

EDE Executive Board visits Tallinn

On 18 and 19 February, the Executive Board of the EDE met in Tallinn. In Tallinn, the representatives of the member-states were the guests of the Estonian Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly, ESJN, presided by chairman Egon Siimson.



The 44-year old Mr Siimson got closely associated with the EDE during the EDE congress of 1993 in Maastricht, The Netherlands. He is the director of the IRU home for the elderly in the city of Tallinn since 1 November 1988. He received training at the Technical

University of Tallinn and graduated as a technical engineer. During his work as director of IRU, Egon Siimson took a number of management courses and participated in a large number of cooperative projects with Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany.



LOT OF TIME AND ATTENTION

During the meeting of the executive board, a lot of time was spent on and attention was paid to the EDE congress that is to be held in Slovenia next September.

During the stay in Tallinn, a delegation visited the deputy mayor of Tallinn, and together they had an inspiring discussion about the developments in the care for the elderly, now and in the future, in Europe and the various member-states.

EDE VISION

As from today, "EDE VISION" will be published in the form of an electronic magazine. This magazine will inform you about developments of topical interest within the European residential care homes for the elderly and in particular about the position of the director/manager. EDE also intends to make a stand with regard to questions of the day within the European policy on care for the elderly. The main purpose of EDE VISION is to



inform you about the projects of the EDE and its member-states. Since this magazine is published online, it is easy accessible and the national associations can send its contents to their individual members. EDE VISION is published by VDZ The Netherlands. Editor: Wim Schepers



Boris Koprivnikar, our host in Ljubljana

WE TAKE OUR JOBS SERIOUSLY AND WE WILL SHOW THE WORLD!

Our host in Slovenia in September is Boris Koprivnikar, 39 years old and father of two sons and two daughters. He received training in information science and system management.

In this field, he mainly worked at a training institute, focussing on the rehabilitation and integration of the blind and partially sighted in society. In this position he was able to realise various successful projects. He became director-general of the institute, with more than 200 employees.



In this position, which he held for 8 years, he first came in contact with the Association of Slovenian Homes for the Elderly. Later he became chair-

man of this association and all this in times that the economic and political changes in Slovenia had a strong impact on working at residential care homes. In these homes, the many changes also had the effect that people turned away from the traditional course. Many individual questions arose, but resources were limited. However, Slovenian boards were determined to take their jobs seriously and most of all to show this to the world.

CRITICAL COMMENTS ON EDE CONGRESSES!

Slovenia joined the EDE in 1997 and Boris became Slovenian delegate.

He became closely involved in the working procedures of the EDE. After the congress in Interlaken, he became a regular participant of all congresses, meetings and other gatherings. His top priorities are the contacts with colleagues in other countries and exchanging experiences with them.

He also had critical comments though. EDE is supposed to be an association of directors and in his experience the discussions held at the congresses were mainly about general matters in relation to illness and well-being of elderly people. Boris is of the opinion that these matters should be discussed at other congresses. EDE should be focussing more on the functioning of directors in their roles of managers. EDE should give a helping hand in relation to matters like the development of residential care homes, finding new working methods, dealing with limited financial resources and developing activities as part of the relation with local, national and international politics.

That is why Boris Koprivnikar attached clear conditions to the organisation of this 9th EDE congress.

His critical comments were taken seriously by the board of the EDE and the board therefore decided that the organisation of the two-yearly congress had to come within the area of its direct responsibility.

As a result of this, an organisational committee was established that was presided by Slovenia as the host country (Boris Koprivnikar), with members including Germany (Wilfried Schlüter, Martin Birkholz and Lucy Hoffsimmer), Switzerland (Carlos Marty) and The Netherlands (Neeltje Peters, Wim Schepers). The committee was supported by the Cankarjev dom, conference centre in Ljubljana.

Michael Kok decorated by the Queen of The Netherlands



Michael Kok, former chairman of the EDE, was decorated on 13 April for his great achievements in his professional career and voluntary work. For quite some time he has been active in the field of care for the elderly: for 12 years he was the chairman of VDZ (called VDB at the time) The Netherlands. He was also one of the founders of the EDE and since 1992 he is the chairman of the ILBM (International Charity Fund for the Support and Development of Homes for the Elderly Moscow). He has also won his spurs in the Nijmegen world of football and the Carnival Club.

EDE VISION congratulates Michael Kok heartily on this well-deserved Royal Honour!

HIGH HOPES FOR EDE !

Boris has high hopes for the future of the EDE. The EDE may be highly important to the new member-states of the EU, but a close cooperation with the older member-states of the EU is equally important in this.

Political changes do not take place overnight and with this congress in Ljubljana, the pressure on the (political) environment in Slovenia can be increased as well.

The Slovenian people are excellent hosts and organisers and in addition they are very open and straightforward. This is proven by the fact that they offer the participants of the congress the opportunity to visit institutions in various parts of the country, and also the surroundings of these institutions. You really have to come to Slovenia to see it for yourself.

9th EDE Congress Ljubljana: "Director - tightrope walker" 22-24 September 2005.

www.ede-eu.org/

Priorities in France



The French association ADEHPA once again stated its priorities for this year, which were already established at the beginning of 2005.

President Pascal Champvert stated in "LA LETTRE DE L'ADEHPA" that well-being, safety, prices and resources were points of special interest.

News from AGE

ANGELA INFORMS US OF TWO GOOD PIECES OF NEWS FROM BRUSSELS:

The AGE secretariat announced with satisfaction that the European Parliament Intergroup on Ageing has been renewed. After the 2004 MEP elections there was a moment of hesitancy as to whether "Intergroups" were to be put back in place (Intergroups are informal meetings for MEPs to follow in greater detail certain major issues – the logistic/secretary work for the Intergroup on Ageing is assured by the AGE secretariat).

And so AGE was more than pleased to learn that the new enlarged parliament reapproved their start up and that the issue on "ageing" remains a "hot topic" or at least one that interests 30-40 MEPs.

EDE welcomes too the reconvening of this group which is open to any MEP who feels that ageing questions are pertinent to all Europeans.

Readers are invited to contact their MEP and persuade him to join the Intergroup. Subjects of age and long term care, fight against poverty among older people and lone women, employment of older workers, ageing nursing staff, insufficient pensions for covering costs of long term care, these are priorities for your MEP to take up.

The first meeting of the Intergroup on Ageing has taken place on 3rd May 18h00-20h00 European Parliament.

So please do get your MEP involved in policy making for our older and very older citizens, for those who have not yet found a place in your home or who cannot afford it.

The other good news is: AGE welcomes the publication of the European Commission's recent Green Paper on "Confronting Demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations"

The Commission recognises the challenges of an ageing population but the Green Paper does not intend to find solutions but rather to have a more global look at demographic changes and set the scene for debate and search for solutions. It points out particularly that the 80+ will be the fastest growing group of the population, but it is also characterised by loneliness and a strong gender dimension. This raises the question of care, in particular end-of-life care and the role of families and the need to support them as well as the balance between actors (family, social services, institutions).

AGE welcomes the Green Paper. Among its comments it wrote, "As more people live longer lives, diversity amongst older people continues to grow and chronological age becomes an increasingly inaccurate indicator of whether people are active or passive, healthy or sick, wealthy or poor, etc. In an ageing society, we need to reflect about the terms 'old' and 'age' and how we use them."

Lots of enthusiasm for EDE congress in Slovenia, 22-24 September 2005

The change in policy by the EDE, after being put under pressure by Slovenia, to focus more on the functioning of directors of residential care homes for the elderly during the two-yearly congresses, appears to be a bull's-eye. From the various European countries, there were many signs of approval with this change in policy and this will certainly be reflected in the number of participants next September.

The preparations for the purpose of the introduction of a European Code of Conduct for directors/managers of residential care homes and nursing homes are also greeted with approval. For on 24 September, the participating countries will sign a declaration of intent in Ljubljana, in which they will state that they will work on this Code of Conduct in the years to come. The objective is the determination of a definite Code of Conduct for directors at the EDE congress in 2007 in Berlin.

The Paper is a concern to us all in EDE as we have our part of the responsibility of looking after the very old of our region.

FIND THE DOCUMENT: www.age-platform.org

Angela Cluzel
EDE Executive Board

Travel guides in The Netherlands



help them develop programmes for making life meaningful for the elderly.

At the end of their lives, many of the elderly people find it difficult to give their lives a meaningful interpretation. The VDZ The Netherlands is of the opinion that the lack of well-being among the elderly should be an important point of interest for organisations involved in care for the elderly.

The tools consist of two publications:

- 1) **Travel Guide Art of Living and**
- 2) **Travelling documents File.**

According to VDZ The Netherlands, the director plays an essential role in bringing up the theme of "Making life meaningful", for he has to make sure that the theme is put "on the agenda".

The Dutch association VDZ The Netherlands has taken the initiative to provide residential care and nursing homes for the elderly with a tool to

Quality management in care for the elderly: „E-Qalin®“

With the start of the training as a knowledge provider of the first group of directors from German residential care homes and nursing homes, as part of a pilot project, the European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly, started the development of a European quality mark.

From 19 to 21 January 2005, the training of the first group of German directors/managers, by the European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly EDE, took place in Eisenach/Thüringen. „E-Qalin®“ – that is the name of the pilot project carried out by care experts from seven countries, which is financially supported by the European Union, and as part of which a European quality management system has to be worked out until 2007, which focuses on the needs and requirements of residential care homes and nursing homes in particular. One of the tasks of the EDE in this is the training of directors of residential care homes and nursing homes as knowledge providers on behalf of the schooling and education of employees of the institutions involved: initially at the four to fifteen pilot-institutions in each of the five participating EU countries. In addition, the EDE will incorporate the curriculum of the E-Qalin®-qualification in the educational programme of the advanced day-time education of directors of residential care homes and nursing homes; an educational programme that is implemented at various locations (including two in Germany) by the umbrella organisation of 23 European Associations for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly – including the DVLAB.

A European quality mark for residential care homes and nursing homes

The name „E-Qalin®“ has been derived from the English name that has been given to the EU project: „European quality-improving learning in residential care homes for the elderly“. The starting point of the deliberations on the start-up of this project were the considerable interests the legislative bodies, the authorities and institutions involved and the professional associations in Europe have in the increase of quality within the care for the elderly, the improvement of the image of the residential care and nursing homes and the development of international quality standards for the comparison of achievements among the homes. The objective of the project is

therefore to develop a quality management system for residential care and nursing homes for the elderly that applies to all European countries and to implement this system within the entire sector. In order to do so, it was necessary to develop, evaluate and implement an extensive training concept for the purpose of an improved quality management within the residential care and nursing homes, at which this concept could form an integral part of the existing professional training.

The new European quality management system is mainly characterised by the following three principles: 1) It is for the sector to decide which requirements have to be met in order to guarantee and improve the quality of care within the residential care homes and nursing homes, 2) a practice-based quality guarantee in line with professional care, 3) the participation of the persons involved in the planning and practical application of the quality management. In addition, E-Qalin® is receptive to the various ideas and philosophies on care of the authorities involved, which makes it possible to make the necessary differentiations in the basic principles, depending on the national circumstances in question.

For the residential care and nursing homes the introduction of a quality management system based on E-Qalin® has the following advantages:

- An increase in quality of care and nursing with an increased satisfaction among the residents and staff
- The quality of the performance becomes more transparent and can be compared among the homes
- Starting off a continuous, organisational learning process
- The stimulation of a sector-specific quality awareness among the employees and management
- Improved competition and optimisation of the use of resources
- Improvement of the professional qualities and attraction as (potential) employers, as well as a positive influence on the image of residential care homes and nursing homes
- In the long term, the possibility to compare all residential care and nursing homes at a national level – at the moment this is possible in incidental cases
- After the pilot stage, a national certifying system that applies to residential care and nursing homes in all European countries.

Scientific evaluation

The development of the European quality management system is supervised and evaluated by scientific experts from the university of Zwickau. The implementation of the system should be clear and simple, it should cover all spheres of activity within a residential care home or nursing home, it has to take into account all legal stipulations of the individual countries and, in the long term, it should enable an international comparison between the homes for the elderly. In the development of the quality management system that applies for the entire EU, 29 organisations from seven countries are involved – in particular pilot homes for the elderly, Associations for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly, (EDE-certified) training institutes and software developers. These organisations come from Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. The project management is the responsibility of the Austrian training institute Institut für Bildung im Gesundheitsdienst (IBG). In Austria, the umbrella organisation of the Austrian Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly will be responsible for developing a national certifying system; this means that Austria serves as a model for a certifying system that can be used all over the EU. In Germany, apart from the university of Zwickau, homes like the Altenzentrum St. Josef in Betzdorf, software developer SHI, the Edith-Stein-Akademie and the following six pilot homes are involved in the „E-Qalin®“ project:

- The residential care centre for the elderly Annaberg-Buchholz with the „Adam Ries“ home and the „Louise Otto-Peters“ home;
- The DRK-residential care home for the elderly Meiningen;
- The residential care home for the elderly „Haus Simeon“ in Lübeck and
- The residential care centre GmbH Zwickau with the nursing homes „Haus Schlobigpark“ and „Haus Stadtblick“.

For more information:

- Prof Dr Wilfried Schlüter, European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (EDE), on the internet: www.ede-eu.org
- Mag. Adelheid Bruckmüller, Institut für Bildung im Gesundheitsdienst (IBG), on the internet: www.ibg-bildung.at
- Website about the pilot project E-Qalin®: www.e-qalin.org