



ECA Newsletter

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OCTOBER 2025

Strong signal for conductive education at EACD!

Dear colleagues, dear friends,
following our inspiring experiences at the EACD Congress in Heidelberg this summer, I am pleased to share some reflections with you. It was a truly wonderful occasion to see so many of our members from Austria, Belgium, Hong Kong, Germany and Hungary gathered together. Around 25 colleagues represented conductive education at this world congress – a strong signal of our international commitment and visibility. I would like to thank all of you sincerely for your outstanding engagement and dedication.

This year has also been marked by important mile-

stones in Germany: several conductive associations celebrated their 30-year anniversaries, most recently Fortschritt Würzburg. It is indeed remarkable that conductive education has now been practiced in many European countries for more than three decades. These achievements show the perseverance and passion of our conductive community.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the challenges that remain. Research on conductive education is still far too limited, and formal recognition is not yet where it should be. Raising awareness of our profession and

strengthening the standing of conductors across Europe and beyond will remain a key priority for us. Looking ahead, we have set ourselves the goal of further increasing the visibility and recognition of conductors by 2026.

Together, we will continue to build on these foundations, support one another, and make the case for conductive education with one united voice. Read and distribute our news!

Yours

Beate Höß-Zenker
President ECA

Key facts and stats about CP

What is CP?

- Cerebral palsy is the most common lifelong physical disability globally. *SOURCE: PETERSON 2024
- Cerebral palsy is caused by damage to the brain during pregnancy, around the time of birth, or in the first two years of life.
- Cerebral palsy primarily affects movement, posture and coordination. However, it can also be linked to secondary conditions such as epilepsy, various behavioural disorders, and intellectual disabilities. People with cerebral palsy may also have difficulties with communication, eating, vision, and hearing. *SOURCE: ROSENBAUM, 2007
- Cerebral palsy affects everyone differently and requires tailored and ongoing health and rehabilitation support.



World CP Day at Foundation Pfennigparade, Germany
Children with Holger Kiesel, representative for disabled persons
Bavaria and Beate Höß-Zenker, CEO Phoenix school & kitas GmbH

Save the date!

International conference during Petö Day Friday, 21.11.2025



Always check the ECA Calendar for important congresses/events and dates here: [Calendar - ECA](#)

USA

Patricia Herbst, Center for Independence Through Conductive Education

30 incredible years! Founder & Executive Director, Patti Herbst, will be retiring on Nov 1st. While Patti is stepping away from day-to-day leadership, she remains closely connected and will continue part-time as Chief Financial Officer for the next 2 years and will lead the free parent workshops on financial planning, advocacy, and wellness. Please join the celebration with Patti!



GERMANY

News from Germany

This and the past year were marked by several important anniversaries: three **FortSchrift organizations: Starnberg, Düsseldorf, and Würzburg**, each celebrated their 30-year jubilees. These milestones reflect the longstanding tradition and strong commitment to conductive education in Germany.

In Oberaudorf, the conductive school bid farewell to its founder and CEO, **Bettina Brühl**, as she entered retirement. The farewell celebration was deeply emotional, filled with gratitude from staff and parents, and enriched with music, speeches, and thoughtful gifts. Bettina dedicated more than twelve years to building and securing the school's future, a legacy that will now be carried forward with strength and continuity by **Ralf Schmieg**, new CEO. A lot of political work has been done by the board members of **BKF, German Federal Association**. At the same time, the BKF has been very active in political advocacy, ensuring strong presence at fairs and congresses. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, a real breakthrough in sustainable official funding by the health assurance has not yet been achieved. The **German Conductor Association** held the annual membership meeting last week!

EUROPE

UK representation in ECA Board - changes



Following the relocation of Gerel Ganbold from UK back to her homecountry, Mongolia, the UK representation had to be transferred to a new UK representative.

Dr. Annamaria Berger-Jones from PCA has, in a mutual consens, between the ECA Board members and Gerel Ganbold, taken on this new role. Gerel will continue to work on the Advisory Board of ECA and will in particular work on the development of conductive education and aquisition of potential new members in Mongolia.

Dr. Annamaria Berger-Jones / PCA UK



Annamaria works in England. After qualifying as a conductor in 2006, Annamaria worked with children, young people and adults in sessional services. Then in 2013, she sat up Conductive Enablement primarily working with people with Parkinson's. In 2016, Annamaria joined NICE Centre for Movement Disorders as part of the Conductive College Team, teaching and supervising both under- and post-graduate students. Currently she is the course lead on the BA (Hons) in Conductive Education degree, which is delivered in partnership with Birmingham City University. In her dual role of practitioner and lecturer, Annamaria is invested in strengthening the theory-praxis link in CE. Training and development have always played a significant role for Annamaria, she has been a registered and active member of the United Kingdom's Professional Conductors Association (PCA) since it was formed in 2008. She gained a Master's degree in Special and Inclusive Education and her doctoral thesis offered a theoretical exploration of contemporary Conductive Education philosophy and conductors' professional identity. Annamaria sits on the PCA Committee and is looking forward to being part of the ECA committee supporting CE and conductors at an international level. For Annamaria's publications, please see her Research Gate profile. Her latest ones are: Berger-Jones, A. (2025) The system of CE and its parts (Part 1). *Conductive College Journal*, 2(1), pp. 23-32. Berger-Jones, A. (2024) A narrative review of Conductive Education as a professional practice. *Educational Futures*, 15(2). [online].

EUROPE

ECA Advisory Board - new project

As Chair and Deputy Chair of the Advisory Board, Zsófie Nádasi and Ivan Su have taken the helm in recent months, bringing renewed energy and strategic focus. They work closely with a diverse group of committed professionals and people with lived experience of disability to advance constructive support and organisational development. Under their leadership, the Advisory Board is concentrating on developing robust quality standards for members and producing clear, practice-oriented documents that codify the knowledge of conductive support. The Advisory Board provides direct guidance and support to the Board and the President to ensure consistent, high-quality practice and information across member organisations.

The ECA Advisory Board has made the F-Words their next project for the ECA Board and our clients. The new project deals with **Functioning, Family, Fitness, Fun, Friends and Future** see link of Can Child for further information: [F-words Tools - Can-Child](https://www.canchild.org.uk/f-words). The project is linked to ICF-IY and will be made public in our newsletter upon finalisation.

UK

PCA / CEPEG News

PCA/CEPEG are preparing their 2025 Conductive Education Conference – “A Living Practice”, inviting presenters and participants from across the CE community. ([Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pca.cepeg))

They continue to hold professional development and workshop events, for example a Conductor Workshop at NICE – Centre for Movement Disorders in October 2025. (pca-ce.org)

Additionally, they have published an interesting journal (e.g. *Journal Vol. 2 Ed. 1, Oct 2025*) to disseminate research, reflections and developments in the field of Conductive Education. (conductive-education.org.uk)

poland

The Step by Step Association Help of children in Zamość



The Association is celebrating its 35th anniversary! We are proud to present a graphic diagram of the support system we have built over the past 35 years, said Dr. Maria Król, who worked restless in the 3,5 decades for CE. The anniversary celebrations, including a conference and a concert by the Karol Namysłowski Symphony Orchestra in Zamość, will take place on November 6 by appointment.



HUNGARY

Semmelweis University András Pető Faculty

Conductors Alumni Meeting

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of launching conductive teacher training, alumni from around the world who graduated from the András Pető Faculty (PAK) or its predecessor were invited to a two-day reunion at Semmelweis University—our former President **Helga Keil-Bastendorff** was among the guests, she represents 62 years of CE in Vienna. Organized jointly by PAK and the Directorate for International Relations and Alumni Affairs, the series of events was attended by guests from 11 countries, who learned about the University's new developments and networked with colleagues and fellow alumni through scientific presentations, round-table discussions, and social events. Read more here:

<https://semmelweis.hu/english/2025/07/first-ever-international-reunion-of-conductive-educators-held-at-semmelweis/>



Further Semmelweis University András Pető Faculty

Researchers' Night The András Pető Faculty once again joined the Researchers' Night event series on September 26. The faculty welcomed visitors at the András Pető Faculty's and the University's Theoretical Medical Center. The program included a session for developing executive and attention functions, a bocchia demonstration, dog-assisted therapy, a FrameRunning session, a presentation on the role of educational robots in maths education, accessibility options for computer browsers and more. The main goal of the event to share the current educational and scientific results with the wider public.



Oath-Taking and Jubilee Diploma Ceremony The Pető András Faculty held its oath-taking and jubilee diploma ceremony under the motto *"Faith, Vocation, Community."* In the presence of university leaders Prof. Dr. Péter Hermann and Dr. Alán Alpár, 2 alumni celebrating their jubilees received gold honorary diplomas, while fourteen first-year students from the Faculty's off-campus programs in Transylvania and Subotica took their oaths in person. In her address, Vice-Rector Dr. Éva Feketéné Szabó recalled the words of Jókai Mór and emphasized the importance of self-belief and inner conviction, values also embodied by the Faculty's founder, András Pető. Dean Dr. Andrea Zsebe highlighted the significance of the conductor's vocation, which combines pedagogy and rehabilitation, and thanked all partners supporting the Faculty's off-campus training programs. She reaffirmed that unity and cooperation are key to building a strong professional community. Afterwards the audience was greeted by a representative of the Szekeres László Foundation, the Faculty's partner institution in the off-campus Conductor BA program in Vojvodina.



SAHK, Hong Kong: Study tour visiting Bavaria CE institutions



Dr. Ivan Sue, Deputy Head of ECA Advisory Board is visiting Bavarian CE institutions (Pfennigparade Phoenix / mitundo kinderhouses / Chancenwerk / Munich, Pető School / Oberaudorf, FortSchritt Bayern / Starnberg) together with 15 delegates from Hong Kong for a 3 day study tour, after visiting the Pető Faculty in Budapest for several days. The delegation is interested in European CE models such as inclusive working settings and other. An ECA meeting has also been scheduled at Pfennigparade on the topic „CE for children with ASD in preschool / school ages.“ This meeting will be hybrid for ECA board members and interested



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Imprint

Publisher: ECA European Conductive Association, Bergsteiggasse 36-38, 1170 Vienna, Austria
Board of ECA: B. Höß-Zenker (president), K. Desits, M. Domonkos, G. Ganbold, E. Horvath, Dr Z. Kállay,
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