

2020

Year in Review



Dear ECA Members,
dear Friends of Conductive Education,
dear ECA Board Members!

The year 2020 started with great excitement in anticipation of the Xth Jubilee World Congress on Conductive Education, going to take place in May. All of us were busy working on the ECA promotion material for our info desk, discussing strategy on winning new members, working on our speeches, making travel arrangements.

In March all our machinery stopped +++ A moment of paralysis arose +++

All of us have experienced a year with huge amounts of work, double the amount than usual. A crazy year in which we have all learned that *team work* is one of the most valuable things, not only in a working environment, but also in private life. It is not the work of the individual that makes a difference, but the mutual work of a good functioning team which leads to a great valuable outcome!

That is why it is so important that we ALL work together on the promotion of Conductive Education to make it accessible for everyone, as ONE TEAM for this ONE DREAM!

Very quickly during the lockdown in March, many of us developed creative ideas to work against isolation, help parents to cope with the situation and prevent stagnation or set backs of physical and mental development. A true explosion of online possibilities in various formats arose. Still, lots of problems like the break off of funding, no longer lived participation, due to the fact that carers and politicians took over the decision making, appeared. The people with disability were forgotten along the line of a big economic

breakdown. Thank you to all who have *not* forgotten and have worked really hard with many hours of overtime! I am touched by so much dedication!

What was achieved by ECA this year?

Despite the heavy workload we managed to collect supporting documents in English language and make them available on a newly established Corona-site on our homepage, we installed a Corona help line, wrote to the EU parliament about extra funding and financial support for institutions working with disabled children, the ConductMe website of the Swedish Conductor Association, member of ECA, which delivers CE online programs, went online to meet the demands of digitalisation, we requested an online meeting with the EU Parliament on the subject 'regulation' and received a positive reply of the department of "Regulation of Professions", we reported about the Corona situation in detail in a long article and worked on lots of administrative items. Our Newsletter was issued promptly, we supported the 'Bundesverband Konduktive Förderung nach Petö e.V.' in Germany to send 5000 petition cards to the German ministry of employment with an ongoing request of acceptance of the profession "conductor". Many of our Board Members and friends organised in their countries a huge public World Cerebral Palsy Event. With the help of several donating supporters for the first time ever the WCPD was promoted with our ECA Logo in the main shopping area of Munich on one of the two main Landmarks.

With the opening of the World Congress on CE the ECA held their General Assembly alongside with new elections for the up-coming legislative period 2021-2024 and are pleased to welcome Chrystelle Piccard from France and Theresa Kinnersley from UK, as new board members in our team. With members attending from all over Europe, New Zealand and Hong Kong and Dr. Andrea Zsebe, APF, it was an informative and interesting meeting with good vibes. We agreed to connect more often going forward to involve our members in our work and improve our collaboration.

The Highlight of course, of the year, was the Jubilee World Congress. It was overall a very successful event. We heard that hundreds of people tuned in and the technique did not let the Organisers down. Of course the personal dialogue and heated debates that make these events so special and give it a character, experienced at the previous congresses, were missing and due to the format not possible. Also effected people and families could not speak out loud, what they think of our services, but we hope as we all work with these families, that we were able to represent them in an appropriate way. Nevertheless the congress was very fruitful and opened the door for people, who would have otherwise not been able to take part as it was for free and accessible to everyone. Every

one of our board members held lectures on various CE subjects. We heard about the memories of the previous World Congresses and its early beginnings in the opening speech, about how CE is performed for children and adults at PAK and elsewhere, new training possibilities and its achievable degrees, about the training at Semmelweis University from various students, about opportunities of CE online programs and the range of clients that can be reached, new challenges from the aspect of educational science, the impact of CE on learning abilities, scientific aspects, ICF, food for thought on whether "CE could be a pedagogy for all" and lots more.

It was interesting to hear about a new technology developed by the Full Sail University in Florida. The students of the simulation and visualisation study program developed a technology combining hard- and software for the CE centre CECO close by. The technology works with the principle of cause and effect. The motivation arising from technical feedback is used for CE. Little sensors were installed directly on various rungs of the Petö chair, giving positive feedback via a monitor, should the requested action be performed in a correct way. This way the Petö chair becomes an interactive object. This is an innovation, which could achieve great improvement for our clients and goes with the time - a bit like the "Bio-Feedback"-technology which was presented at the WCCE 2016, but with more potential and a higher fun factor for kids and adults.

New Honorary Conductors were named and a new wall for them was dedicated and revealed. Congratulations to all new Honorary Conductors!

A Milestone has been reached! Let's walk from here!

On behalf of the entire team and myself I wish you a Merry – safe - Christmas and a Happy - Corona free - New Year 2021.



Yours



Beate Höß-Zenker
President of ECA