

Dear Members of ECA, dear Friends of ECA,

I would like to thank you for your friendly cooperation, the team spirit you have displayed and for the constructive criticism in the context of our joint work in ECA during the year 2015. I am glad to look back on a successful 2015 and look forward to an even more successful new year 2016. We will continue our efforts to unite the countries in Europe in matters concerning CE and to support our international partners.

This year was marked by a lot of struggles - but also by transformation - in the political world in Europe due to the flow of refugees and the associated situation. The Petö Institute, as well, experienced a kind of transformation which ended in the reintegration in the governmental system. Prof. Schaffhauser retired after a long and very successful career. I would like to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are for his dedicated work during the final years of our collaboration and his contributions to CE and ECA. At the same time, we are happy to welcome Prof. Zsebe, the successor as the head of the Institute. Dear Andrea, I wish you all the best for your new tasks and hope you will navigate the Hungarian conductive ship together with all your colleagues - especially Prof. Eva Szabo - with taut sails.

In the year 2015, we were in contact with new countries like Greece, Jordan, Poland and Portugal which started to introduce CE or had questions about CE. We tried to be an information platform for everybody, for conductors as well as for practitioners and offerors. We achieved an initial exchange with ACENA - the fact that the two major continental associations are collaborating is a very important step forward.

The Board had three meetings on the occasion of the EU Comenius EVIBACE meetings - in Munich, in Stockholm and in Inkendaal - and there were working groups on different subjects at different times.

The topics dealt with were:

- strategy plan for 2014-2016 – developing the strategy for the association
- activities for study courses in CE in Europe, especially in Germany and Austria and cooperation with Hungary
- the 2015 World CP Day
- the revision of the articles of the association
- membership fees, bank account in Austria and new members
- public relations – preparing materials such as roll-ups, folders, a website, Facebook and many other topics

ECA had two ongoing EU projects from 2013 to 2015 with different European partners. One project dealt with AAC <http://www.conductive-aac.eu/>, the other one with evidence-based conductive education (<http://evibace.jimdo.com>). Both projects were completed in August

of this year and resulted in a lot of communication as well as a productive exchange for all participating countries. Thanks a lot to Betz Tautscher, she did a superb job of managing coordination of the projects!

In recent weeks, our much valued board member, Yves Bawin, informed us about the end of his professional career at the “La Famille” centre in Brussels and also about his intent to quit working in the ECA in 2016. We owe a lot to Yves who had an extraordinary influence on the recognition of CE in different European countries, especially the francophone platform. I have known Yves for nearly 20 years and I always admired ability to explain even the most complex contexts and correlations in conductive upbringing clearly, in a structured manner and in few words. At meetings, he exhibited a calm and steady manner and always knew how to bring people with opposite opinions together. In this sense, he contributed a lot to bringing a calm atmosphere into what were sometimes heated debates. Thank you, Yves, for your continuous work for CE and your commitment to the ECA in the last couple of years. (to read something he wrote: <http://www.conductive-world.info/2008/02/not-so-much-of-le-vieil-thank-you.html?m=1>)

A year full of activities is ending and we have achieved good results together. At the same time, though, there are many tasks and challenges waiting to be tackled in the new year. I hope we will again work together in an atmosphere marked by loyalty and joint respect.

The board will have meetings in the spring and in the summer 2016 - I look forward to seeing you there. At the latest, we will see each other in Budapest, at the 9th WCCE. We will continue to be a partner in Europe for anyone with an interest in CE and will have always be glad to lend an open ear to their concerns. Let's continue our work in 2016.....

We wish a happy Christmas to all of you and your families and a happy new year 2016!

Best regards,



Beate Höß-Zenker
President ECA