

## A successful period comes to an end

For many years Wim Schepers (Netherlands/Belgium) demonstrated enormous commitment by voluntarily shouldering responsibility for our "Vision" newsletter. His personal style is reflected in every edition of E.D.E. Vision. He was tireless at soliciting contributions on current issues from the national associations, a task that sometimes took a good deal of persistence. The result is a newsletter that delivers factual information from our European member associations while highlighting individual members, their tasks and biographies. The members and the Executive Board would like to extend their warmest thanks to Wim Schepers for his dedicated work.

Apart from his editorial activity Wim Schepers also took part in planning and organising our European congresses. A constant source of innovative ideas for the working groups, he helped break new ground in congress planning. Wim Schepers played a particularly important role in shaping the 10th E.D.E. Congress in 2007 in Berlin, held together with the 1st World Congress for Directors of Residential Care Homes, as well as the recent 11th



Wim Schepers

E.D.E. Congress in Luxembourg. Whenever someone needed his advice Wim Schepers was always there to help in a spontaneous, unbureaucratic way.

We wish Wim Schepers all the best for his leisure activities, for example his car racing.

Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter  
President

## Between association work and profitability – the diverse activities of the Czech Association

The history of the Czech Association *Asociace Poskytovatelů Sociálních Služeb České Republiky* (APSS CR) goes back to 1991, when a couple of homes for the elderly decided to start up an umbrella organisation. Today we have more than 670 members and provide 1,500 social services. The Czech Association has had several key moments. One was the decision in 2006 to open the Association to other providers of social services, not just homes for the elderly. Another was our so-called professionalisation, when we went from being a group of volunteers to having 9 employees providing services to our members.

One of our main activities – apart from lobbying on behalf of social services – is putting out the

professional magazine "Sociální služby" on social services. The country's most widely read and important monthly publication in its field, the magazine has allowed us to influence public opinion in certain cases. Another key activity is organizing conferences. In 2010 we will prepare 10 conferences with a total of 3,000 participants, on palliative care, nutrition in care homes, quality and financing of social services and home care service in the Czech Republic, among other subjects. This year the Czech Association established its own training institute with 15 training centres – one in every Czech and Moravian region. The training institute has more than 100 lecturers on contract, and offers training programmes on a wide variety of social care services.

## E.D.E. Vision 19

This is the 19th edition of the newsletter E.D.E. VISION. It will inform you about current developments within the European care centres as well as about projects of the E.D.E. and its member countries. The E.D.E. also intends to adopt a position on real issues in European politics in the context of care for the elderly.



Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter

## E.D.E. office to serve as editorial office

As of January 2010 the E.D.E. office has taken over editorial responsibility for E.D.E. Vision newsletter. In its new function the office will receive the support of the entire Executive Board and particularly that of Martin Dürer of the Czech Republic (after his convalescence). The E.D.E. office will continue producing the newsletter as developed by Wim Schepers, while soliciting additional contributions from national associations regarding the situation on location in their countries. As our newsletter thrives from the quality of contributions, we invite members to communicate or write the new editorial office with suggestions for topics of interest to care home directors in Europe.

In future E.D.E. Vision will appear four times a year, and continue to keep members up to date on current developments in the E.D.E. and European residential care.

On behalf of the Executive Board  
Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter  
President

Other of our economically interesting activities include software production and the publishing of sector-related literature. Our main motto is that in all we do we must assure every organisation that more than being worthwhile and sensible, belonging to our Asso-

ciation is simply a must. In other words, we are always there for our members.

*Jiří Horecký, president of the Czech Association (APSS CR)*

---

## Care Services Centre for the Elderly in Subotica – a positive example of a socially responsible institution

Gerontološki centar: socijalno – zdravstvena ustanova za zbrinjavanje odraslih lica, the Care Centre for the Elderly in Subotica (Serbia/Vojvodina), is a social care institution that incorporates three homes for the elderly accommodating a total of 530 beneficiaries. Additionally, an elderly home care service has been developed within the Institution since 1971, which now employs 79 people. This department has five clubs for the elderly (day centres) – two of which are located in the surrounding rural areas – numbering 4,200 members.

The home care service department provides services to approximately 1,000 beneficiaries living in all areas of the City, a characteristic that makes the Care Services Centre in Subotica unique among similar institutions operating in Serbia. It is unfortunate that other big towns and cities do not have the necessary capacities or capabilities to provide home-based services to people living in rural or remote areas.

Our Institution is able to provide these services due to an ongoing Public Works Project financed by the Provincial Secretariat for Work, Employment and Gender Equality (PSWEGE). The first project of this kind was approved in 2006, when 13 people were initially employed on one-year contracts. By 2009 they were granted full-time employment on the basis of their professionalism and dedication. On the strength of our positive track-record we were eligible for a new programme of the PSWEGE in 2009, and received funding for an additional 72 additional employees. The project's duration is six months, with a total budget of over 150,000.00 euros.

*Nenad Ivanisevi*

*LLB, MA, director of the Care Centre for the Elderly in Subotica (Serbia/Vojvodina)*

---

## Study trip in Saxony (Germany)



*Dresden*

On the wish of many E.D.E. members we will be organising a thrilling study trip this year from May 9–12 on residential care establishments in Dresden, Annaberg and Zwickau. The homes selected practice interesting concepts in the areas of care, accompaniment and personnel management. Participants can talk on location with employees and get first-hand experience of these innovative concepts. The scope of topics ranges from new pay models for personnel and Corporate TV for residential care establishments through to an extensive range of new services (Infomobil, Servicecard) which won't fail to give participants fresh ideas for their own establishments. In Zwickau participants will see how an old castle may become a modern service centre. And discus-

sions on long-term care in Europe with students of health and care management will take place at West Saxon University of Applied Sciences of Zwickau. Here participants will be able to share their expertise with tomorrow's managers of care home facilities.

After the study trip, tourism in Saxony (Saxon Switzerland, Dresden, Ore Mountains) is practically a must, as Thursday May 15, 2010 is a holiday (Ascension) in some European countries. We would be delighted to offer suggestions to all those interested. Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter, President of the E.D.E., will accompany the trip.

**Further information is available from the Berlin office**  
**Telephone: +49 30 61681411**  
**E-mail: [info@ede-eu.org](mailto:info@ede-eu.org)**

## Consequences of the new care sector legislation in Hungary

On the 1st of January 2008 a significant change occurred in the Hungarian legal system with regards to care for the elderly. According to the new law, only those in need of 4 hours of care-taking or more per day may be lodged in care homes for the elderly. The only exceptions to this ruling are spouses, partners, brothers, sisters and disabled relatives who have been living together with the care recipient for at least a year. The sort of care needed is determined exactly by an independent expert committee, which also issues a binding expert opinion.

As a result of the new ruling, the system of requirements for elderly people living in care establishments has been greatly transformed. The upshot is that the average health of care recipients in our institutions is steadily worsening. A growing number of residents are disabled, many have dementia and are almost entirely dependent

on others for their well-being. Equipped as they are today, most establishments are only partially prepared to provide the specialized care needed under the new law.

The legislation fails to account for the fact that the increased number of tasks do not tally either with personnel conditions or the number of professionals required. Taking care of disabled people whose health is considerably deteriorated exerts far greater financial pressure on the management of an institution, since the law fails to provide for increased funding. In all cases needing less than 4 hours of daily care, directors are obliged to inform applicants of what kind of home services are available to them, and how these services may be rendered.

*László Bakonyi, president of the Hungarian association*

## The ESJN – recognizing the professional merits of our colleagues

The ESJN – EEsti Sotsiaalasutuste Juhtide Nöukoda, or Estonian Association for Directors of Care Homes, was established in 1987 under its first president Valter Koppel. Active collaboration with the E.D.E. began in 1991. The main supporters were Valter Koppel and Mrs. Siiri Oviir, then Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia. In 2005 the General Board of the E.D.E. visited Estonia. The host was Egon Siimson, president of the ESJN from 1995 to 2008. Since 2008 Vambola Sipelgas has been responsible for managing our organization.

The second factor is training. To face problems such as poverty, unemployment and depression we have to assess our possibilities and try to apply a broad range of strategies. To bring more transparency and efficiency to our everyday work in care homes, we are working on guidelines for assessing clients' needs and standards in our care homes. Government and municipal support is necessary in this task. We also offer our members various training possibilities. For example, the Baltic Conference of Social Care will be held in Estonia in May



*On March 27, 2010  
the next General Board meeting will  
take place in Tallinn.*

*All participants  
are welcome!*



Our organization is well-known in Estonia, and the number of members has increased constantly. What factors would we like to highlight in the work carried out by our organization?

The first is collaboration. International collaboration between E.D.E. members is of great value to us. In addition, cooperation and exchange among different specialists in Estonia are also crucial for improving our work. As our task is to protect more vulnerable persons, we work together with the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs and other national organizations in social spheres. Moreover, any kind of support from our members is also very important.

2010, with our Association as the main organizer. Our key objective is to improve the overall quality of care.

The third factor is continuity. Change does not come quickly. Our organization has been at its task for more than twenty years, and we look back with a sense of appreciation. However, every day brings with it new challenges. We express our gratitude to our colleagues from the E.D.E. and hope for continued good cooperation in the future.

*Egon Siimson, Vambola Sipelgas, Valter Koppel*