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8 January 2007

TO ALL NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATIONS OF EUROPE

Dear Colleagues,

The 6th ELSA Youth Meeting, Nijmegen (Groesbeek), The Netherlands, 15-21 July 2007.

The European League of Stuttering Associations (ELSA) is holding a Youth Meeting in July 2007 at a location in the eastern part of the Netherlands. This is ELSA's 6th Youth Meeting, the first being in Linköping at the time the World Congress in 1995, the second in Nijmegen in 1997, the third in Mullsjö, Sweden in 2000 and the fourth and fifth again in Nijmegen in 2003 and 2005.

This letter is addressed to the Boards/Committees and offices of every European National Stuttering Association inviting you to nominate up to four people between 18 and 26 years old **who stutter** to participate in the Youth Meeting.

The meeting will be 6 days starting Sunday evening 15 July and finishing Saturday morning 21 July. The Meeting will consist of workshops, lectures, presentation, social outings and many other activities. The title of the Youth Meeting is

***Stand Up, Speak Up -
Promoting Human Rights And Disability Policy For Young People Who Stutter***

The meeting is aimed at young people who stutter who are thinking about volunteering to work for, or thinking of being a Board member of, their national stuttering association. At the meeting the young people who stutter (pws) will be able to network with other European pws, learn about the work of the national associations, share fears, frustrations and triumphs, practice their speech techniques in a secure environment and engage in speaking experiences that they would otherwise shy away from. It is hoped that the meeting will inspire the delegates to participate in the work of their own association and importantly provide for personal development.

There are 36 spaces for young people who stutter. Nominations will be on a **first come first served** basis.

The Meeting will be part funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and ELSA and is therefore heavily subsidised.

The cost of the meeting is **120 Euro for the six days**, this includes 3 meals per day starting with Sunday dinner and finishing with Saturday breakfast.

All delegates will be able to claim a refund of 50% of their travel costs.

Accordingly, each National Association is asked to nominate four people and below are some guidelines:

1. Nominations for four people are required, two boys and two girls (of which 1+1 as reserves) to ensure a gender balance.
2. The Young People have to be between 18 and 26 years old on 15 July 2007.

3. The nominations should be made in a fair way. All people who stutter should be informed of the proposed Youth Meeting and the availability of funding. An open written competition to the Chairperson or other designated person of each Association would be sufficient. The choice of delegates each Association makes has to be fair. The delegates should be a member of their Association.

4. All delegates must be reasonably fluent in English, they don't have to be perfect but be able to communicate and understand some English, as English will be the working language. Each delegate will be expected to give some short presentations and will be expected to play a large part in the activities. Full respect will be given to each person's speech.

5. Delegates who attended the previous Youth Meetings or who don't meet the age criteria are not eligible at this stage, but could be nominated as reserves. Should there be a shortage of applicants we will open the Youth meeting to these people.

6. Each delegate will be expected to make their own way to the Conference centre in Groesbeek, near Nijmegen **and arrange for their own comprehensive travel and personal insurances.**

7. Each delegate will be expected to send a written paper to ELSA before the meeting answering a few simple questions, details will be sent out after the nominations are received.

8. The refund of the travel expenses will be paid after successful completion of the meeting.

9. There will be an opportunity to stay at the conference centre on Saturday night 14 July to take advantage of cheaper APEX flights. This extra cost will be **35 Euro** for the Saturday night including breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

10. Further details will be sent to each delegate after nomination.

11. Delegates may like to take a look at the ELSA web-site www.elsa.info click onto "Youth Meetings" where information on the 2000, 2003 and 2005 Youth meetings can be viewed

12. All nominations (including name, address, phone number, email address , age and gender) and queries should be sent to:

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Closing Date for the receipt of Nominations is: 31 March 2007

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Yours sincerely,

Anita S. Blom (S), Edwin J. Farr MBE (GB).....
For and on behalf of the European League of Stuttering Associations

PS Queries can also be made by Email to Edwin J Farr: elsa.europe@totalise.co.uk