



Meeting at the Municipality Varna, Social Activity and Home Politics Department: Director Zdravko Markov (in the mid) and Prof. Zafirov, Technical university of Varna (on the left), Dr. Petra Rietsch, E-Learning concepts/Austria and Dr. Ian Smythe, IBIS/UK

What is next?

On the edge of the EDysGate Conference (Varna, 5. April 2008) a meeting took place with Mr. Zdravko Markov, Director of the Social Activity and Home Politics Department. What is next? - was the main question of the meeting which highlighted the key areas of concern and therefore areas where next steps need to be done in the region of Varna. All agreed that it is essential that the issues of pupils, students and employees with dyslexia are highlighted nationally. The project partnership offered further information and use of outcomes of the EC projects ADysTrain (www.adystrain.org) an EDysGate (www.edysgate.org). The ADysTrain information and training materials are addressed to the involved key personnel – trainers and managers. The EDysGate learning games are supporting young dyslexic adults in training their skills. Dr. Smythe informed about other European activities and EC projects in the field of dyslexia. It was discussed that it is vital that

assessment procedures are standardised to aid dyslexic persons to appropriate supports. Mr Markov expressed the readiness of his department to support further appropriate national and European initiatives planned and developed by the Technical University of Varna

Petra Rietsch A

Self-support for adult dyslexics

Adystrain is about helping dyslexic adults. But what about when they want to help themselves? The EU funded a second project concerning dyslexic adult – Project Include which aimed to provide self-identification and support for the dyslexic individual. The project was a collaboration between Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Poland and the UK. For further details, visit www.wdnf.info/include.

Ian Smith UK



Dyslexia Conference in Varna

Velko Naumov

Dyslexia is a difficulty in learning to read and write, and affects 1 in 10 of the population. That means that there are around 750,000 dyslexic children and adults in Bulgaria who endure a life of underachievement, frustration and often unemployment. But it does not have to be like this.

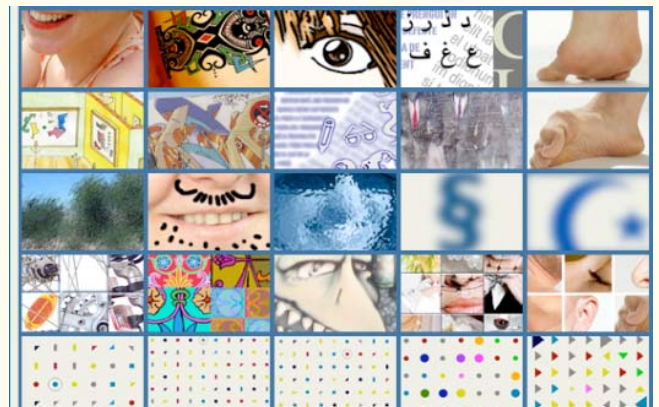
With appropriate awareness and understanding, they can be supported and helped to overcome their difficulties. In order to provide that support, two things must happen – resources must be available in Bulgarian, and the training for use of those resources must also be made available. Furthermore, awareness of dyslexia, and of how to support the dyslexic individual, needs to be widely publicised.

CEC, The Continuous Education Centre Technical University in Varna , provide a half

day conference on 4th April 2008 to share details of an exciting new project EDysGate (www.edysgate.org) that involves computer based activities designed to support underlying difficulties. The Learning games were made available to delegates on the day.

The conference includes Bulgarian and international speakers (with translation), including Dr Ian Smythe of the UK, who has visited Bulgaria many times and talked in Varna in 2001. For further details, please contact Prof.Velko Naumov v_naumov2001@yahoo.co.uk

Velko Naumov BG



What is dyslexia?

The European Dyslexia Association (EDA) suggests that up to 15 million employees are dyslexic. But what is dyslexia and what are the implications? Put simply, it is a difficulty in learning to read and write, even though they have had the right teaching. But these problems are not only about reading and writing, they are also many other related issues, and they are life long problems. Consider the following: Paul was in the construction business. He was an excellent builder, and was promoted to Site Manager. Again he did brilliantly as a man-manager, and again was promoted to Project Manager. Six months later he was sacked as he failed to do his job. Why? Because he was dyslexic, because he could not handle the report writing, and because he was not supported. Adystrain is developed to provide managers and trainers to know what to do when they encounter people like Paul.

Ian Smith

Radio Havredal

- An e-learning place for young people with special needs

www.radiohavredal.dk is grown up from the idea of making a webpage, which could become a meeting place for those young people who is or has been on Havredal old School. At first the webpage was built in HTML, and what was on the page was produced in the IT department of Havredal old School.

This was not a very dynamic as the IT department had to do most of the work. It was difficult for the pupils to get involved. The page was not very successful in the beginning either.

One of the collaborators in the IT department started looking for a suitable CMS system to get some more dynamic activity on the webpage. PHP-fusion was chosen because it's easy to program and because it easy to work within for the users.

Subsequently we have educated some of our pupils to become "club administrators", so that those, who are especially interested in a certain area themselves, can maintain those pages that contain their special interests.

E.G we have got two pupils whose predominant interest is the royal Danish family. Through Radio Havredal we can all be informed about the royal family.

www.radiohavredal.dk has now become a place with lots of communication and a lot of different subjects both for entertainment and for education.

Everybody – pupils, teachers, and others with interest in the school are now very active making all kinds of materials!

Visit us on www.radiohavredal.dk!

I'm glad to meet you face-to-face

Varna, 3. April 2008. *Petra Rietsch, project manager of edysgate is very happy to shake hands with Jasmina Ionkova. She is introducing the social pedagogic and dyslexic trainer from the 1. National Dyslexic Center in Ruso (Bulgaria) to us and tell us about her long e-mail correspondence.*

I am surprised how good Jasmina speaks German and so we have an absorbing conversation just on the way from the hotel to the Technical University of Varna. After 5 minutes we are discussing about Dr. Astrid Kopp-Duller and Sissi Nuhl: Jasmina get in touch with the Austrian Association consistently.

What surprise! It was Sissi Nuhl, who gave – some years ago – the impetus to this project: she wanted some absorbing exercises for young adult dyslexics. „They don't like to work with such childish material“ she said.

It was a long tramp to this EC-project, with a lot of ideas and energy – and now it's Jasmina, who is presenting the first issues to media and interested pedagogues, here in Varna.

I am glad to get to know her today!

Elisabeth Kaziz-Hitz

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