

European Guide Dog Mobility Standards Newsletter 2 – September 2011



EGDMS Project Update

In June, the Project held its second partner meeting in Poznan, Poland. The meeting reviewed progress and discussed the development and delivery of the identified training.

The training curriculum identifies 10 modules and elements of three of these have been selected to be trialled and delivered during the project lifetime:

1. Dog Care and Welfare: Health issues
2. Learning Theory
3. Basic role of a guide dog

The first webinar delivered by Professor Daniel Mills of Lincoln University successfully took place in July. This was entitled 'The Ten Rules of Training'.

Lincoln University have developed a 'Virtual Dog' which can be used to assist in training guide dog trainers – see the EGDMS website (www.egdms.eu) for the link. It is a great interactive resource.

Project partners are small, embryonic guide dog schools with limited access to training and breeding experience. Planning is now well underway for partner trainers to attend a hands-on training session at the Guide Dogs for the Blind site at Atherton, near Manchester, in England. The event will include a visit to the new National Breeding Centre at Leamington Spa.

Partners are currently gathering information on regional and cultural issues that impact on their ability to train dogs and provide a service to blind and partially sighted people. For example, in many countries cars are parked on the pavement, clients use a white stick as well as a guide dog or black dogs seen as being bad. They are also keeping records of diseases/parasites affecting their dogs together with pictures so these can be used to support the training.

See page 2 for news regarding the CEN Workshop Agreement.

The final report on the project will be presented at the final conference which is scheduled to be held at the NH Grand Salon Hotel in Brussels on 20 September 2012. Details will be circulated in the new year, but if you would like to ensure you are on our mailing list, please email the project at egdms@guidedogs.org.uk.

Focus on a project partner – LIGHT INTO EUROPE, Romania

Since 2004, 'Light into Europe' have focused on developing support for the sight impaired and the hearing impaired. Currently there is one guide dog in the whole of Romania. Earlier this year, their brood bitch, Midnight, gave birth to 5 healthy pups who are all destined to become guide dogs. Further information is available on their website www.lightintoeurope.org



If you would like further information on the project, please contact *Jenny Crawford, Project Manager*, at EGDMS@guidedogs.org.uk
Or visit our website www.EGDMS.eu



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Pies Przewodnik



UNIVERSITY OF
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EGDMS - Background

The European Guide Dog Mobility Standards (EGDMS) project is being funded through the Leonardo da Vinci programme, part of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme and is led by Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in the UK.

The key project aims and objectives are to develop, transfer and contextualise a training programme for guide and assistance dog instructors based on best practice. A CEN Workshop Agreement will be developed to cover the training of Instructors and enable the adoption of standards consistently across Europe by complying with national and trans-national requirements

The benefits of the EGDMS project include increased guide dog ownership in Europe, a formal European standard of Instructor training, an end to imposed standards, unreliability and poor quality of service and fleshed-out training based on International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) Standard 10

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in the UK are working with 5 partner Guide Dog schools across Europe:

- Poland - Fundacja na Rzecz Osób Niewidomych Labrador Pies Przewodnik
- Slovenia – Slovenian Instructors Association – Centre for Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs
- Bulgaria – Foundation “Eyes on Four Paws”
- Romania – Light into Europe
- Belgium – Belgisch Centrum voor geleidenhonden vzw

The training and curriculum workstream is being led by the University of Lincoln.

The other partners in the project are:

- EASPD – European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities
- European Committee for Standardisation - CEN Partner – UNI (based in Milan)
- EGDF – European Guide Dog Federation

CEN Workshop Agreement

What is a CEN Workshop Agreement?

CEN, the European Committee for Standardisation, is the largest and oldest of the three European Standards Organisations and is responsible for the creation of pan-European standards in order to remove barriers to cross-frontier trade and services in the EU.

CEN's role is to demonstrate how the standards developed by EGDMS project not only meet the requirements of the sector but also comply with current European directives and policies. This will be achieved through the development of a Workshop Agreement which will ensure portability throughout Europe and offer greater protection to guide dog schools and their clients. Workshop meetings will be open to all interested parties and information on dates and registration will be made available via the project website or contact EGDMS@guidedogs.org.uk

How can you become involved?

The process for developing the CEN Workshop Agreement is now under way. The work is being coordinated by the Italian Organization for Standardization, UNI, who is based in Milan. The draft Business Plan was approved at the kick-off meeting held last June in Poznan, Poland, and work is now underway to develop the draft CEN Workshop Agreement. The next meeting is planned for Sofia in Bulgaria on Thursday 1 December 2011. All organisations are invited to register via the CEN/WS 65 Secretariat which will enable them to comment on the draft workshop agreement document and attend future meetings.

Contact Elena.mocchio@uni.com to register or for further information on the CEN Workshop Agreement.

