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From the President's desk

Where is going Intersteno? This is the question that arose in the debates of the Board meeting held in Budapest on 17th-20th March. We gathered there for the last time before the start of the Jubilee 50th Congress in order to check that everything was ready for the great event of our Federation. Be the next person to register at intersteno2015.org.

The Corvinus University, where the Congress will be hosted, is comfortable and large and provides many facilities useful to our needing. It is well located in the very centre of the city and connected with the efficient transportation system. Those who take part in the World Championships will find efficient frameworks and large spaces. A good quality restaurant in the canteen with very competitive prices will be available for participants and staff. A specialized company will provide the equipment needed for meetings and competitions. The Hungarian National Group is working to support the Federation and organizing the opening ceremony, accommodation and logistics, as well as the "Youth Day", our traditional event meant to encourage young participants to come together. Contact Tours the company that provides services and consultant for our Congress, is defining the last details of the numerous meeting and events listed in the Congress programme, including the farewell dinner on the vessel "Europa", to which Intersteno will invite all participants and accompanying persons. The company will also provide an interesting tourist programme. The list of speakers at the Conferences will be filled by the IPRS and Scientific committee in such a way that we can support and develop our professions in their path into the future.



If you or your association have something interesting to share with the Intersteno Community please step forward and answer the "call for papers" at <http://www.intersteno2015.org>

Although the Board dealt with the Congress agenda, which has absorbed much of our efforts in the past two years we are aware that Intersteno must look beyond this important moment in seeking to cope with the changes that are taking place and within the perspective of an international association with many interests and different attitudes. Aside from the responsibility of the daily management of Federation and Congress organization, we have the responsibility of the Intersteno venture. We therefore agreed that carrying on the inheritance of our history involves courage and continuous efforts involving adaptation, taking into account the experiences of different countries and technological advancement as well as the different channels along which our community is nowadays kept together.

One main issue is how to organise in a better way individual and associated memberships, given that a certain number of persons and companies decide to join Intersteno in those categories, regardless of being part of a national group. This flexibility (National groups and other members) allows Intersteno to receive support and resources which are very helpful in achieving our aims; furthermore it allows us to be in contact with newer experiences, newer professional groups, newer technologies, and to enlarge even further the vision and the boundaries of Intersteno.

During the 2015 Internet Keyboard competition we learned that people from 19 countries took part; overall I welcome the participation of competitors using ideographic languages (such as Japanese). It is a great success made possible by the cooperation, enthusiasm and hard work of our members who overcomes the technical difficulties and the cultural boundaries. I hope that we will be able to adopt the same goal for the competition that will be held in July.

The Board also discussed the project of defining the basic standard of the main professions in the domains of our activities. In the next few weeks this project will be presented to members and, it is hoped, approved by the Council in Budapest, marking a milestone towards an Intersteno certification programme to be launched in the near future.

Parliamentary and court reporters, secretaries, summary reporters, captioners ... We often speak about "Intersteno professions", but so far we have not defined the main features of these professions. This new attempt by the Board seeks to give our members an agreed basic set of competences, both technical and cultural, to be used as a common platform by individuals and associations. We hope that this project will favour the exchange of experiences among countries and will give professions an "Intersteno standard".

The Board stressed again the importance of making available an Intersteno staff and defined the resources to be devoted to this task. We want to pursue the aim of supporting and helping the management of the Federation by way of bookkeeping, feeding the Intersteno website and the social networks, being a point of contact for members and non-members as well as for institutions. We want to improve the Board's activity, even with this assistance, so that the effects of our work can be faster and bigger. In addition, the past two years' experience tells us that we must provide a special task force to keep pace with the organization duties of Congress, which are many and heavy.

Let me once again thank all those friends who co-operated in the timely launch of the new Intersteno.org website. As you may be able to see, it looks easier to surf and more efficient to access. The Board has already suggested to the webmaster corrections and additions but we would like all of you to support this progressive updating process with hints and proposals. It is a long-lasting task that needs help from the whole Intersteno Community.

Finally, I want to draw attention to the efforts of Board members, the team that I am honoured to lead. We have worked and are working very hard for Intersteno: we want to thank you all, readers and members, for trusting and supporting our efforts. We hope to present to you in Budapest the results that you expect.

Happy reading,

Fausto Ramondelli
INTERSTENO president



April 30th - deadline for the call for papers at the Conferences and IPRS meetings in Budapest



Speakers are invited to send an abstract in English of a maximum of 1500 characters about one of the following main topics to the Intersteno Organization Committee at the following email address: carloeugeni@gmail.com by April 30th 2015. Please, make sure that the subject of your email says "Abstract Intersteno Conference" and the organizers will confirm reception of the email. Each accepted speech will last max 20 minutes, followed by comments.

The conference will cover the following main topics:

- 1 How does the evolution of communication and information dissemination, especially through social network platforms, influence the relationship between spoken and written language? What happens within single languages in the world? How does communication among speakers of different languages take place in the era of automatic translation?
- 2 How do the technologies of Natural Language Processing, language corpora, cloud computing, Linked Open Data and other ICT tools influence the way reports are produced, published and consulted? How is the nature and meaning of "document" changing? What is the impact of all these technological trends on "documents" produced by parliamentary and court reporting services?
- 3 How can the competences of professionals working in the ever-changing field of information and communication processing, meant as a service to institutions and citizens, be better defined and enhanced? Is it possible to fix universal standard skills for reporting professions? Can these create a shared common ground in order to give birth to an international certification of the reporting professions? Can this start a disciplinary process with universities playing an important role in this standardization process?

More info at:

<http://www.intersteno.org/call-for-papers-for-the-2015-congress-budapest/>

Organization Committee

Dr. Carlo Eugeni (Roma Tre University)

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel (Dutch Parliament)

Budapest 2015 - Competition, culture, camaraderie

Competition, culture, camaraderie

 March 16, 2015 by NCRA

The 2015 Intersteno Congress happens July 18-24 in Budapest, Hungary, and promises attendees an array of exciting competitions, cultural activities, and networking sessions designed to generate international camaraderie. The 2015 Congress marks the 50th such event hosted by the International Federation for Information and Communication Processing and is being held at Corvinus University.



Intersteno is a worldwide federation of people, companies, professionals, and associations that use writing, typing, or voice techniques for producing text with the aim of processing communication, spreading information, and enabling public access to education and culture.

A main attraction at each Congress is watching or participating in the numerous competitions that test skills in text production and corrections, audio transcription, realtime speech capturing, and more. Tours are also scheduled so that attendees can explore the city of Budapest by bus and by foot. The event also features a visit to the Hungarian Parliament, educational sessions, exhibitors, and a number of opportunities to network with peers and colleagues from around the world.

As you can see, this is the title of the announcement in the website of NCRA (USA) to release information about our congress and to encourage its associates to be with us.

We expect several people from that country to attend and to compete.

This year they have the advantage of a favourable exchange rate.

This is a big opportunity: do not miss it, we will be glad to welcome you.

Internet contest - The marathon has started...

And it will end on 9th May next. About 100 participants have begun to compete, in different languages. Schools and association from 19 countries are registered, including Canada, United States, Australia, India and Japan.

Follow the results at this link on our new website www.intersteno.org.

News from Countries

Italy - meeting and activities

The On-Air Intersteno Italia group will meet in Bologna on 12th April, in Hotel Guercino. The agenda includes several topics, mainly related to the Italian presence at the next Congress in Budapest.

In addition to the offer of 30 minutes' online text-production, made available free of charge for some years, this year competitors can take advantage of tests in the various competition formulae with advice and suggestions from previous participants and jury members. These are also offered free of charge.

[e-news 68, April 2015](#)

INTERSTENO

International Federation for Information and Communication Processing

Antonio Michela Zucco - Celebration of the bicentennial of the birth



On 22th March 2015 the native town of Antonio Michela Zucco (one of the first inventors of a steno machine) celebrated the bicentennial of his birth. San Giorgio Canavese is in the northern part of Italy, about 40 kilometres from the well-known city of Turin.

Michela was a schoolteacher who researched information about the sound and syllables in many languages which led him to conceive the idea of being able to write in any language using only sounds. He described this theory in his reports which are even today recognised as being in line with modern linguistics research.

He decided to use a piano keyboard, on which it is possible to form chords as any pianist knows well, and to use them at a high speed.

In about 1863 he officially presented his equipment and followed this up in succeeding years at several European exhibitions. In 1879 he obtained a USA patent for his invention. At the first Intersteno Congress in London in 1887 there were reports and comments about this machine, as well as in the report of the Paris Congress a few years later. These reports can be read at the Archive menu of <http://www.intersteno.org/congresses-final-reports/>.



In 1881 the patent was acquired by the Italian administration of the Senate, where it began to be used and is still in use today in a more modern construction and linked to CAT software which permits immediate conversion of the 'steno' signs.

Originally the machines printed geometric steno signs which also had a numeric correspondence and these signs were printed in the strip of paper in the middle of the two semi-keyboards (as can be seen in the image.)

The experience gained in the Senate led to improvements in the manufacture of the machine and in the conversion of steno signs to alphabetic letters, finally reaching the new fully electronic version which has been in use since 2003.

In about 1990 knowledge of this equipment spread outside the Senate and was used in regional and municipal assemblies. It was also possible to incorporate the improvements adopted by the stenotypist of the Senate who intensively used the Michela rules for reducing the quantity of strokes. This gave rise to the idea of introducing a few modifications in the keyboard layout to produce better writing of special combinations and to permit to have all syllables of a word to be joined together. This method was proposed by Dott. Mauro Cammoranesi, stenotypist of the Senate, and is known as 'metodo accorpato' i.e. 'unifying method'.

Using this equipment many stenotypist of the Italian Senate have successfully taken part at the Intersteno competitions since 1964, reaching speed over 450 Italian syllables at the top of the classification lists. A few of the names of such experts are Lillo Bruccoleri, Fausto Ramondelli, Fabrizio del Signore, Daniele Pendolini.



The meeting in San Giorgio Canaves was attended by the authorities and a good number of people. A message was received from the Senate and demos were made by stenotypists active in the Regional Council of Turin where the Michela (electronic version connected to a CAT and computer) has been on duty since 1990.

[gpt](#)

Luxembourg - First national online contest

« **LUX-SPEED-TYPING 2015** » The first national online contest in typewriting between Luxembourg's schools took place from 19th January - 27th February. The idea to call it « LUX-SPEED-TYPING » originated along with the idea to look upon the contest as a competitive activity and not a simple school activity. In order to motivate young people to participate in the contest it seemed important to separate it from the schools' daily routine and to integrate it in a so-called extracurricular activity. While students improved

their skills during training for the contest they also naturally improved their academic skills. Comparing themselves to others in Luxembourg or abroad necessarily raises their ambitions and motivation.

That is the key for further activities and the development of the national contest.

Marie-Paule Wagener, former associate member of Intersteno, retired in 2014 and Nicole Gangolf, teacher in Maacher Lycée, Grevenmacher and member of AETCO (Association des Enseignants en Techniques de Communication et d'Organisation), applied for membership in Intersteno. The board agreed to her application and from there things progressed. In autumn 2014 the « LUX-Speed-Typing group » was founded by her. It is composed of 7 teachers, all members of AETCO and responsible for teaching word processing, commercial correspondence, as well as office management. (Schools and teachers involved are: Ecole de Commerce et de Gestion: Mrs Jacqueline Klepper, Lycée technique de Bonnevoie: Mrs Pia Schintgen, Lycée technique du Centre: Mrs Patricia Frieders and Mrs Jeannine Richter, Lycée technique d'Ettelbruck: Mrs Pascale Kasel, Maacher Lycée: Mrs Nicole Gangolf and Mrs Josiane Funck).

The following are the criteria concerning age categories, the group fixed evaluation and ranking for the Luxembourg contest:

Competitors must perform in the 3 official school languages (French, German and English) with the following limits:

Pupils	13-16 years	100 cha/minute
Juniors	17-20 years	120 cha/minute
Seniors	> 20 years	140 cha/minute

cha = characters/minute

A maximum of 0,50 % errors are allowed. For every error typed 50 penalty points are withdrawn from the gross speed. Keyboarding with 10 fingers is essential.

The minimum speed required related to the official school programme. In light of the fact that for most Luxembourgish students neither French, nor German nor English is their mother tongue, the group decided to leave the choice to the students and to let them decide for a « first » or dominant language, and a 2nd and 3rd language. The first language corresponds to the mother tongue of Intersteno. A diploma will only be granted if the 3 languages are successfully completed and it will make a special reference to the dominant language.

Six schools participated. 14 teachers were responsible for supervision and support. A total of 134 students participated in the contest; 67 students were classified according to Luxembourgish criteria. The Luxembourgish champion is Ms Vanessa Rosselli from the Lycée classique Echternach. She won with a total of 9539 points and has become the champion in both the general classification and in her age category (13 – 16 years). Second and third places were awarded to Jessica Manderscheid with 7525 points and Tara Mirkes with 6751 points, both from the Ecole de Commerce et de Gestion. Congratulations to them.

The LUX-Speed-Typing group tries to stick as closely to the curriculum as possible in order to promote the idea of the contest and in that way to motivate as many students as possible to participate in that contest. It is worth mentioning that the official flyer was created by students of a 12th class of the Maacher Lycée.



Nicole Gangolf

Japan - participation in the Internet contest



129 members of the Japanese Association All Japan typists (www.typist.jp) will take part in our Internet contest. Full information was given on their web site together with a translation of the rules of the competition.

Mr Takahiro Sumino announced that they are among the best Japanese typists and informs us that most probably about five persons will be in Budapest for our Congress and taking part in the text-production competition.

Poland - Fifth Polish Championships in Typing organized by Interinfo Polska

The Fifth Polish Championships in typing organized by Interinfo Polska took place in Tychy on November 22nd.

This competition was organized as a public task entrusted by the Office of the Marshal of Silesia.

The championships were under the patronage of the President of Tychy. The honorary guest were seven times world champion in text production, Helena Zaviačičová, together with her coach and author of the programme for learning methodical typewriting - Jaroslav Zaviačič.



The competition consisted of two disciplines in three age categories.

- 1 Text Production (every participant had to rewrite two different text in a period of 10 minutes. The penalty for one mistake was 50 strokes. Accuracy was important as well as speed. The upper limit of mistakes was 0.5% - (amount of mistakes divided by amount of strokes gross). Participants who crossed that threshold were disqualified.
- 2 MS Word Processing: in a 30-minute period participants were required to solve a task which required knowledge of almost all tools of the text editor, starting from objects edition, tables and ending on mail merge).

The fifth Polish Championships in typing reported 69 participants. This is a new record in the history of the Championships. A total of 51 participants from around the country qualified for the competition.



Results:

Text Production

Category: seniors

1 Damian Mrowiec 531,8 strokes / 1 min	2 Grzegorz Potocki 524,6 strokes / 1 min	3 Dawid Dobrzyński 287,2 strokes / 1 min
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Category: juniors

1 Franciszek Puchała 526,6 strokes / 1 min	2 Krzysztof Leszczyński 417,2 strokes / 1 min	3 Adam Rybczyński 411,1 strokes / 1 min
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Category: pupils

1 Katarzyna Skudło 286,9 strokes / 1 min	2 Sebastian Pospiech 226,6 strokes / 1 min	3 Julia Klemens 189,7 strokes / 1 min
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MS Word Processing

Category: seniors

1 Damian Mrowiec

Category: juniors

1 Marcin Mrowiec	2 Justyna Łończyk	3 Olaf Wojtarowicz
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Category: pupils

1 Sebastian Pospiech



Teresa Wawrzynek

Germany: a blind 13-year-old girl, types fast with highest accuracy on the keyboard and is learning using stenomachine for the blind.



A video of RadioBremen (which can be seen at this link) shows the high performances of a blind typist, who is also studying how to use a steno machine for the blind, since she would like to be reporter at the Bundestag (the German Parliament). Congratulations and good luck to her!



The Netherlands - some more information about the introduction of typing lessons in Dutch primary schools.

Further to our article in E-News 67 we report that the Committee on Education, Culture and Science of the Dutch House of Representatives at its meeting of January 15, 2015, discussed in general terms the future curriculum for basic education. The discussion did not address the issue that already in primary school pupils should learn to touch-type. Only the following statement of the State Secretary during this meeting touched on our point of view: "(...) we shall see what we can learn from other countries. (...) We know very well, on the basis of scientific research, which things pupils/students can learn best at what stage. We can take this into account when formulating the curriculum, so that it is scientifically founded."



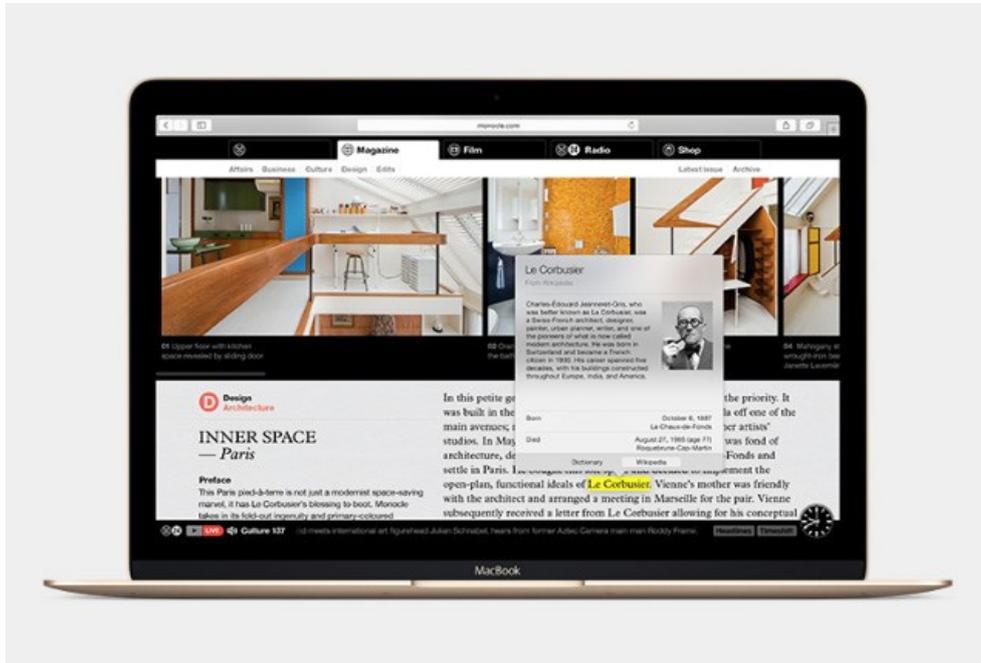
The State Secretary referred to the input for the new curriculum that has already come from Dutch educational circles. This input and what is still to come will be listed and analyzed by the so-called Platform #Onderwijs2032. This platform now has its own website: www.onderwijs2032.nl. Here you can see the results of the previously held national brainstorming on the content of our future basic education. Interested parties can still contribute, via platform and website, to specific themes. Reports of all discussions concerning #Onderwijs2032 will be published on the website.

The brainstorming period resulted in more than 17,000 responses, now to be processed by the Platform #Onderwijs2032. This platform will give structure and depth to this social dialogue and will carry out an international comparative analysis. On this basis in the autumn the platform will advise the Dutch government on what kind of knowledge and skills students should acquire at school so as to be able to participate optimally in our future society. This advice will then form the basis for a reform of the basic educational content in the coming years.

The Interinfo Board will now have its own input in the participation organized by the platform, and then wait for the coming advice. It means that for the moment there is no clarity about the future place and role of touch typing as part of the curriculum for primary and (the first years of) secondary education in the Netherlands.

What's new?

Apple unveils smallest and lightest MacBook ever with 12-inch Retina Display



In mid-April Apple will release its reinvented MacBook, a 12-inch model that's thinner and lighter than any machine the company has ever made. For the first time the all-new unibody structure has no internal fan and it contains the smallest and most dense logic board the company has manufactured en masse – one that is 67 percent smaller than that in the 11-inch MacBook Air. The new MacBook also comes with an unusual compromise: a single, new USB-C connector that supports everything from charging to Ethernet and connecting peripherals

EVENTS

Germany - Haltern am See - 13-16 May 2015



The German championships in shorthand, text production and correction and wordprocessing will take place in this charming town.

Individual and team competitions will be held, ranked according to age categories. Transcription of steno works can be done using a computer on which a USB stick with special UNIX software has to be installed. Those who transcribe using a computer have 30 % less time compared to those who handwrite their transcription.

A reception will take place in the Town Hall, when the presence of the Major is planned, while special events such as a disco evening, are offered to young participants.

The release of results and diploma will take place on Saturday evening at Schulzentrum.

Full information available at this link.

This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information and Communication Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all e-mail addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board. Text with signatures cannot reflect the official position of the Board of Intersteno, but only that of the authors.

Please use news@intersteno.org for any additional comments as well as names of persons and entities interested in receiving this message. If you do not want to receive this letter, please send an email stating only UNSUBSCRIBE in the object of the message.

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INTERSTENO

International Federation for Information and communication Processing

Internationale Föderation für Informations-und Kommunikationsverarbeitung

Fédération internationale pour le traitement de l'information et de la communication

