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Zagreb 5-8 October 2016

Intersteno Council and IPRS Meetings



From the President's desk

Already two months have passed since Gian Paolo Trivulzio passed away. The vacuum that he left - the sorrow, the lack of presence that we experience - are so large and deep that I doubt we will be able to go far without him. Those who had the good fortune to meet him, to speak to him, to receive his encouragement, to share his visions, would certainly agree that his absence will not be easily filled. His vast knowledge, his enthusiasm, his curiosity in the reporting field - well described by one of his best friends, Paolo Pagani, on page. 4 - have been for many years at the heart of Intersteno's actions. And now that he is no longer with us we understand even better how much he gifted to our community.



On page. 8 Jaime Liébana, a good, long-term friend of Intersteno (Spain), draws our attention to the importance of an Intersteno standard of education and training, especially for helping young professionals to enter the labour market. As readers might remember, on the occasion of the 50th Congress in Budapest Intersteno agreed a list of professional competences (ISPC). The discussion is open in order to define it. In the next Council meeting (Zagreb 7-9 October - see agenda on page 14) we will finally be able to look at a possible "Certification Programme" and, hopefully, at the creation of an international network of professionals. The Board and the Scientific Committee, as well as all the components of Intersteno, will cooperate to achieve such a result. Members and readers of the E-news are invited to contribute their ideas and comments.

While writing this presentation I am flying back from Berlin, where Danny Devriendt and I made a number of visits to possible venues for our next Congress in July 2017. The Secretary, Treasurer and all the Board are working hard in their search for an efficient venue for conferences and competitions, but - unexpectedly - we have not yet found a complete and satisfying solution to the puzzle. We will concentrate on our task and this recent visit to Berlin seems to have given us the confidence that we shall reach our goal: in Zagreb we will be able to present the main guidelines of the 51st Congress.

Nevertheless, we must stress that the organization of Congress is absorbing way too much of the (few) energies that we, as a management team, can put into this Association, and this means that other important activities have necessarily been left behind. This is something that we must consider for the future, because we cannot leave aside institutional aims and projects, which must be progressed and not absorbed by the biennial Congress. The expertise and the analysis of the ongoing Congress, as well as that of the previous ones, together with a possible revision of the Congress formula, will give us pointers on mistakes to be avoided and solutions to be adopted.

The Croatian Society of Stenography has set an efficient and attractive programme for the Council and IPRS meetings in Zagreb (including the excursion to the Plitvice National Park), next October. These mid-term events are of the utmost importance for the life of Intersteno and for developing the actions allowing us to pursue our long term aims; in those meetings, debates and decisions taken are often deeper and more incisive compared with

those occurring during the Congress, as there is more time to investigate alternative and concurrent proposals of members. So this is the time when National Groups as well as other members are invited to put forward their proposals and comments to make our community stronger and in line with professional needs. As a matter of fact, the Board, the Jury and the Scientific Committee cannot cope with their duties without the concrete participation and contribution of the various components of Intersteno. The Set of Professional Competencies (ISPC), the update of competition rules, with a view to the changing work process, the latest news in the technical field, the enforcement of the Intersteno network, a reconsideration of the Congress agenda, the opening of newer horizons and projects, the tools for making Intersteno more efficient and useful, the debates on scientific and cultural topics ... these are the main contents of our next meeting in Zagreb.

Above all, in my opinion Intersteno needs a renewed season of cooperation, friendship and enthusiasm. In recent years, Board, Council and the whole Intersteno framework have seemed unable to achieve the ambitious goals fixed in the Statute. In a (very) changing world Intersteno meets organizational and management difficulties that slow down its steps and oblige it to chase after emergencies. My goal as President has always been, and will always be, not only to face and manage the daily necessities of our Association, but give it a broader and higher perspective, so that we can keep pace with the future of the professions.

The financial and human resources at our disposal are not as great as we would like, but they are sufficient to finance the actions and projects that are worthy, that demonstrate the strength and the value of our existence, and show that Intersteno – even though it is long-established – is a modern association. Forthcoming events, the Council and IPRS meetings in Zagreb and the 51st Congress in Berlin, should provide solutions to these issues.

Happy reading!

Fausto Ramondelli



Plitvice National Park

Gian Paolo Trivulzio: the stenographer who predicted the future.

In an era where culture has been flattened and triumphant media technology has greyed and deadened the world, I smile serenely and peacefully when thinking of the nice person that was Gian Paolo. I met him for the first time 50 years ago, not because of a friendly routine but because of a shared passion for the word and its multiple aspects: written, spoken, mediated, stenographed, tortured, rescued, processed.



But friendship follows bizarre paths.

We appreciated each other and we celebrated the pleasure of our meetings with a linguistic, graphic (or better) stenographic ritual made up of many codes and sub-codes. He used the Cima method, I used the Gabelsberger one. We needed an understanding of the index tracing eternal and evanescent words on paper or in the air to know confidently that we were thinking the same, as friends who meet after having reached the same goal by following different routes.

That is why, on the bench of life, we always had lots of things to tell each other.

I knew him and we were acquainted with more or less the same old unforgettable masters, such as Cima, Rodriguez, Zucchermaglio, Aliprandi and so many others. However, he couldn't help surprising me. Damn! He was always a step ahead. While I used to nostalgically think of the past, he used to curiously think of cultural and technological curiosities. And he was so smart that you couldn't fail to follow him. Congresses, conferences, seminars, speeches, lectures... He was always a passionate and charming character. Gian Paolo was enthusiastically prepared on everything: handwriting, speech rates, speech capturing, complex recording systems, work management... He used to guess the fastest and unpredictable innovations. He had even found on the Internet the lectures, in English, of Walter Kistler, engineer and founder of an electronics company, inventor of an unimaginable number of futuristic tools, space flights included, and creator of a stenographic system, the "Newrite", that Gian Paolo wanted to learn.

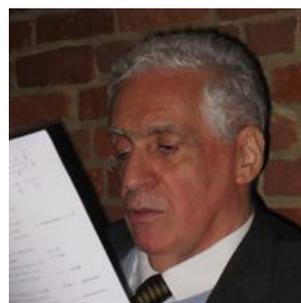
His need for knowing was never satisfied, not just because of the many sophisticated technologies which populated an era made up of unbelievable inventions, but because of his personal encounters with thinkers and inventors of fast-writing techniques, such as Tang Yawei, the father of the Chinese stenography (both manual and stenotypical), whom he met in Beijing in 2008.

In public, then, Gian Paolo was characterized by a burning passion, an excitement typical of those who have an interior magma of thoughts and ideas that push the mind because they want to come to light. And, generously, he has never stopped them. His public speeches are well known. However, only a few people know his moral subtleties and the elegance of his character in the private sphere. I have never heard him pronouncing envious or maleficent words. He was naturally gentle and kind. When we sometimes met in my house, he always had a flower for Patrizia and was available for joyful and serene conversations.

On the contrary, in this bizarre world populated by excited outbursts and enchanting graffiti, he used to overheat, pronouncing passionate speeches about didactic and technical subjects that, with sober indulgency, he managed to calm down. This was because Gian Paolo had not the typical arrogance of the intellectual or the cult of fetishistic monuments of history. He was never sacrilegious, but disenchanting. He was genuinely curious about technological progress that he considered as a natural evolution of the mind, as we know from his many speeches reported in innumerable proceedings or remembered by those who witnessed them.

His stenographic adventure started very early. His *mens stenographica* (in English stenographic mind) immediately emerged. In brief, at the age of 20, in 1957, he was the first and only one, among many, who successfully wrote at 120 words per minute in the competition for professional stenographers during the Milan Intersteno Championship. The professional journalist Lauro Cordara (1897-1969), theorist and professional of the Gabelsberger-Noe system and member of the Cima Accademy, wrote about him in the *Corriere Stenografico*: *"We have seen his notes: suffixes divided by the root as in "cavall...mente" for "cavallerescamente". This is what we call a stenographer (...), one who is free from the integrity of the sign (...) because it is his mind which dissociates, re-associates, demolishes and rebuilds, not his hand."*

In September 1959 Gian Paolo figured in the list of participants in Spoleto (Italy) of the Ente Unitario della Stenografia Italiana (EUSI). A year later, in 1960, during the Italian Championships of Stenography held in Rome and organized by EUSI under the auspices of the Minister of Education, he ranked fifth in the stenographic competition, being able to capture a speech at a rate of 120-130 words per minute.



In 1963, he actively participated at the Second National Congress organized by the Anisdec in Bologna (Italy). He clearly (and polemically) declared the need for candidates aspiring to be teachers of stenography and dactylography to be expert in fast writing, so as to be able to train good future professionals.

In 1967, at the fourth Congress of the Anisdec held in Parma, he shocked part of the audience with a heretic but futuristic speech. He said: *"It seems to me that stenography, nowadays, is evolving into new forms, characterized by an integration between manual stenography and mechanic stenography. That is why the teacher of stenography has to be open-minded and accept new forms for recording the thought."*

In 1979, at the Ticino Congress of Steno-Dactylographic Studies and Office techniques held in Bellinzona (Switzerland), Gian Paolo, while reporting on mass media, stunned participants by talking of the keyboard of the typing machine. He said: *"At the end of this century it will be possible to access the news directly from home. By means of a keyboard similar to that of the typing machine, it will be possible to require a series of synthetic news related to a given subject, from sport to home accounting..."* That was in 1979, not today!

He was always a step forward, with the generosity of those who believe. "If you believe in something, you will get it." That was his motto.

I do not know if, among his ideas, he had included the thought that the possibility of making mistakes could puzzle some gentle and shy soul. But it is inevitable. In addition to his activities as a scholar and a professional, he played many important roles, such as within the *Italian Association of Reporters and Stenographers*, the *Accademia Aliprandi*, or *Intersteno*. Being called on to take decisions in the riotous Italian stenographic world he needed to find a compromise between the intrinsic and historical values of the glories of manual stenography – always valid and practised in spite of the cynical cancellation by the Ministry of Education from the list of subject to be taught – on the one hand, and on the other hand the continuous evolution of mechanical stenography, computerized stenotype, speech recognition, automatic production, etc. made possible by the advent of the personal computer, which revolutionized the way of working.

Even among these many subjects (a minefield because of the interests of big companies whose activities were often to the detriment of the increasingly obsolete honest pencil), he was brave enough to follow his ideas, to look forward, thanks to his incredible curiosity for new machines, without forgetting where he started from: the humble pencil and the reliable block, that Gian Paolo continued to use...

"I beg your pardon." he ironically stated at the beginning of the millennium, on February 18th, 2001, in Florence during a speech at the *Accademia Aliprandi*. *"I beg the pardon of all those I worried with my dreams. I will stop troubling the sleep of conformists"*. And of course he continued troubling them immediately afterwards with a report on the use of an automatic translation machine, with which he experimented. *"I think it is a very useful tool for those who, like us, members of the Academy of Multimedia Writing and scholars and experts in the field of fast-writing techniques, need always to be updated and possibly act as the forerunners in the use of new tools..."*.



Since then and until the end of his days he kept refining his commitment for peace, eclecticism, and progress. His commitment was dominated by a fixed idea: going forward, aiming high, experimenting, while respecting differences, diversities, contrapositions, in a sort of Common Market of Ideas, always stenographic, of course, whatever the form in which they were expressed.

Paolo A. Paganini

35-year volunteering record of APSB-Board members

The association of the French-speaking part of Belgium, APSB celebrated its 35 years of existence and the board members received a present and a certificate honouring their work.



On Saturday, May 4 at 10 o'clock a.m., the guests were taken on a visit to the Modave Castle.

Later an academic event was held, during which the President, Jeannine Delange, referred to the 35-year volunteering record of APSB-Board members. She gave them a gift and a "certificate of merit", pointing out that all of them have worked on the Board for many years, in one case - Olga Stiernon - since its founding. She further expressed the hope that the younger members, who also received a gift, would continue to work with the association, which was another reason why she gave them a certificate of encouragement.

The prizegiving in the Internet keyboarding championship ended the official part. APSB has received sponsorship from Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Marco Olivo through their participation in international competitions and the use of the Italian software for its national competition since its creation. The association paid tribute to Gian Paolo, a remarkable man, who died earlier this year. Such sponsorship, given to the most assiduous teachers and schools, as well as the most talented candidates, was invaluable.

In the spotlight: Muriel Heiderscheid (a teacher involved from the beginning with her school - Jean XXIII / Jemelle Rochefort), Athénée royal, Lucie Dejardin Seraing/Ougrée which registered the largest number of students thanks to the cooperation of the teachers, (Laurence Defawe, Benoit David, Elodie Di Stasi), Sarah Hannon (Athénée royal Visé) who has registered the greatest number of students on her own, Klervia Closset (best result in French among secondary education system), Victoria Parenté (best result in French in higher education) and Virginie Vermersch (best result multilingual, all categories combined).

A tasty meal ended the day.

[Georgette Sante](#)



First typing, computer later

At the Intersteno delegates meeting in Copenhagen in the early '70s, before the world championship in typing and shorthand held in Brussels, as the delegate of Spain in the Federation I held a small meeting with our beloved Secretary General Marcel Racine, at which I expressed my wish to contribute ideas and develop new horizons for the benefit of our activities. Monsieur Racine was at all times attentive to my ideas and I had the pleasure of receiving his encouragement to persevere with these ideas, which I promised to try to bring forward at future meetings of Intersteno.



Unfortunately it could not be, and the passage of time left no opportunity for the projection of future project. But I think that now might be time to return to the old idea of creating a department for research, development and the application of technical knowledge achieved by professionals in Intersteno. The aim would be to channel and order that knowledge so that it may be supplied by the various delegations to young people in their early years, even with short term degrees (one or two years). This could be an exceptional achievement as it could bring these young people into the world of work, without creating the traumas that might occur if they had not followed a career and thus had no clear horizon with which support for the future.

Such a project would include specialties relating to Intersteno, i.e. typing, shorthand and information technology, plus commercial correspondence. The different languages of member states imply that national groups, under the control of Intersteno, conduct the examinations and issue internationally accredited certification, setting out the levels acquired by students.



Training should be a very special element in cases where the individual has not wanted or could not pursue a career. This project would enable them, using their time and dedication, to develop skills in professional work of this kind that could be used either in private enterprise or within the state organisation. This would be of immense importance for those people trying to find their first job and experiencing serious difficulties in obtaining it. How many times have we read advertisements seeking people with administrative, secretarial and commercial experience together with a fluency in several languages and expertise in international companies?

There are thousands of undergraduates with degrees who have difficulty in finding positions in companies because their career has not provided this knowledge. As a result they find it difficult to respond the demands of the work to be performed. The reality is that there is rarely an occupation whose requirements correspond exclusively to the knowl-

edge acquired in college.

Further, this proposal provides an opening into the world of business and to work that will advance a person's career, without the need to learn certain subjects but which provides the ability to understand the needs of the work to be performed. In such situations, the United States uses time and money in organizing workers, creating a very special subject called "Rationalization at Work". This expands on the application times and knowledge in different areas and tasks, giving the best percentage of cost and performance in a particular task.

Employers increasingly require personnel who specialise in the tasks advertised without caring too much about the original career. The academic level is relevant but all the employer cares about is that the employees can perform their duties. Why not apply those professional studies to job seekers and support them in developing their future work?

Throughout my professional life I have met many students with different careers, from lawyers, economists, sociologists, graduates in geography and history, philosophy and

letters, to businessmen and journalists, who have said to me: "I have the opportunity to a job, but I need typing and technical, communication or business skills.": Or: "I am a lawyer, but to enter a law firm I need to be able to type rapidly." Or: "To enter the to achieve the desired square state as an official I need to pass a competition with a few thousands more." If we look at the world around us, we see a computer keyboard everywhere.

Technological development is no new phenomenon. From the moment in the 1800s and even earlier, when typewriters first appeared. Manufacturers sought to inflate the properties of their products and users outdid one another in reaching new speed goals. Today,



no good professionals who can teach us as they once did. As a result those who use these methods are left to their own devices.



the world is devoted, body and soul, to the production, sale and distribution of any software element that serves to speak, write, transmit, store and communicate with each other people, both socially and commercially.

The difference between now and then is that there was once an emphasis upon the development of skill but today there are no typing methods telling us how to do our work in the shortest time possible, because, among other reasons, there are

Another important aspect that has to do much with rationalization, globalization and productivity in the business world is that things change because the employer sees certain sections of a company that do not work at the pace he would like. Because of the lack of training there is a deficit. Much depends on vocational training in the labour market. How many times have I received calls seeking a good secretary with significant skill achievements? Unemployment has nothing to do with this.

The International Federation "Intersteno" has been the cradle of great professionals and has nurtured them throughout their careers, thanks to the efforts that have been made, day after day and year after year. These professionals, thanks to their hard work, have improved and have gone beyond the barriers that new technologies presented them. Through these years we have been able to admire those great professionals, who without receiving anything in return except for international recognition, have been involved in their respective countries and managed to uphold professional sovereignty in their specialties for future generations.

Therefore, I make a call on behalf of the brotherhood of the International Federation "Intersteno" that we unite in our efforts to preserve our knowledge, ensure that our expertise continues to grow and thus enrich the family "Intersteno".

[Jaime Liébana Mena](#)

Spanish Typing & Shorthand Federation's President

The Amazing Court Reporters

I've found court reporters to be unflappable, even when catastrophe strikes during a deposition.

I have testified at dozens of depositions and always had a court reporter present to transcribe my testimony. In my earlier days of testifying in a courtroom a court reporter was always present. Nowadays, court reporters in the courtroom are a rare sight. The courtrooms in Maricopa County Arizona Superior Court, for example, generally use microphones for the judges, attorneys and witnesses. Testimony is electronically transcribed. The words spoken in the courtroom are now recorded on discs.



Whenever I've given a deposition, I am always amazed and impressed at how effortlessly the court reporters restate my testimony on those little typewriter-thingy machines they peck away at. Oh, all right, I looked up the official name of the gadgets and found they seemed to be called stenographs, or stenography machines. Whatever they are called, it takes a skilled court reporter to make them hum.



I look with wonder at the court reporters – mostly ladies but sometimes men - and how their nimble fingers fly as I am spouting off whatever it is that I'm testifying about. I am thinking there is no possible way the reporter could type all that I just said and have it come out in some intelligible written document later on. No way. Yet, in the end, their wonderfully assembled written reports had accurately transcribed the words that I thought were uttered too quickly.

I've also found, for reasons unknown to me, that reporters are always courteous, friendly and calm. Maybe these traits are acquired in Court Reporting 101. Or, it could simply be that these are the characteristics of the type of person who seeks court reporting as a profession.

Court reporters never appear to get rattled or allow themselves to be jaundiced by the high emotions and sometimes caustic and hurtful remarks from both the witness being deposed and the opposing attorney asking the questions. I had one court reporter tell me of the time that he was transcribing at a deposition when the witness, an elderly gent in his early 80s, decided he'd had enough of the perceived badgering by the opposing questioning attorney. He suddenly reached for the pitcher of ice water in the middle of the conference room table and tossed its contents onto the stunned and befuddled attorney.

I wonder how the court reporter accounted for this in his transcript. I thought it must have gone something like this:

Q. So you admit that it was a very unreasonable – strike that; a very dumb – strike that; a very stupid thing you chose to do. Isn't that right Sir? A. Why you dirty #@!%&! I'll show you who's stupid.*

Next, I wondered how the court reporter would make written note of what he'd just witnessed. Surely, this event was so significant that it had to, somehow, be noted in the old guy's deposition. I thought the incident might have been recorded by the court reporter something like this:

(The witness suddenly picks up the pitcher of ice cold water, with several ice cubes in it, which was sitting in the middle of the conference room table, and slings it all over Mr. Ames. A short recess is taken.)

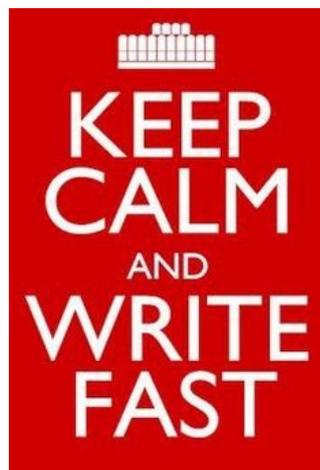
I've found court reporters to be unflappable, even when catastrophe strikes them during a deposition. I remember once when I was testifying and the court reporter, who was sitting to my left, placed a glass of water on the conference room table in front of her. The water happened to directly in front of and above her stenograph machine and a laptop computer, which was storing the court reporter's typing. I thought to myself, "Uh-oh, this doesn't look good." Sure enough, the reporter rose from her chair and reached to pick up a document on the table. The document was to be marked by the reporter as an exhibit to my testimony. As she attempted to sit down – you guessed it – her left hand caught the glass. It spilled onto the conference room table. It spilled onto her stenograph machine. And, it spilled onto the laptop.

A short recess was taken. The reporter calmly called her office that, fortunately, was not too far from my deposition location and asked a colleague to bring back-up equipment. Within a few minutes it had arrived, and my deposition continued. The reporter remained calm and upbeat. I was impressed.

I tip my hat to court reporters. They are truly amazing people. And that's the truth!

Don Bays CPA, ABV, CVA, CFF

Don Bays is a Director in Henry & Horne's Litigation & Valuation Services Group. (He can be reached at donb@hhcpa.com)



TAP STRAP

At your fingertips, wearable Bluetooth keyboard that turns anything you can touch into a typing surface.



Traditional keyboards remain the best way to enter data with our various computer tools. Faced with the emergence of mobile devices, always smaller and of virtual reality headsets, a new system, connected via Bluetooth, will perhaps become popular: TAP STRAP.

This amazing keyboard has been designed by an American startup in May 2016. Currently, it is still in a beta testing phase in San Francisco. However, it promises to make quicker and much simpler writing than on the small virtual keyboards of our smartphones, that despite the many proposed innovations are still quite dangerous to use because of the small size of the screens.

In fact, this "plastic gadget" is a summary of high technology with a series of embedded monitoring the mechanical information of the hand and fingers. This information is processed by an MCU in the Strap, which decodes the raw data into finger tap combinations and transmits the resulting characters or commands via a Bluetooth radio.

This keyboard has no keys: just type on any surface! Discreetly! And with one hand ... while with the other hand, you can drink coffee.

Each finger corresponds to a vowel, and combinations with all 5 fingers will write all the other letters, but also run commands without needing to touch the smartphone. Obviously it will be necessary to follow a tutorial but it seems that we can learn in less than an hour! And unfortunately (or not!) our experience of the AZERTY/QWERTY keyboard will not help.

Anyway, I have some doubts about a so fast learning! I've also read somewhere that the user will have to perform a mapping of the keys, which means set itself the camera so the latter combines gestures to letters. And we also must memorize not only the 26 alphabetic characters but also the special ones, numbers, orders, Our memory will have to work a lot!



The Tap Strap is compatible with all Bluetooth enabled devices which support the HID Keyboard Standard. This includes iOS and Android phones and tablets, Window and Mac computers, and most Smart TVs. It will be available in all languages.

A commercially version should be available for the start of next year! Price at \$119.

Let's wait and see.

[Georgette Sante](#)

Source: <http://www.tapwithus.com/faq/>



Agenda council meeting 5-8 October 2016 Zagreb

1	Reflection on the congress 2015 in Budapest Congress activities Financial results
2	Approval of the minutes of the council meeting 2015 Budapest
3	Congress 2017 Berlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue and program • Participation fees
4	Finances and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general • members
5	Proposals from countries (send in before end of June 2016)
6	Professional competencies and skills and certification program
7	Congress conferences 2017
8	Competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jury: members • Competition proposals: • Internet competition
9	IPRS
10	Scientific and educational committee
11	Reflection on the future of INTERSTENO
12	Web and social network management Intersteno website (integration IPRS website)
13	Secretarial staff
14	Proposals for elections in Berlin 2017 - procedures
15	Proposals for council meeting / congress after Berlin 2017
16	Miscellaneous

Program

Wednesday, October 5, 2016		
Morning	Arrival of the board members	Board
Day	Arrival of all participants	All
14.00	Board meeting	Board
20.00	Welcome dinner	All
Thursday, October 6, 2016		
09.00	Council meeting 1	Council
12.00	Lunch	All
13.30-16.30	IPRS meeting 1	IPRS
17.00-20.00	Council meeting 2	Council
Evening	Free evening	All
Friday, October 7, 2016		
09.00	Council meeting 3 - IPRS meeting 2 (parallel)	Council / IPRS
12.00	Lunch	All
13.30-16.00	Guided city tours - Visit to the Croatian Parliament	All
16.30-17.30	Visit to HSD - Croatian Shorthand Association (CSA) group photo, cocktail	All
20.00	Gala dinner	All
Saturday, October 8, 2016		
All day	Excursion – Plitvice National Park	All - optional

Venue

Arcotel Allegra Hotel, Ul. kneza Branimira 29, 10000, Zagreb

Registrations and payments

Registrations go only online at www.stenograf.hr/council-iprs-2016-registration-form.

The participation fee should be paid to the following account, all bank costs at your charge:

Name: Hrvatsko Stenografsko Društvo, Ulica Nikole Tesle 5/I, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Bank: Zagrebačka Banka, Zagreb, Trg bana Josipa Jelačića 10

IBAN: HR2723600001101514909 – BIC/SWIFT: ZABHR2X

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