

### Editors

#### of this number

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## Facing Reality and Dreams

Dear colleagues

In this Newsletter you can find some articles and comments about the 6th International Congress of HOPE on Hospital Education in Tampere 2008. There were 140 participants from 24 countries from all over the world. It was our pleasure to host the congress and present the Finnish education and hospital education, not only Koivikkopuisto school in Tampere and Pitkäniemi school in Nokia but also some hospital schools in other part of Finland. Facing reality and dreams and sharing ideas and experiences with colleagues from different cultures made the congress unforgettable. Thank you – all of you – for the excellent and interesting presentations and workshops in the congress. You have got a lot of good feedback. We could learn from each other and we can develop our work together. There are really many ways to do the work well.

My warmest wishes to all of you – and relaxing Christmas holiday when it comes – in the middle of winter or summer!

Riitta Launis Tampere Finland

## Thank you from the Board of HOPE

While the Facing reality and Dreams Congress still remains in our memories as one more successful meeting point for Hospital teachers the Board of HOPE is happy to be able to see the next two events secured. We shall meet again in Munich in 2010 and in Amsterdam in 2012. 2012 is still open for bids but we believe 2014 will be a better option for countries that like to set long term goals for their activities.

The sharing of experience that gave inspiration to return home with new ideas, the discussions, the good atmosphere, the sun that never seemed to set, altogether make us look back to the days in June with warmth.

Members had been duly invited to attend the 7th General Assembly of HOPE. Three members of the Board stepped down. No new candidates were presented. Elisabeth Cauchon decided to leave, but remains as coordinator for the workshops. Christian Lieutenant too, after having been in the organization from the very first call to meet in Ljubljana in 1988. HOPE being based in Brussels and Christian's school our official address he will still be with us. We are grateful to both for staying with us in these functions and as resource persons. Finally Paul Cartier too left the Board. He advised us on the educational programs of the Council of Europe and in this way was the originator to our status as an INGO with the CoE. We thank all three for their tremendous work for HOPE.

Maria Schmidt, still Treasurer, Mojca Topic, Paula Hicks, Michele Capurso, Michel Kleuters, now Secretary and Gerd Falk-Schalk, President were reelected. We thank you for your confidence and promise to do our best to fulfill the goals we have set with enthusiasm. As always we are eager to hear from you and hope for a vivid discussion on future aims and goals.

With all best wishes to you and your pupils I wish you a pleasant reading with more reports from Tampere.

Gerd, President [www.hospitalteachers.eu](http://www.hospitalteachers.eu)



Edited by  
Riitta Launis  
Joonas Mäkinen



## After the Congress in Tampere



As a hospital teacher, I have been fortunate to attend every congress for hospital teachers since the very first congress.

Soon after I began teaching at Ledina Hospital School in 1988, all European hospital teachers met in Ljubljana for the first time on the initiative of Professor Kornhauser. Later congresses convened in 1992 – Vienna, 1996 – Uppsala, 2000 – Barcelona, 2006 – London, and 2008 – Tampere.

My participation in each congress included a paper or poster presentation. I was always a bit anxious as to how the European audiences would accept my presentations. Even this year, in Tampere, I had some of the same feelings. But, along with a bit of nervousness, I also felt joy and excitement.

But, nevertheless, the Tampere congress was a bit different from the previous ones.

At Tampere, the daylight hours were quite long and I had a special feeling that I had a lot of quality time to absorb what I had learned. I listened to the interesting lectures and actively participated in the workshops. After the programs were over for the day, I took extra time to reflect on the proceedings. The long daylight hours, with the sun visible until 11 pm and the quality lectures and workshops facilitated an atmosphere for further study and reflection.

Sincere congratulations to Riitta and her team who motivated both myself and all of the participants with her personalized approach to teaching. We all learned how important the personal approach is and how it helps the Finnish school system to be the best in the world.

Most importantly, the congress has increased our understanding. Taking this added knowledge back to the workplace will benefit our students and our teams.

Before leaving for the Tampere congress, I had a great deal of work to complete at our hospital school. It was difficult for me to leave everything for a week. But meeting my professional colleagues gave me a new energy and enthusiasm that made my colleagues in Ljubljana ask what kind of magic happened in Finland!

Once again, thanks to Riitta and her team for being instrumental in gathering together so many hospital teachers from all over the world. They gave us new enthusiasm and energy, which will bring new power and joy to our work.

Tanja Bečan, Ljubljana, Slovenia



*Art belongs  
to everyone –  
every child*



## Making Art – Learning by Doing

In Koivikkopuisto school in Tampere there was a workshop of art education for sick pupils led by four Swedish hospital teachers. After a short theoretical introduction we started to make line drawing, "line play", with oily crayons on paper roll in four groups. The size of the paper was about 1x3 meters. We filled up the open space of the paper with different tints of watercolour meanwhile the paper roll went round and round. Then we had a short break when the colour could dry.

After the break the themes "fire", "earth", "water" and "air" were divided and given to our groups. Everybody got the job of looking with the pattern (through the hole of the pattern) for a piece of the watercoloured paper which suited the theme and cut it off. Then we glued the piece of watercoloured paper on A4 sheet and hung all A4 sheets on the wall of the corridor of the school. As a new job we began to write down on the paper words, sentences and texts which came to our mind first and put this up side down near the A4 sheet. In the end of the workshop we made a poem or a story of all these words, sentences and texts and wrote or glued it on A4 sheet.

As a result there emerged very surprising combination of pictures and texts.

Lia van Vliet The Netherlands

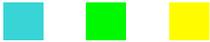
## Impressions

Three months passed since our meeting in Tampere. We are still impressed by the friendly, frank and peaceful atmosphere, which we experienced in all places in Tampere - in the imposing Tampere Hall, during the visitation of hospital school, the workshops, within the city limits and during the outdoor activities. The atmosphere we experienced during the workshops, whose content was quite inspiring, as well as during the events in the former factory and the nightly encounters in the city. Is it the so called "Finnish soul", your down-to-earth bond to nature, the richness of forests and lakes, which enabled a nearly familiar exchange of opinions, cultures and interests? A unique experience was of course the evening in the "smoke-sauna-facilities" at one of the thousand lakes, which was highlighted by the intercultural "bonfire spirit" as we would call it in Germany. We want to thank you once again for these lasting impressions.

Johannes Persie, Essen and Uwe Linneweber, Hattingen Germany



## Outdoor Adventure to Tuutiman korsu and Birgitta's Path at Lempäälä



*Poor Jan, ever  
the gentleman,  
trying to flip  
his pancakes!*



Half past two pm the group was expected to be at the entrance of Tampere Hall. The bus brought us to the forest near Tuutima lake in Lempäälä. Seppo, Petteri and Laura were our leaders, hospital teachers from Oulu, Nokia and Tampere. Seppo is specialized in Outdoor Education. We would practise outdoor activities by ourselves in order to get to know which kind of activities the pupils do and learn - every activity has its aim or several aims.

All of us had sportswear on and swimming suits with us. We were very eager to know what our leaders had planned for us. We were left in the forest and asked to walk a bit to the scout cottage. The scout cottage was the central point for the afternoon programme. Next to the big room there was also a tiny sauna – for which we hadn't any use in that day. The evening programme namely consisted of sauna visit in other place.

Seppo told us something about learning moments of the afternoon. The most important learning moment would be the evaluation. The attention will be paid especially to the self reflexion. There are three important points in self reflexion:

How I did it

What I think how the others did it

How the others think what I did

The afternoon activities were hiking (hill up and down), rowing and swimming for those ones who wanted to do it. During the hiking we worked team building: How to take the others into consideration, to trust the others. They were nice and concrete exercises which everybody did. Walking through the quiet and splendid forest was wonderful! Weather was super, the view sublime! In some way this kind of workshop was very quieting and pleasant. The contact within the group was good. In the end of hiking there were many marvellous things ready for us and we could go to swim or to row. We already had good discussions which got better and better. We surely had evaluation and self reflexion and in the end of the afternoon we made the conclusion that we had a prima workshop and we had a superafternoon! Many thanks , our workshop leaders!

The colleague from The Netherlands

## Tampere, here we come

I was part of a group from the Chelsea Children's Hospital School that delivered a workshop that looked at ways in which we can develop techniques to develop and support creative thinking in our pupils. We were really looking beyond the creative curriculum of art, music etc. We are becoming increasingly aware that these are the skills that our pupils will need to equip them in their future world and work. This is something that we in are school are very interested in. It is a subject that I would like to put forward as an atelier in the near future. If you are unfamiliar with the concept of ateliers, please look at the congress website or HOPE website.

The remainder of the programme was made up of practical workshops, an outdoor adventure afternoon, and a workshop at the children's circus, discussion groups and HOPE meetings.

I could go on, and describe every presentation, workshop etc., but I don't think you'll have the time to read it. Suffice to say that the organisation of the congress was excellent; the evening entertainment was perfectly pitched using the local amenities to best advantage. I have to say I hadn't really thought I'd be up for a swim and sauna at 10pm, but it was a wonderful evening with many, many social opportunities for discussion A good thing too, especially as there were people from Brazil, New Zealand, Australia as well as most of eastern and western Europe. Tampere itself is well placed to avail of spectacular local natural amenities. It is a compact city, easy to navigate and enough to entertain for a couple of days holiday.

Marie Sherlock London UK

Please, note that you will find more material of the congress (presentations, workshops, photos and feedback) on website: [www.facingrealityanddreams.info](http://www.facingrealityanddreams.info) and <http://hospitalteachers.eu>

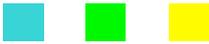


*Summer evening on  
the Lake  
Näsijärvi  
(left) - and the  
staff of  
Kalliomaa school  
singing..*





*It was great to watch the groups from all the different nationalities, get to know one and other, exchange ideas and views*



## A Brazilian Hospital Teacher in the Congress

It was a great pleasure to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> European Congress for Hospital Teachers that took place in the city of Tampere (Finland) during the first week of June, 2008.

Having the best educational standard, Finland has doing very well not just in the regular schools but also as related to teaching children with special needs that include the ones that are hospitalized or sick. Being one of the Scandinavian countries, it was not a surprise to confirm that improvement is not just an aim, but has been successfully achieved in different areas. That is the reason for having, as well, a great quality of life.

The very good background of the teachers was observed in different moments. It was showed when there was the opportunity to talk during the Congress' intervals or after the individual presentations. This experience was a good source of suggestions for the improvement of the practical work in the hospital classroom. Some teachers on their presentation were able to share with the audience not just their academic knowledge on education of hospitalized pupils but also some of their abilities as skilled singers, musical instruments players, dancers, etc.

The opportunity to visit some of the hospital schools was a great experience. It was possible to see and to confirm the organization of the available area for the hospital schools, the cooperative work between teachers and medical staff, the different and interesting equipments for helping teachers in their hospital teaching as well as other materials for supporting children in their learning progress.

As different European countries were represented on this event, the possibility of learning more about their experiences was a valuable way for improving teaching skills when pointing new possibilities of work in a daily basis as well as showing things that could help teachers not just to change her/his practice but also, as said before, to improve it as related to the hospitalized pupils.

It was remarkable the participation of all the organization team choosing Tampere Hall for holding the event. The building was very adequate and had all the necessary equipments for the excellence of the Congress. A very good idea from this team was the possibility that the participants had to have all the meals, during the duration of the Congress, at the local where the event has held. It increased the chances of establishing exchanges with other teachers as well as to learn a bit more of their work in general or their presentation in a particular way. Also, during these moments, to the foreign visitors were given a healthy taste of finish food: colors, smells, vegetables, fish, and traditional finish recipes. And the attention to the ones who have special needs on nourishment. The reception and technical helpers were extremely skilled and able to cope and solve whichever problem: to finding a room, the sound, the light or the projection, for examples. Congratulations to each and to all of them.

For the ones that were not in an accommodation nearby the Tampere Hall, the experience by car, bus, train or even by bicycle was rewarding. The hotels and hostels have very good quality and people in these places were very kind and helpful.

The weather was perfect: sun and blue sky. It was very good both for some of the workshops done in the field and also for the tour to the lake that gave to everybody a bit more knowledge of the finish culture, in particular its way to enjoy summer days. The closing party to celebrate the success of the Congress was another example of putting together the participants' academic and artistic knowledge. A delicious dinner helped to celebrate the gathering together of professionals from different countries in the world that enjoy share what is known in the area of teaching hospitalized children and youngsters for the improvement of this area as well as a way to guarantee the right of hospitalized or sick pupils to education.

It was a relief as well as a rewarding moment to know that, despite the differences between all countries (mainly if comparing the European ones with the South American), the problems faced by the education of hospitalized children and youngsters are similar in many way: more teachers are needed; attention to professional qualification has to be improved; it is necessary to increase the support from the education and health authorities; and a very special attention to the early childhood group of hospitalized children has to be paid as it is an increasing group age in hospitals because of the good development of medical and technological equipments to keep life going.

It was worthwhile to plan the expenses to travel from the city of Rio de Janeiro to Tampere, to deal with the bureaucracy and with long hours of flight to be able to take part in such a remarkable event. There was a great interest from the audience as related to the Brazilian hospital teaching reality. It was also an opportunity to invite everybody to participate on the 6<sup>th</sup> National Meeting on Hospital Education to be held in the city of Niterói (Rio de Janeiro) during the year 2009. Welcome to Brazil!

Eneida Simões da Fonseca Rio de Janeiro Brazil



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