Editorial

Dear Members of HOPE, Friends and Colleagues,

When I read the newsletters I’m led by two goals: – to get information about the everyday work of the colleagues from different countries, – to get new ideas which can be embedded into my everyday work to develop my professional practice.

If you read the articles from Estonia, Finland, Italy, Poland and Romania you can find both in the latest Newsletter.

Enjoy reading and the warmer spring sunny days.

Heroes’ Square, Budapest, Spring Festival

Best wishes
Monika Almássy
Letter from President

Go with the flow

A hospital teacher is in contact with many different people, in sometimes complex situations. A complex work process can be made very clear by a simple flowchart in which people, procedures and choices are shown.

We all know, life is short. Do you know this joke about two complaining people. One says: “Oh life is all misery, tragedy, misfortune and bad luck!” Then the other person says: “Yes and life is so short…”

Or like John Cleese of Monty Python once said:

<...WHOOSH...>
"What was that?"
"That was your life mate"
"Do I get another?"
"Nope, sorry."
"Damn"

Hereby a flowchart of life:

A flowchart is a perfect way to show what you do in your daily work and how you do it.
A flowchart is a good means to have professional discussions about details of the daily work, about relationships with other professionals, about the steps you make in a process.

At the HOPE website you can download for free two Dutch flowcharts for hospital teaching: http://www.hospitalteachers.eu/reserved/members/documents

These flowcharts were made for the situation in the Netherlands and it requires some knowledge about the Dutch system of hospital teaching to fully understand them.

Nevertheless, the flowcharts visualize all steps and choices in a clear way. I am convinced that these two Dutch flowcharts can be inspiring examples for you, before making your own.

When you are going to make your own flowchart, you can use our flowchart as an example to discuss your own daily work as a hospital teacher. Once it is finished, you can use the flowchart to inform new colleagues and other professionals about your work. If your work changes, you must adapt your flowchart too.

A little part of a Dutch flowchart:

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**Go softly and safely, go with the flow.**

Jan Haverkate
Erasmus+ project in Oulu Hospital School 2014-2016: “FEEL – Finding Emotions and Equality with Literature”

Oulu Hospital School in Finland has begun working in an Erasmus+-project with three other European schools: a hospital school in Gdansk, Poland and special education schools in Bucharest, Romania and Istanbul, Turkey. The title of our project is “FEEL – Finding Emotions and Equality with Literature” and the project will go on until summer 2016.

The project aims to help the pupils become more familiar with their feelings and emotions as well as to increase their knowledge of the culture and literature of partner countries.

Emotional and social skills play an important role in building one's self-awareness, self-esteem and identity. Pupils with special needs tend to have challenges particularly in these areas, as well as in the area of reading and writing skills, which can increase their risk to drift to social exclusion. Hereby, this project would work preventively when it comes to the risk of marginalization of the pupils with special needs.

Hospitalized students and students in special education schools can often feel segregated and unequal. This can awake various emotions which can be hard to recognize and understand for the students themselves or for the other people. It is often that these students also have difficulties in recognizing various emotions in other people.

With the project we hope to help the pupils understand that there are similar pupils and feelings all over the world, along with the process of learning to recognize, to name and to control their own emotions.

This project focuses on pupils with special needs in hospital and special education schools. We want to give them possibilities and experience on international and intercultural project work. Also we want hospitalized pupils to see that they can take part in such projects even when they stay at hospital and go to a hospital school.
By combining the special education schools and hospital schools in our cooperation we hope to show our pupils that there are different ways to go to school and still be part of the same world.

Manninen Mirka, Finland
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Present and future of the hospital teaching in Estonia

In Estonia like elsewhere, several changes have taken place in education policy during the last years. More attention has been paid to the well-being of children, early detection, supporting of both mental and physical health. Last year, 15 counselling centres were opened in Estonia, several centres of mental health have been founded. Hospital teaching has an essential role in this big network.

In Estonian’s four biggest hospitals there are 17 hospital teachers at the moment. From 2014 hospital teachers belong to two state schools but their workplace is still a hospital. Most teachers are special education teachers and they work in children’s psychiatry departments but it is also possible to get tuition at the children’s neurology and haematology-oncology departments. Supervised activity is possible from the first day in hospital. Individual study is common, but sometimes tuition takes place in small groups. In a year, approximately 1200 students get educational support, the average number of hospital days is 14.

In 2011, Estonian Hospital Teachers’ Society (www.haiglaope.is-best.net) was founded and its members work in close cooperation. We have introduced several changes into our regular work concerning documentation and other aspects. Estonian Hospital Teachers’ Society also takes part in the work of the Cooperation Chamber of Teachers’ Societies.

As the hospital teachers teach various subjects, the cooperation between the societies of teachers is very important. The awareness of hospital teaching has risen. We have worked to raise its profile – we have published articles, delivered presentations about the work of hospital teachers. Thanks to the aid of the government and the European Social Fund, we have been able to organise in-service training for hospital teachers every year.

We have successfully participated in several project competitions. We have had a longer training cycle of 100 academic hours “Role and responsibility of a hospital teacher” that had been specifically intended for hospital teachers.
We have good relationship with our adjoining country Finland. Jaana Vasama, Doctor of Pedagogy, has familiarised us with the well-functioning education system of Finland. She has also told us about the work with the children with special educational needs and given an overview of the work of hospital schools. But – seeing is believing. She has also told us about the work with the children with special educational needs and given an overview of the work of hospital schools. But – seeing is believing.

At the end of 2013 we visited the Kalliomaa Hospital School in Finland. The head of school kindly explained how they work and showed their cosy school rooms. This year in June, the teachers of Oulu Hospital School will come here to share their knowledge and experiences. We are very thankful to our Finnish colleagues.

We have been lucky to participate in the congresses of Hospital Organisation of Pedagogues in Europe (HOPE) from 2010. We are also members of HOPE. At these great events, we have valuable experiences, found friends holding the same views and had opportunities to share our joys and concerns with colleagues. We have heart-warming memories from our last congress in Bucharest. What we experienced in Romania, was especially touching because notwithstanding little governmental help, hospital teachers work there enthusiastically and from the whole heart. We are thankful to all organisers and wish strength to colleagues in this worthwhile work!

We are optimistic concerning the future. We have thought about the foundation of a hospital school as we do not have it yet. Closer cooperation with the support specialists of schools is also in the future plans. We want to develop ourselves in the sphere of information and communication technology as well. More attention should be paid to the support of a child at the transition period back to home school. We consider further cooperation with HOPE very important. We hope to continue our activity and make progress.

In the name of Estonian hospital teachers

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The school inside the hospital

The school inside the San Bortolo Vicenza Hospital has been in operation since 1988 thanks to an agreement between USSL 6 (Health District n.6) and the territorial scholastic bureau, which provides three primary school teachers and one child care school teacher coming from the Scholastic Comprehensive Institute n. 11.

Often the hospitalized child lives in a situation of discomfort; he/she is emotionally disturbed, sometimes traumatized and disoriented by the changes of rhythms, places and habits.

The teacher of the hospital has a function of guidance and support at a didactic and pedagogic level, and guarantees the fundamental right to the education as declared by the Italian Constitution and the Ministerial implementing note n. 353/7 of August 1998.

Furthermore inside the Hospital Institution, the teacher can be the element which facilitates the integration among different professionals who interact within the service, thus promoting a full care - intended as mind and body - of the child.

The proposed activities for children between 3 and 13 years old are performed in an equipped space of the Pediatric Division during the week; the teachers go to the hospital rooms in other medical divisions with a pediatric presence, when children cannot move.

For all children (short, long-term hospitalization and day hospital) the following are the offered activities:

- Welcome activities;
- Linguistic-expressive activities;
- Graphic-painting activities;
- Logic-mathematic activities;
- Informatics activities;
- Playful-social activities;
In case of a hospitalization lasting more than a week, particular assistance is guaranteed through activities focused on remedial teaching; upon our experience we noticed that the didactic intervention has a higher significant impact on the student when performed in collaboration with the pupil’s home school.

**Upon the parents’ authorization, at the moment of the discharge of the patient, the hospital school issues a frequency certification and/or evaluation and observations (for more than 5 days of hospitalization).** This certificate is valid to determine the necessary cumulative scholastic frequency (IAW art.14 para 7 DPR 122/2009).

A specific service between teachers and a team of doctors and psychologists is active for:

- diabetic children;
- children affected by onco-hematologic pathology;
- the preparation of children who need to undergo a surgery;
- to provide information to activate the home teaching service in case of children who cannot attend school for a long period;

The teachers have produced four illustrated booklets to familiarize the children with some topics described above.

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How the project was born?

“The Fairytale Ward – Travelling Hospital Library” is an initiative of Foundation Serdecznik from Poznan. The first edition started in cooperation with Hospital School no 110 in Poznan. Thanks to that, the foundation could run a thorough test to see if the project can meet the challenges of hospital's architectural limitations. Together with teachers the design of the travelling trolley was adjusted to the needs of hospitalised children.

A team of engineers constructed the prototype of the Fairytale Library on Wheels. Its mobility allows all children to benefit from its carefully selected choice of books that take children into a completely different world where they can embark on an adventure, overcome their weaknesses and find answers to important questions. The library collection includes books that serve many purposes e.g. educational, relaxing, therapeutic and supportive. Every book has a special letter inside with a message addressed to the readers asking them to return it into a special box placed on the ward after reading.

What’s important is that the Fairytale Trolleys have accessories provided for teachers and children to organise workshops. Among these ‘magic’ accessories you can find: a rainbow projector, bells, ladies’ fans, a magic ring, gold dust, a space rock that enables time travel, old maps. The trolley is light and thanks to its wheels it is easy to move around the hospital ward.

Among the ambassadors of the project there are famous Polish people: Marek Kaminski, Roksana Jedrzejewska – Wrobel, Lukasz Wierzbicki, and Krystyna Adamczak. The partners of Foundation Serdecznik are Grupa Allegro, and publishing companies: Zakamarki, EneDueRabe, Media Rodzina, and Dwie Siostry.
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**How the Fairy Tale Trolley came to stay in a Hospital School in Slupsk?**

Three years ago I started cooperating with two hospital schools from Poznan: no 108 and no 110. During one of our meetings I learnt about an experimental project called Oddzial Bajka (Fairy Tale Ward). The idea and its possibilities made me certain that I want to be part of this project. After a conversation with the project coordinator, Anna Bany, I applied on behalf of my school to take part in it.

To receive it we had to meet a few conditions:

1. Find reliable people who would take responsibility for the Fairy Trolley (the foundation is keen to hand it over to those who will really use it in their work),
2. Enable the people with responsibility to participate in special training on how to use literature and storytelling in their work with children.
3. Organise book-based educational workshops for children in hospital at least once a week.
4. Use the Fairy Trolley as a library and regularly lend books to hospitalised children.
5. For a two-year period send photos documenting organised activities involving the Fairy Trolley.

Together with a colleague of mine we participated in a workshop in November 2014 in Poznan.
Workshops on creative approaches in work with children for teachers and art therapists:

The aims of the workshops were to:

- Create positive attitudes to creativity and improving motivation for creative thinking and activity.
- Improve knowledge of creativity and prerequisites for generating creative ideas.
- Improve creative thinking and activity.
- Boost confidence in one’s own creative abilities.
- Make participants aware of their creative potential.
- Increase awareness of educational process being a creative act of development.
- Develop abstract thinking – perception of interesting details in most common aspects of everyday life.

The workshop classes were held in a small group and also included teachers from Bydgoszcz and Szczecin. During that time, the teachers learnt about examples of good, unorthodox practices useful when organising meetings and workshops involving the Fairy Trolley. They also shared experiences and ideas, developed their own creativity and artistic means of expression, collected new methods and techniques of using literature in work with children and their parents.

The workshop was run by a truly inspirational art therapist – Anna Bany. She inspired us with the idea of using the Fairy Trolley by her professional manner but also by her knowledge, open-mindedness, and kindness. These workshops were one of the most creative and versatile workshops I have taken part with in.

Fairy Tale Trolley arrived to us December in 2014. After the ceremony, along with my colleague Ewa Tyborczyk, we held classes using Fairy Tale Trolley for the first time at surgical and pediatric wards. Children reacted very spontaneously and were looking into every nook and cranny of the vehicle with great curiosity.

Since then we have been producing creative curiosity, allowing respite from everyday hospital life, stimulating imagination and building a good relationship with the world of literature throughout the whole year.

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Workshops on the department of pediatric oncology in Bucharest

In Romania, Bucharest, at Alexander Trestioreanu Institute of Oncology, the Department of Pediatric Oncology, from time to time, if someone visits us, he will be warmly invited at the cooking workshops organized by the P.A.V.E.L. Association (Getting Help Life Is Bright).

The cooking class is designed to teach the hospitals patients aged between four and eighteen years old simple and useful techniques for preparing their food, everything in a fun way.

So, every month, we have a tradition. After serving lunch, in the dining room, we prepare together the dessert, which has to be tasty and healthy for the children.

Our children participate at the preparation of the pancake mix, then they cut the bananas and the strawberries for the fruit salad and then they decorate it.

Finally, each of them proudly serves the dessert prepared by himself. The workshop aims to increase children’s responsibility and to actively engage them in a useful and enjoyable activity, where their work results will be visible, but most important... delicious.
Every morning children of all ages gather, along with their relations for the occupational therapy workshops. We all sit and while working on new projects, in which we find and put our dreams, hopes, sadness, fear, excitement and joy, we talk about our thoughts. But we don’t talk only in the traditional way, just by using words. We talk in colors, sometimes in gentle and subtle shades, sometimes in proud and imposing shades, in handmade masks, which have a sad or cheerful face, in superhero stories, in colorful flowers or in handmade greeting cards, made with love for someone who is waiting for them at home...

We try to forget that we are in a hospital, because we participate in the art and play therapy activities. The children enjoy the games, drawings, music and sometimes dance or a birthday party, or therapeutic storytelling or just interesting talks about planets, animals, insects and what we want to become when we grow old.

Teodora Goloiu, Romania
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**A letter from Romania**

Dear friends, today, 15 February, is The International Day of Children with Cancer. Our President, Klaus Iohannis, has visited the oncological ward for children in IOB and the Hospital School P.A.V.E.L. On this occasion, the President emphasized the importance of education for children with cancer hospitalized for long time and also the dedication of the volunteer teachers. It was a very important day for us!

Best regards, The HOPE Congress Team in Bucharest

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**An invitation to Melbourne**

3rd International Health Educators Learners Parents Conference
10 - 12 JUNE 2015 • PULLMAN MELBOURNE ON THE PARK, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Providing Today for a Promising Tomorrow!

Ronald McDonald House Charities is proud to host the 3rd International Health Educators Learners Parents (H.E.L.P.) Conference from the 10th – 12th June, 2015 at the Pullman Melbourne on the Park Hotel (formerly the Hilton on the Park), Melbourne, Australia.

The Conference brings together Health and Education professionals, Students and Carers with a passion to improve the long term outcomes for children with serious illnesses.

Our theme ‘**Providing Today for a Promising Tomorrow**’ will focus on latest research and innovative practices aimed at improving the educational and psychosocial experiences for students with serious illness. This Conference is an exceptional opportunity to share ideas, expertise and build collaborations with practitioners nationally and internationally.

A significant event after IX. HOPE Congress (Bucharest 2014) in a Special Complex School no. 110 in Poznan Poland on 10th February 2015

Polish participants of the IX Hope Congress organized a meeting in Poznan (Poland) for representatives of the local department of education, headmasters and teachers from other schools in our town. The topic of the event was: “Hospital Schools in Europe”. At the meeting we presented a report about participation in the Congress in Bucharest. We prepared a presentation about HOPE and future plans related to the sharing of knowledge about hospital schools in Europe. We proposed to set up a network of hospital teachers in our region in Poland. We also shared our own impression about schools in Romania and Europe.

Teachers from the other Special School no 108 from Poznań presented a brief report from the Conference of E-Twinning in Rome from November 2014.

At the end of the meeting we had a creative art workshops prepared by teachers from Special Complex School no 110. We presented a project on how to use a newspaper to prepare a Valentine’s heart.

Beata Lukomska, Poland
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You’re welcome to write and send me articles for the Newsletters. If you have any ideas about the content, please share with me (moni.almass.hope@gmail.com)

The next NL will be edited at the begin of the school year in September. I plan to collect articles about the hospital newsletters compiled by you from the works of the students on the different departments of the hospitals.

And finally I’m again very grateful to Fabrizio Mencarini for his great help in the technical part and Marie Sherlock for the native language corrections of this edition.