NOVEMBER 2026

ECA Newsletter

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Thinking Together, Moving Forward Together



When we look at the different countries in which Conductive Education is practised and developed, we first see many differences. The structures are different, as are healthcare systems and funding mechanisms, and Conductive Education does not have the same position within the professional landscape everywhere.

And yet, in our conversations, we repeatedly encounter something that connects us: behind these different frameworks are often the same fundamental questions. How can we secure the future of Conductive Education? How can we ensure appropriate recognition and professional status for the people working in this field? And how can we create the financial conditions needed to ensure that good services are not only possible, but sustainable in the long term?

For me, this is one of the great strengths of our European network: we do not have to answer these questions on our own, country by country.

We can learn from one another. We can share our experiences – our successes as well as our challenges. We can reflect together on what works, and on where we may need to find new

approaches. And we can support one another in making Conductive Education more visible wherever it still needs greater recognition and support.

This is where I believe international cooperation has a particularly important role to play. It not only opens up new perspectives; it also gives us the opportunity to join forces. This is especially true when it comes to research.

If we want to shape the future of Conductive Education, we need a strong and reliable evidence base. We need research that examines our work, makes its impact visible, and addresses questions that are relevant not only to practitioners, but also to the wider professional community, policymakers and funding bodies. And we need more opportunities to develop and carry out research together across borders.

I see this as an important role for the European Conductive Association: bringing people and organisations from different countries together, creating opportunities for exchange, and building spaces where individual experiences can become shared knowledge.

This does not mean that every country needs to follow the same path. On the contrary: our different experiences and circumstances are part of our strength. But we can create a common foundation – through exchange, through cooperation and through research.

The challenges facing Conductive Education are significant. But when I look at our international network, I also see an enormous opportunity. We are many. We bring different experiences and perspectives. And we share the conviction that Conductive Education can open up new possibilities for people.

Let us make the most of this diversity. Let us learn from one another, work together on research, and share our knowledge and experience. And let us ensure that Conductive Education continues to receive the attention, recognition and support it needs to develop and thrive.

Together, we can move things forward.

Yours sincerely,
Beate Höß-Zenker, President ECA

NEWS FROM

Europe

ECA International Strategy Meeting

Impressions from Birmingham

From 29 September to 2 October 2026, several members of ECA and their guests gathered at NICE in Birmingham for a few inspiring days of connection, collaboration and forward thinking. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss future strategies, laying the groundwork for continued cooperation and new initiatives.





This workshop strengthened the spirit of collaboration within the ECA community. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn from one another, build on our shared experiences, and develop a common understanding of where we want to go together. We are leaving these days with fresh ideas, renewed energy, and a strong sense of shared purpose and commitment to shaping the future of ECA together.

We also would like to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to Nice for the warm welcome extended to the ECA Board and all our guests.


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Dave Hirst
BUDAPEST TO BIRMINGHAM



NEWS FROM

United Kingdom

Professional Conductors Association

The Chair of the PCA Enikő Kocsis

I am delighted to introduce the Professional Conductors Association (PCA) and share a little about the work we are doing to support conductors and professionals working in Conductive Education across the UK.

The PCA is a UK-wide professional body for conductors, providing a platform for professionals working across a wide range of settings, from independent practitioners and charitable organisations to local authority and other services delivering rehabilitation and education. The PCA Committee was initially led by Dr Melanie Brown and is now led by Enikő Kocsis, who chairs the elected committee.

At the heart of the PCA is a simple aim: to listen to, represent and support the people who work within Conductive Education.

Our membership is open to conductors within the field. We want the PCA to be a place where people can connect with colleagues, share their experiences and continue to develop throughout their professional lives.

We promote the professional status of conductors by encouraging continual professional development and wider learning opportunities. We believe that professional development is an important part of maintaining a strong, confident and forward-thinking profession.

The PCA also provides a UK-wide network where conductors can share information, knowledge, expertise and ideas, as well as having opportunities for professional discussion and debate. Alongside this, the PCA maintains and upholds a Code of Practice and Professional Standards for Conductors, produces guidance and advisory publications, and shares articles and resources to support professional practice.

One of the most important role of the PCA committee that it creates opportunities for conductors to come together. Each year, the PCA supports the delivery of the Annual Conductors' Workshop and the Annual Conductive Education Conference. These events provide valuable opportunities to learn, reflect on our practice and, perhaps most importantly, connect with other professionals who share our passion for Conductive Education.

Our 2026 conference, “Connections-Inspiring Progress Through Partnership,” focused particularly on strengthening the relationship between conductors working in the UK and Hungary. We were delighted to welcome professionals from Hungary to join colleagues from across the UK.



Bringing these different experiences and perspectives together created some really valuable conversations. One of the highlights was our very first roundtable discussion, where leading professionals from both the UK and Hungary responded to questions shared by the audience. The discussion provided an opportunity to explore different experiences, challenges and ideas, while also highlighting how much we can learn from one another.

For us, this is exactly what the PCA should be about, creating connections, encouraging professional dialogue and learning from each other.

The PCA believes it is important to recognise excellence within our field and introduced the Outstanding Contribution to Conductive Education Award. The inaugural award in 2024 was presented to Dr Melanie Brown, with the 2026 award going to Dr Theresa Kinnersley in recognition of her exceptional and longstanding contribution to Conductive Education. Theresa has been an integral part of the UK CE community for more than two decades, demonstrating outstanding dedication, quiet leadership and a commitment to developing others. She has mentored students since 2005, taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level, contributed significantly to the development of conductor training nationally and internationally, and delivered professional development opportunities for conductors worldwide.



As the first British-trained conductor to achieve a doctorate, Theresa has also made a significant contribution to research and knowledge sharing, most notably through establishing the Conductive College Journal in 2018. A founding member of the PCA and an active committee member for more than 18 years, Theresa’s enduring contribution, humility and passion for Conductive Education make her a truly deserving recipient of this award.

Our Annual Conductors’ Workshop took place on 17 October 2026, focusing on exploring research, recording outcomes and demonstrating impact. These are increasingly important areas for our

profession, as we continue to strengthen the evidence base for Conductive Education. The workshop provided an opportunity to reflect on how we demonstrate the difference our work makes, capture meaningful outcomes and communicate the impact of Conductive Education more effectively.

We are already looking forward to the 2027 PCA Conference, which will take place in London on 13 March 2027. The theme for next year's conference is Integration and Innovation. We look forward to exploring what this means for Conductive Education, our professional practice and the future development of our services. We warmly welcome presentation proposals from our international colleagues and would be delighted to see colleagues from across the international Conductive Education community join us for the conference. It will be a valuable opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas and learn from one another.

The UK has one of the largest communities of conductors outside Hungary, and the PCA has an important role to play in bringing this community together.

As our profession continues to develop, so does the role of the PCA. We want to ensure that conductors have a professional voice, access to opportunities for learning and development, and a strong network of colleagues to connect with.

We are also excited to be developing closer links with the European Conductors Association.

Representatives from the Association visited the UK at the end of September and met with the PCA Chair, as well as the Course Lead for the conductor training in the UK, Dr Annamaria Berger-Jones, who also represents the PCA on the ECA committee. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to share ideas, discuss the development of the profession across Europe and explore how we can work more closely together in the future. We are looking forward to building on these conversations and developing further opportunities for collaboration, learning and professional exchange between conductors across Europe.



Enikő Kocsis, Chair of the PCA

NEWS FROM

Hungary

Research, Innovation and Milestones

Hári Mária Professional Symposium Hosted at the Pető András Faculty

On October 7, 2026, the Pető András Faculty hosted the annual Hári Mária Professional Symposium, bringing together leading conductors, researchers, and healthcare professionals. The conference focused on the latest scientific advancements, clinical achievements, and methodological innovations in conductive pedagogy and neurorehabilitation.

Dedicated to honoring the legacy of Dr. Mária Hári, the event highlighted how traditional conductive principles are integrated with modern interdisciplinary approaches to improve patient care and rehabilitation outcomes worldwide.



Historic Milestone: Record-Breaking Graduation Ceremony at the Pető András Faculty

In July 2026, the Pető András Faculty marked a major milestone by hosting a record-breaking graduation ceremony where 126 students received their diplomas—the highest number in the faculty's history. For the first time, graduates from every accredited program celebrated together, including the BA in Conductive Education (both Hungarian and English language tracks), the MSc in Neurorehabilitation, and specialized teacher training programs. The event celebrated the growing academic portfolio of the faculty and the expanding global reach of Conductive Education.

Bringing Science to Life: Successful Researchers' Night at the Pető András Faculty

On September 25, 2026, the Pető András Faculty joined the national Researchers' Night initiative, offering an interactive and engaging program lineup for visitors of all ages. Highlights included hands-on demonstrations of developmental board games, insightful sessions on living with and treating Multiple Sclerosis (MS), an exploration of sacred geometry, and popular animal-assisted therapy showcases featuring trained dogs and cats. The event successfully demonstrated how cutting-edge research and therapeutic methods translate into everyday practical applications.



NEWS FROM

Sweden

ConductHub and ConductMe to Close

We sincerely regret to announce that, following a thorough review, we have decided to permanently discontinue ConductHub and ConductMe on December 1, 2026. This decision follows a careful evaluation of the ongoing operating and development costs in relation to the platforms' current usage.

Both platforms will remain fully accessible until the closure date. We encourage all users to save or export any information and materials they wish to retain before then.

We sincerely thank all users, members, and partners for their trust, support, and contributions over the years.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

The ConductHub and ConductMe Team

NEWS FROM

Germany

Networking

It has been a busy and inspiring time for the German Bundesverband Konduktive Förderung e.V. (BKF), with several opportunities to make Conductive Education more visible, exchange ideas with colleagues and strengthen our international network.

Conductive Education at REHACARE

The German BKF was represented at REHACARE, one of the major international trade fairs for rehabilitation, inclusion and participation. Our booth attracted a great deal of interest and gave us many opportunities to talk to visitors about Conductive Education and the work of the BKF.

We shared the stand with other organisations working in the field of inclusion. This made the exhibition particularly lively and offered visitors the opportunity to discover different approaches and organisations in one place. A joint quiz also added a fun and interactive element and encouraged visitors to engage with the different topics presented at the stand.



For us, REHACARE was an excellent opportunity not only to raise awareness of Conductive Education, but also to connect with people and organisations who share our commitment to inclusion and participation.

A Visit from the Pető Faculty

Another highlight was a visit from colleagues of the Pető Faculty of Semmelweis University in Budapest to Munich. We were delighted to welcome Dr. Andrea Zsebe, Dr. Éva Szabó and Dr. László Matos to Germany and to spend time together in a spirit of professional exchange and international cooperation.



The visit began with a joint dinner, providing a relaxed opportunity to meet, reconnect and get to know one another before the program started. The following day was dedicated to a very productive exchange, with discussions focusing in particular on the challenges and opportunities Conductive Education is facing today.

There was a lively exchange of perspectives and experiences, and we greatly appreciated the openness with which different ideas and experiences were shared. Alongside the professional discussions, there was also plenty of time and space for networking and informal conversations.



We were very pleased and honoured to welcome such a high-calibre group of colleagues and experts. The visit once again demonstrated, how valuable direct international exchange can be – especially when we take the time not only to discuss our challenges, but also to explore together where new opportunities might lie.

ECA Meeting in Birmingham

Beate Höß-Zenker and Daniela Fülle from the German BKF also had the opportunity to attend the recent ECA meeting in Birmingham.



These days provided the perfect setting for meaningful and productive discussions, the exchange of different perspectives and experiences, and the development of new ideas and impulses for the future. The open and constructive dialogue allowed us to explore important topics in greater depth, challenge existing thinking, and identify new opportunities for ECA.

We truly appreciated the wonderful hospitality, the delicious food and refreshments, and, above all, the loving care and support throughout the day. Your warmth and attention to detail made everyone feel genuinely welcome and created a relaxed, inspiring and open atmosphere for our workshop.

Working Together

For the German BKF, these different activities all have something in common: Conductive Education thrives on exchange. Whether at a trade fair, during a professional visit or at an international ECA meeting, every encounter gives us the opportunity to learn from one another, strengthen our network and develop new ideas together.

We look forward to continuing this exchange with our European colleagues and to many more opportunities to meet, share and work together.

effective• innovative• conductive

Imprint

Publisher: ECA European Conductive Association, Bergsteiggasse 36-38,1170 Vienna, Austria

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