



INTERSTENO ENEWS **106** | JANUARY 2024

Table of contents

- President's Message3
- DIAMESIC 7 – 7th Intersteno Conference on parliamentary and other professional reporting, captioning, and accessibility4
- The evolution of speed writing techniques: the past, the present and the future of shorthand5
- The fifth edition of the ZAV-1007
- Interview with our President, Rian Schwarz-van Poppel8
- Czech National Championships OPEN in Text Processing 20239
- Legislature of Córdoba AATP, work meeting 2023 11
- Argentine congress – 110 years old of the 'Parliamentary Information Directory' 13
- Interview with the director of stenographers of the chamber of deputies of Argentina 14
- Some Hungarian results..... 15

All contributions to this e-news are published under the full responsibility of their authors only.

President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

We have left the year 2023 behind us. I hope you can all look back on happy holidays and a good start to the new year. I already look forward to our Congress in Katowice, which will take place from Saturday 13 to Thursday 18 July. Katowice is located south of Warsaw and slightly above Krakow and has its own airport.

More information about (registration for) the Congress can be found at www.intersteno2024.org.

This e-news includes, among a number of other topics, the "call for papers" for the Congress in Katowice, a look back at the conference "Shorthand between past, present and future - The evolution of speed writing techniques", held in Palermo, Italy, a look back at the fifth edition of the ZAV-100 competitions in December and Czech National Championships OPEN in Text Processing 2023.

The next e-news will appear in April 2024. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar is at the end of March, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



DIAMESIC 7 - 7th Intersteno Conference on parliamentary and other professional reporting, captioning, and accessibility



The 20th and 21st centuries have witnessed technical, scientific, and technological turns. Today, Artificial Intelligence is propelling the fourth industrial revolution, with Diamesic Translation – including accessibility and professional reporting modes, like parliamentary and court reporting, TV (live) captioning, easy language translation – undergoing incredible changes, which cast opportunities and uncertainty over the future of these professions.

call for
papers

With the aim of navigating this fast-evolving context and disseminating pivotal experiences in the field, IPRS and the Intersteno Scientific Committee are pleased to announce "DIAMESIC 7", the 7th Intersteno conference on parliamentary and other professional reporting, captioning, and accessibility", in Katowice (Poland), on 15-16 July 2024.

DIAMESIC 7 will delve into the scopes of transparency (court reporting, parliamentary reporting, minute taking etc.) and accessibility (live captioning, subtitles for the deaf and the hard-of-hearing, audiodescription, easy language translation, etc.), all considered under the umbrella of diamesic translation. The primary focus will encompass:

- Diamesic Translation and Artificial Intelligence;
- The theory of Diamesic Translation;
- Technical, professional, and physical challenges of Diamesic Translation;
- The teaching and training of Diamesic Translation;
- Other related topics.

Abstracts of 1000 characters are welcome via email to c.eugeni@leeds.ac.uk by 15 April 2024, with "Diamesic 7 – submission proposal" specified in the email subject line.

The evolution of speed writing techniques: the past, the present and the future of shorthand

By Alessandra Checcarelli

On Friday, October 20, 2023, the Royal Palace of Palermo hosted the Italian national conference "Shorthand between past, present and future - The evolution of speed writing techniques".

The event, organized by Anna Maria Marino of the Sicilian Regional Assembly and Francesca Marchionne of the International Association of Respeaking onA.I.R.-Intersteno Italy, brought together professionals in the field of speed writing techniques, namely stenographers, stenotypists, typists, respeakers and even interpreters, to recall and enhance the shorthand technique and reflect on the present and future evolution of real-time reporting, captioning and subtitling in light of the pressing developments of artificial intelligence.

The conference opened with an historical discussion on the millennia-old art of shorthand by Prof. Anna Maria Marino, followed by Ms. Francesca Marchionne, who recalled the stages of the transition of the onA.I.R. Association to Intersteno Italia, as well as Mr. Gian Paolo Trivulzio and all the great personalities who have made the history of Intersteno and who support the association's activities today.

The relevance of shorthand was recalled, in various aspects, by Prof. Renzo Mancari (with a speech on the teaching of the subject in Italian schools), Prof. Luigi Zambelli (with a talk on shorthand as a legacy of the past, an archaeological find and a preparatory exercise for professionals in reporting and written documentation), Senator Salvo Fleres (with a talk focused on journalistic and parliamentary documentation), Mr. Fausto Ramondelli (with a discussion focused on the common thread between shorthand and the mediation of communication).

To complete the discussion on speed writing techniques and to emphasize the relevance of the "interpreting" aspect inherent in the professions covered by the conference, speakers included: the president of Assointerpreti Prof. Carmelo Donato, with an interesting theoretical reading full of examples on note-taking in consecutive interpreting and the differences from shorthand; Mr. Danilo Menghi, with a presentation on the work of real-time subtitlers at the Capitoline Assembly in Rome; Ms. Alessandra Checcarelli, with a paper projected towards the future of simultaneous and consecutive interpreting and interlingual respeaking in the light of Machine Interpreting (MI) and Computer-Aided Interpreting (CAI) technologies.

The event was particularly well received by colleague Mr. Jorge Alberto Bravo, who addressed the audience with greetings by broadcasting the conference on the Argentine radio program "Palabras Dibujadas," in which every Friday for the past nine years the past, present and future of shorthand has been discussed. There was no shortage of praise for the great contribution Italy has made to the history of shorthand, and it was repeatedly stressed that technology allows the profession to continue to develop and evolve in different ways while maintaining the same purpose, which is that the oral word be recorded in writing.

It was therefore a memorable event, made fully accessible thanks to the live streaming captions provided by Daniela Busalacchi, to celebrate the importance of communication and information processing, reiterating what the Intersteno anthem states: "verba manent."



The fifth edition of the ZAV-100

Helena Zaviačičová (translation Johana Valová)



The fifth edition of the ZAV-100 competition took place on 5th and 9th December 2023. It was attended by 1,356 participants from 11 countries.

Why ZAV-100? In 2019, Interinfo Czech Republic celebrated the 20th anniversary of its existence and the author of the ZAV method, Jaroslav Zaviačič, celebrated his 80th birthday. Thanks to the concurrence of these events, we came up with this idea to hold a new competition, which commemorates both jubilees. We have decided to keep the name of the contest also in the following years.

The aim of the contest is to pass 25 one-minute transcripts from the computer screen in a selected language. The penalty for an uncorrected error is 100 points; errors can be corrected. At the beginning of the competition, a competitor's score is 0 characters per minute. After having reached a better score, half of the improvement (the difference between the current result and the better one) is counted with the current score.

In the children category (under 12 years), 25 competitors took part and the list was finally dominated by young Turkish competitors. Hasan Enes Özkan (Barbaros Ortaokulu) became the winner of this category and the second place went to Şevval Erva Başoğlu (Afyon Kocatepe İlkokulu). Miłosz Piątkowski (Szkoła Podstawowa nr 1 im. M. Kopernika w Ustrzykach Dolnych) took third place. All three contestants reached more than 450 keystrokes. The winning result was 485.3.

In the pupil category (13-16 years) in which 546 young competitors took part, the phenomenal young Turkish contestant NISAN MAYA Tunçoğlu (Sandikli Türk Telekom Fen Lisesi) triumphed with a result of 755.6 strokes. She was followed by Bağdagül Özkan (Nazilli Fen Lisesi) with 702,3 strokes and Lukáš Janošík (Gymnázium, Olomouc Hejčín) with 542.9 strokes.

The category with the highest number of participants was the junior one (17–20). Italian Matteo Colica (Sapienza Università di Roma) won with a result of 746.1 strokes. Massimiliano Polilli (onA.I.R. - Intersteno Italia), reached a score of 685.7 for second place and was followed by Viktor Matraković (Bjelovar School of Economics and Business Administration) with a score of 643.5. The result of the medalist from the last World Championship in Maastricht, Johana Valová, is also worth mentioning. She wrote 600 strokes and took fourth place.

The best result was achieved among seniors (21+). An amazing 909.9 strokes per minute was demonstrated by Jonáš Vala (Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University). Second place went to Andrea Farsi Aklaghi (onA.I.R. - Intersteno Italia), 802.8 strokes, and third place went to the representative of Croatia, Andrea Wawrzynek (Croatian Stenographic Society), 767.3.

Thanks to everyone for participating and congratulations on great results.

Interview with our President, Rian Schwarz-van Poppel

By Marlene Rijkse

How did you come into contact with Intersteno?

When I started working as an apprentice stenographer at the House of Representatives reporting service in 1980, our director Cees van Beurden was already active within Intersteno. The older ones among us will remember him well. Cees told the employees of the parliamentary reporting service what happened within Intersteno. I went to a conference for the first time in 2009, namely the conference in Prague. I was immediately sold and wanted to actively work for Intersteno.

What has Intersteno meant to you in recent years?

Intersteno has enriched my life. I have met many lovely people, especially people who also work in the field of reporting. And I've gotten to know other cultures and been to places I would never have been otherwise.

What developments do you see in the future for Intersteno?

Whichever way you look at it, for many Intersteno friends it's all about the conferences and the competitions, meeting each other, exchanging information and therefore learning from each other. The world around us continues to develop, from automatic speech recognition to artificial intelligence. And so it will continue to go forward. I am committed to ensuring that the latest developments are discussed within Intersteno and that there is no fear of the possibilities (and impossibilities) of new techniques. And within Intersteno the emphasis must remain on the competitions. What organization made up of volunteers manages to organize such international competitions with so many participants from so many countries? We can be proud of that!



Czech National Championships OPEN in Text Processing 2023

By Jonáš Vala

After a four-year covid break, the Czech national association Interinfo ČR organized the National Championships OPEN in Text Processing. This event is aimed toward all age categories the same as at the Intersteno World Championships. Almost 40 competitors assembled in Valašské Meziříčí, a small town in the east of the Czech Republic, to compete in seven competitions: Text Production, Text Corrections, Audio Transcription, Word Processing, Speech Capturing, Speech Capturing in Real Time and Note Taking.

The organization committee was led by Robert Sigmund, a board member of Interinfo ČR and teacher at Business Academy Valašské Meziříčí where the event was held. Together with other colleagues from the Interinfo Board and teachers from the school, they prepared excellent conditions for competing.

The event started on Thursday December 14th with Word Processing and continued with Note Taking. The opening ceremony ran on Friday with attendance of local representatives from the municipality and the regional government. On Friday, the next three competitions proceeded, Speech Capturing, Speech Capturing in Real Time and Text Corrections. The participants together visited the Moravian Tapestry Manufacture where high-quality tapestries are produced and renovated. The Manufacture's customers are all over the world and the process of making the tapestries and rugs is unique. In the pre-Christmas time, the square offered some Christmas beverages and a place for nice conversations. We concluded the day at a dinner where we had time for informal meetings.

Text Production and Audio Transcription were the last competitions which we organized on Saturday, December 16th. After that we were proud to announce the winners of all the competitions and the combined ranking as well. The best competitors in pupils were Lukáš Janošík, Šimon Vrzala and Eliška Vrzalová. The best junior competitor was Johana Valová, followed by Tomáš Urban and Nikol Klementová. In seniors, the national champion became Petr Hais, silver medalist Martina Kadláčková and bronze medalist Štěpán Kratochvíl.

A big thank-you to Robert Sigmund, Pavla Mičková, Jonáš Vala and Helena Zaviačičová supported by Jaroslav Zaviačič who prepared texts for competitions and conducted the competitions on site. It is a challenging task to run all the competitions within three days including the prize giving ceremony.

Congratulations to the competitors and see you next time!





Legislature of Córdoba AATP, work meeting 2023

By Victor Gonzalez

On November 17, 2023, a blended meeting via Zoom was organized between the Legislature of Córdoba and the AATP where the following topics were addressed: the current state of the profession, entry policy for applicants, the new profile of the stenographer or editor, available courses or careers and the use of new technologies.

The meeting took place within the framework of Parliamentary Stenographer's Day, a very important opportunity to learn about the professional situation in each work area.

There were speakers from different parliaments - national and provincial - of the Argentine Republic. Among them it is worth highlighting the participation of Julio Ormaechea from Entre Ríos, Omar Troccoli from Corrientes, Carmen Gutiérrez from Neuquén, Débora Fernández from the National Congress, Fernando Capodicci from the Province of Buenos Aires, Noemí Maidana from Salta, and Domingo Valenzuela from Tucumán.

Thank you all for your participation and contribution by sharing your experiences in the changes produced in working methods after the pandemic, the preparation of those who aspire to work as a stenographer or editor, as well as the dissemination of the different technologies used among the colleagues.



Space for inclusion – legislature of Córdoba

In the month of November 2023, the Legislature of Córdoba, through the Human Rights and Education and Culture commissions and its authorities, highlighted the creation of this space that allows full parliamentary accessibility, both internally for employees and for those citizens with disabilities who come and can participate on equal terms with the rest of the population.

In 2024, the team has medium- and short-term actions on the agenda, among which the contribution from the stenographer's area of subtitling for people with hearing loss as well as support in communication through audio description for people with visual disabilities stands out.

The mission pursued through the work team is the equal treatment of people with certain disabilities, assuming that the rights have to be the same, no more and no less. There are many challenges, but with the contribution of each of the members, we will be able to advance in the implementation of this important project of the Córdoba parliament.



Team of the Inclusion of the Legislature of Córdoba

Argentine congress - 110 years old of the “Parliamentary Information Directory”

By Jorge Bravo

One of the most prestigious offices of the Argentine Parliament is the “Parliamentary Information Directory”, which has just turned 110 years old.

Among its missions and functions, we can mention that of providing technical assistance, advice on parliamentary and legislative matters to the authorities, legislators, commissions and political groups of the National Congress -Senate and Chamber of Deputies- as well as public organizations, private organizations and the general public.

On the night of December 30, 1913, when the debate session on the budget law for the following year was in progress, the national deputy Luis Agote raised the need for the creation of a parliamentary information office as a service to collaborate with the legislature in the fulfilment of its functions and to centralize the information until then dispersed.

In this way, the office was formally born, which over the years became a Directorate (Law 15,774) and whose functions are established by the Standing Orders of the Chamber of Deputies since 1940. On the other hand, to start working in this office there is a requirement to take an exam/contest, the same requirement to be a parliamentary stenographer, which has been the case since 1923.

Currently, this Directorate continues with its daily research and documentation tasks with highly trained personnel, attends permanent and special commissions, digitizes historical documents and debates, has areas of comparative legislation and translations, covers each session that is held in both chambers and, faithful to its tradition, it does so with the rigor of the history that precedes and supports it.

Since our radio program PALABRAS DIBUJADAS is dedicated to the work of the stenographers, we thought it was important to interview members of another important Directorate of the Argentine Parliament because to accomplish some of their very important work, they use the parliamentary reports that are produced by the stenographers.



Some members of the “Parliamentary Information Directory” were interviewed in the program PALABRAS DIBUJADAS, on the Radio of the Argentine Congress (bcnradio.com.ar)

Interview with the director of stenographers of the chamber of deputies of Argentina

By Jorge Bravo

On January 6, 2024, Guillermo Castellano, the director of Stenographers of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, was interviewed on television. The interview was done by journalist Clara Delgado in the program “Lo Justo y Necesario” (“Just enough”) on the television channel A24, in Buenos Aires. There Guillermo Castellano had the opportunity to explain the work of stenographers in Parliament. Additionally, as part of the interview Guillermo Castellano gave a “live” demonstration with traditional shorthand while Regina Spector - from the Chamber of Deputies, too - gave a demonstration with a computerized stenotyping machine, since both systems are used in Parliament. In addition, famous debates recorded by stenographers in Argentine parliamentary history were mentioned. During the interview, parliamentary stenographers were defined as “the formula 1 of writing.”



Some Hungarian results

By Anita Dobos and Bernadett Berencsi

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

Some young talents also took part in this competition, who achieved really excellent results. The very talented competitor Csaba Hegedűs (BGSZC Katona József Technikum) got 1st place by TC, AT and combined list. His teacher is Ágnes Kovácsné Zsákai. Izabella Halász (Bajai SZC Türr István Technikum) have 1st place by TC.

By NT Csongor Lénárt won the gold medal (like last year). Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the prize-giving ceremony due to a family program, so he could not receive the gold medal. His teacher is the same Ildikó Krizbai who was Marcell Muhel's trainer for the world championships in Maastricht. Hopefully, Ildikó's new student will also achieve great success in the NT at Intersteno congress too. Their goal in the future is to participate in as many competitions as possible. They are really persistent in their objectives. We are sure there will be lots of practice too.

Of course, our competitors with a great routine and a lot of experience also took part in the Hungarian championship. Zsuzsánna Ferenc, Erika Vicai, Mária Madarász, Melanie Horvát and Katalin Székely – they also participated at the Maastricht congress – won medals in several categories (SC, TP, TC, NT). Krisztina Kollárikné Terjéki got 1st place by AT.

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

Good luck, everyone in Katowice too...



Medals, cups, certificates



Cheerful participants



After prize-giving ceremony



Detti and Anita

