentina and the world at large; past, present and predictions for the profession, digital tachygraphy workshop and methods for editing and correcting session records.

The second day as arranged by the undersecretary of tourism, the participants were taken to visit Municipal Museum Dr. Agustín Campiglia, as well as the Japanese garden and then enjoyed a trip in a tourism bus.

It bears mention that all relevant aspects of practicing the profession of tachygraphy were covered to generous extents and it counted with the participation of members coming from several different groups in the Nation: Legislature of the Buenos Aires city, Legislature of the Santa Cruz province, Senate of the province of Buenos Aires, Chambers of Deputies of the provinces of Mendoza, Neuquén, La Pampa and San Juan and the National Senate, National House of Representatives, the House of Representatives of Chaco, the Councils of Corrientes and Gualeguay (Entre Ríos), the National Congress Library and the cities of Campana, Villa Ballester, Berazategui and Escobar district.

How do I still write shorthand?

*Carmel Taylor, from Australia**

I am frequently asked this question. Often it is prefixed by the statements “I thought shorthand was dead” or “It’s no longer used in business”, and it is usually said with some surprise that I may be unaware of this opinion! I am then quizzed as to my interest in shorthand – a question which I could answer in a number of ways.

I could answer by explaining a brief history and the uses of shorthand. Although shorthand dates back to Roman times, it was Sir Isaac Pitman who revolutionized shorthand with the innovation of the phonographic method. Shorthand was developed for the purpose of recording words more quickly than using longhand, whether it was a person’s own thoughts or what others were saying. Pitman shorthand was originally taught to and used by men with positions of status – judges, barristers and businessmen so they could record the proceedings for their own benefit, even if not in complete verbatim form. Others, like Charles Dickens and US President Woodrow Wilson used Pitman shorthand to record their thoughts or works and prepare speeches.

Later on, particularly in the early 1900s when many women learned shorthand, they gained employment in offices. Men still studied the skill, especially for court reporting and journalism. As the 20th century wore on stenography became known more as a female occupation, being taught in girls’ schools and with girls making up the majority of business college students. (as a stenographer I always wondered how shorthand could in any way be gender-specific!)

Once the skill is learned thoroughly, it tends to be retained. I have read countless comments from shorthand writers who say they use it to jot down a thought, a Christmas list, or parts of an interview on TV. My use resembles that of Dickens and Wilson – in meetings I write accurate notes of important aspects and perhaps the discussions leading to decisions. I have a sense of privacy when others cannot read what I’m writing. I’m sure President Wilson felt the same.

I could answer by explaining the brain benefits as to why I find shorthand so important. Writing shorthand stimulates the brain in several ways to assist neuroplasticity of the brain, which assists prevention of memory loss. Both the short-term and long-term memories are exercised as we make decisions as to the theory to apply, we store words heard, then we precisely write the outline. As well as memory we are using concentration, decision-making, motor skills and dexterity. This brain health concept led to a German study conducted over several years on shorthand writers who regularly wrote shorthand. Results showed their memories either improved or suffered no deterioration with the regular writing of shorthand.

Needless to say, these achieved benefits to the brain are not only applied to the writing of shorthand – the benefits of sharper thinking spreads across all their other activities. One woman in the study said she felt as if her brain ‘had been freed up’ by participating in the shorthand activities.

I could answer the question by asking a range of other questions to justify other popular pastimes – Why do people ride bikes when they have a car? Why do people learn to paint when they could take a photo on their phone? Why do people learn a language when they could use Google translate or are not intending to spend a lengthy period of time in that country? Why learn music when they could just download that piece? – these questions could be applied to so many worthwhile, beneficial leisure activities in which we partake.

The answer is that these activities are enjoyable and we do them because we love doing them. We need to stop thinking that shorthand was devised purely for the office situation and to be written by

women. In Japan university students form shorthand clubs, whilst in Europe a number of stenography clubs have youth sections where they train for competitions. It is challenging and satisfying.

I frequently read opinions online that shorthand is now useless and I generally find these opinions are from people who have not studied it, had difficulty learning it or who didn't have a choice about learning it. I learned it because I wanted to. Parents, often unaware of the complexity of shorthand, pushed their daughters into the subject as a 'back up' skill for employment.

For each of these comments, the number of positive comments is multiplied by the people who love it and gain great satisfaction from writing it. Of course, shorthand is not for everyone – no one hobby is. The people who come together at U3A in Melbourne to revise their skill are the ones who love this hobby. So do the members our Facebook group of "Pitman Shorthand Writers of Australasia" where we share history, readings, horoscopes in shorthand and a range of activities to exercise our skill. We are not seeking employment; we are seeking enjoyment.

Yes, shorthand is very handy. Yes, shorthand has a unique brain benefit. There are other reasons I could give in my answer to the question, but my main answer is this: I write shorthand because I have a love for it, I find it challenging, and it gives me satisfaction – it is my hobby!

Simple as that!

* This article was published on the site www.oversixty.com.au and was sent to the radio program "Palabras Dibujadas", from Argentina.

Carmel Taylor has worked as a stenographer and personal assistant prior to teaching business. Her passion is shorthand and her hobbies are art deco, fashion and sewing. She is a member of the Commercial Education Society of Australia.

Technical degree in stenography and stenotyping

By Victor Gonzalez



In 2016, a degree in stenography was proposed by Instituto Superior de Letras Eduardo Mallea, through its rector, Professor Lina Mundet, and the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers, chaired by the stenographer Víctor H. González of the Cordoba Legislature.

Then, after a thorough process to collect background and to prepare the curriculum, as well as compliance with the requirements, established by the pertinent authorities, eventually the Technical Degree in Stenography and Stenotyping was approved by Resolution 2019-36-GCABA-SSPECT.

The courses of this new degree will begin in 2020, as in-class courses, but this Institute is promoting the distance learning option in the future.

This means a great advance for stenography, since it strengthens and prioritizes this profession and at the same time allows for the training of new professionals who will be incorporated as experts in the different places where they are required.



Interview from the AATP (Argentine Association of Parliamentary stenographers) to the sworn and audiovisual translator María Dolores Gómez Aguirre

By Victor Gonzalez

The Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers and the National University of Technology (UTN) have signed an agreement for the first Certificate of Advanced Study in Audiovisual Translation that is being held in Argentina. We were able to interview the coordinator and the professor in charge of this qualification, the sworn and audiovisual translator María Dolores Gómez Aguirre, who has answered some of our queries:

AATP.- Could you please tell us about your work and professional experience?

MDGA.- I have been a sworn and audiovisual translator for more than 10 years now. I have a Master's Degree in Audiovisual Translation: Dubbing, Subtitling and Localization, as well as an Expert in Translation and Localization of Video Games from the University of Cádiz, Spain and ISTRAD. Most of my clients are from Europe. I work as a freelance translator and I localize many audiovisual products to Latam. I have subtitled feature-length films and short films that have won international prizes, including All My Guardian Angels which won the Montreal World Film Festival. I have also subtitled for the Cannes Festival in 2018 and 2019.

AATP.- As regards the Certificate of Advanced Study in Audiovisual Translation from UTN, could you please tell us about its methodology?

MDGA.- The Certificate of Advanced Study in Audiovisual Translation from UTN is a six-month course that has 3 components. Component 1: Subtitling of cinema, hearing impaired and video games. Component 2: Dubbing of cinema and video games. Component 3: Audio description for the visually impaired. The students have online classes with their teachers once a week and they are able to download the bibliography, software, and their reading material from the UTN platform. They have a private chat that they can use in order to ask questions and there is a collaborative forum where students can interact and ask questions.

AATP.- What is your opinion about the jobs market in South America for graduate students?

MDGA.- I believe that it is vital to know these skills. Subtitling has become a very important tool as well as a significant way of communication. I have received a large amount of work during the last few years and I really think that we need to be ready to offer these skills to our clients.

AATP.- Most of our members are really interested in subtitling. What added value do you think it will have for a stenographer?

MDGA.- I believe that as a stenographer, subtitling is important and it contributes great value to the skills that you already have. Subtitling is a way of communication and this qualification also offers intralinguistic translation; subtitling within the same language.

AATP.- As regards real time intralinguistic captioning, how is the work demand?



MDGA.- Unfortunately, if I have to compare Europe with Argentina, the odds are not in our favour. We lack experts in this field. Luckily, many professionals have realized that this is a field that needs to be taken into consideration, and since this qualification was offered, more than 1000 professionals have enrolled and are now incorporating new knowledge to their related fields.

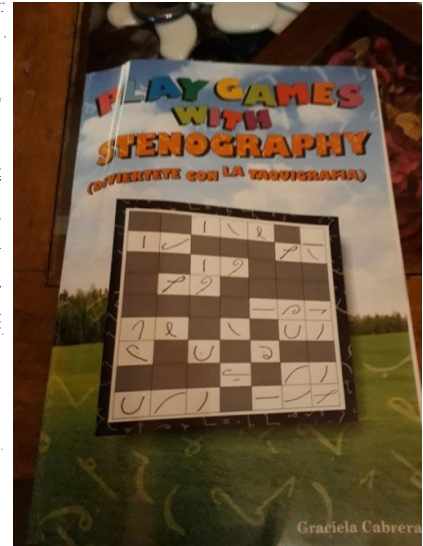
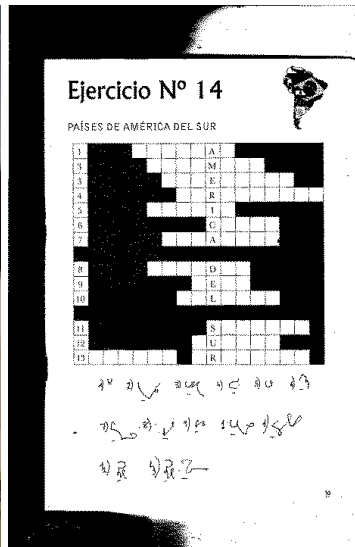
On behalf of the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers (AATP), we offer our thanks to the translator María Dolores Gómez Aguirre for her time and cooperation.



Playgames with stenography

By Graciela Cabrera

You can learn to apply stenography in different ways. Graciela shows this as follows:



Crosswords with countries, cities or verbs; in this way we will improve the culture of students a little.

Writing a word in shorthand for them to see how many more can be found. In my case with Marti shorthand, you can have several meanings.

In my system, you can have up to 10 or more meanings. With other systems, you can create similar exercises.

Sentences with parliamentary expressions for them to transcribe, e.g. Let it be communicated, to be filed, rationale, permission to speak, etc.

Make sentences with missing verbs and they must choose and write them.

Make a column with 20 conventionals and indicate that there are four or more that are missing.

Working with number operations in shorthand and their results. Be creative; try to make what we teach fun.

With the shorthand student is like when we teach four- or five-year-old children, we need to change the type of exercise every 15 or 20 minutes because they get tired.

I hope that each teacher with their shorthand system can amalgamate fun and different exercises to stimulate learning, without neglecting the dictations and the control of their average speed, which should not be done too often because it does not increase fast and the student can lose motivation.

I hope that each one knows how to make these fun exercises, because we must make this discipline attractive for future generations so there will be more of us. We should stick to technical aspects without forgetting that stenographers are always present with a paper and pencil, but also understand that we are automating a human being. We should try to support them when they feel down as any stenographer does, and let them remember that sometimes we are not in the best conditions for the best results in the dictations.

That is not an obstacle for this profession where the students need perseverance is needed by the students, as well as the overwhelming desire of teachers to continue their teaching always with love and energy.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, FOR THEY WILL BECOME THE STENOGRAPHERS OF TOMORROW

Book with Games

I have prepared this workbook so that students are not transcribing and taking dictations all the time, since the mere fact of generating speed makes the student tense and tired, and we teachers must avoid that happening.

In this way, you can play with the signs and make learning fun, since we have a great variety because we work with many words, that is, language. These dynamic learning games make the students ask for them, because they can do something different without neglecting their shorthand skills.

Besides, teachers know that with those exercises they reduce the stress of dictation, and have fun with the students (because the teacher also has to play with this teaching activity).

Shorthand is a wonderful art; it is another type of writing that allows a higher rate of speed, but we must constantly take care of the motivation of the students, so they do not get tired, and we enjoy hearing them say it is wonderful, and they are amazed of what they can write.

However, we must try to avoid a feeling of superiority, because we need to maintain a balance in this profession.

It is clear that reading is a little more difficult; they do not like it as much as writing. Still, we must always encourage them, making them understand that reading is not so easy; it takes longer and is the only way we will know that we understand what we write.

The teacher must never be satisfied with what the student transcribed; it is necessary to correct their forms or mistakes or why they were made (deformation of signs, not complying with codes of writing, etc.).

The games are simple crosswords, two columns with conventionals and the others transcribed but in disorder so they try to place them correctly.

Writing a shorthand text with mistakes so they have to correct them, and so we will see if they learned the theoretical points.

Jumbled shorthand sentences.