

# European Guide Dog Mobility Standards

## Newsletter 3 – April 2012



### EGDMS Project Update

Following the Project Partners meeting in Sofia last December, all members of the team have been busy developing and piloting the three selected modules from the training curriculum.

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

Lincoln University and project partners are now working on providing translations of the 'Virtual Dog' into European languages to assist in training guide dog trainers in partner countries – see the EGDMS website ([www.egdms.eu](http://www.egdms.eu)) for the link. Prof Mills is also developing a further podcast.

Project partners are small, embryonic guide dog schools with limited access to training and breeding experience. In February this year trainers from our partner schools visited the Guide Dogs for the Blind dog training school in Atherton, Nr Manchester. During their visit they spent time with clients who were training with a new dog, took part in early dog training sessions and a presentation on 'clicker' training given by Lincoln University.

The development of the CEN Workshop Agreement is progressing to plan. Version 3 of the document has now been published for comment - see page 2 for how you can comment on the proposed Workshop Agreement.

The final report on the project will be presented at the final conference to be held at the NH Grand Salon Hotel in Brussels on 20 September 2012. Details of the Final Conference are available from Katrijn Dekoninck ([Katrijn.Dekoninck@easped.eu](mailto:Katrijn.Dekoninck@easped.eu)).



Fundacja na rzecz Osób Niewidomych  
**LABRADOR**  
Pies Przewodnik



Light into Europe Charity  
a better future for the Sensory Impaired  
Children and Young People in Romania



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## Focus on a project partner – Slo-Canis - Slovenia



Since 2004 (formal establishment of SLO-CANIS), the organisation is struggling to become the first Slovene Centre training guide and assistance dogs to enhance mobility and autonomy of their users. Their main goal lies in developing, following and implementing a European standards in this field. They have successfully trained and delivered 12 dogs. They could deliver more if only the organisation had systematic funding for their tasks. SLO-CANIS has currently applicant status to the IGDF. It plays an active, preventive and encouraging role for society in general. They are walking towards their goals in an innovative way, quite original in the present NGO landscape in Slovenia, and believe that the EGDMS project has a powerful potential.

If you would like further information on the project, please contact *Jenny Crawford, Project Manager*, at [EGDMS@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:EGDMS@guidedogs.org.uk)  
Or visit our website [www.EGDMS.eu](http://www.EGDMS.eu)

### **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)

## **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](mailto:EGDMS@guidedogs.org.uk) 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.

### ***How can you become involved?***

The draft Workshop Agreement was reviewed in Sofia last December. Version 3 of the Workshop Agreement has now been published and the closing date for comments is 3 May 2012. The final meeting to review the document will be held in Bucharest on 7 June 2012. 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](mailto:Elena.mocchio@uni.com) to register or for further information.