



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

European Guide Dog Mobility Standards Newsletter 4 - July 2012



Invitation to the EGDMS Final Conference

The EGDMS Project Partners have pleasure in inviting you to attend their Final Conference which will be held at the NH Grand Sablon Hotel in Brussels on **20 September 2012**. The Agenda will include a report on the project activities, the development of the full curriculum and an open discussion on continuing building a European-wide standard for the benefit of guide dog schools and users in future. The Agenda can be downloaded at <http://www.egdms.eu/events>

Attendance at the conference is free – access to registration can be found at <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/easpd/registration/>

For further information on the Final Conference, please contact Katrijn Dekoninck at EASPD (katrijn.dekoninck@easpd.eu).



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

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EGDMS Project Background and Update

BACKGROUND

The key project aims and objectives of the European Guide Dog Mobility Standards (EGDMS) project, funded by the European Commission through the Leonardo da Vinci programme, 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 long term 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 expert 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)

UPDATE

The Project Partners met in Bucharest in June 2012 to review progress and the pilot of the three selected modules from the training curriculum.

The complete 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 are continuing the development of the Virtual Dog into partner languages and a roadmap for the future delivery of the curriculum to guide dog trainers across Europe. A podcast has been developed on Shaping and Chaining Guide Dogs. An exercise on 'Dog Health Checklist' is under review by the partnership and their comments will be incorporated into the final document. Guidelines for first aid relating to dogs have been written and will soon be reviewed by partners. The development of the CEN Workshop Agreement is progressing to plan and has now been posted for public consultation prior to the final meeting in Brussels on 19 September 2012: see next item.

CEN Workshop Agreement

Invitation to comment and to attend the CEN WA 65 Final Meeting

The final draft of the CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) has now been posted on the CEN website for public consultation and comment until 26 August 2012 – <http://www.cen.eu/cen/Pages/default.aspx>

The **Final Meeting** to agree the CEN/WS 65 will be held **on 19 September 2012** at the CEN offices in Brussels. The meeting is open only to CEN/WS 65 registered participants.

Contact Elena.mocchio@uni.com to submit your comment on CEN CWA or for further information.

Focus on a project partner

“Labrador-Guide Dog Foundation (LGDF), Poland”

The Polish guide dog school “Fundacja na rzecz Osób Niewidomych Labrador Pies Przewodnik” is based in Poznan and is a non-profit organisation. It is a small school working since 2003. There are 8 people working to achieve its goals, including 4 instructors. Most of them are volunteers however. There are also 3 puppy raisers and 3 other volunteers. The school currently has 20 working teams and 5 dogs in training.

“A guide dog is often called “the blind person’s eyes”, but we know it needs a long training to properly perform its duties. Our young dogs up to about 18 months of age live with families of volunteers, whose task is to teach the dog obedience and social behaviour.

Then, the dogs receive a 6 months long proper training and upon its completion they become licensed guide dogs. The dogs stay for their whole life the property of the Foundation and once they finish their hard work and go to “canine retirement”, the Foundation provides care for them.

You can meet us on our website www.fundacja.labrador.pl.”

Below, you will find a picture of our clients:



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