



SPRING 2026

## ECA Newsletter

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## Stronger Together!

It is with great pleasure that we send you our Spring 2026 newsletter. Spring symbolizes new beginnings, fresh perspectives, and renewed energy – and this spirit is very much in the air this year.

The recent election in Hungary has led to a change in government. Péter Magyar succeeds Viktor Orbán. Such a democratic transition is always a significant moment and opens up new opportunities for dialogue, cooperation, and joint development within Europe.

In recent years, several European programs and partnerships have faced challenges. Now we have the chance to deepen existing partnerships, provide new impetus, and advance joint projects with renewed momentum.

This opens up to concrete opportunities for our work: European initiatives can be further developed, networks strengthened, and new projects launched. We look forward to expanding our international cooperation and to shaping sustainable solutions for the future.

Spring 2026 thus stands not only as a symbol of renewal. It gives us the opportunity to revitalize our cooperation in the field of Conductive Education and Rehabilitation with new energy – and to work together toward a self-determined future for children and their families.

We would also like to wish all colleagues presenting at the EACD Congress in Galway every success, and of course wish the entire congress event a highly successful and inspiring course.



We look forward to continuing on this path with you!

Yours

Beate Höß-Zenker  
President ECA



NEWS FROM

## United Kingdom

# Strengthening Conductive Education Through Global Collaboration: The Evolving Role of the PCA

*The Chair of the PCA Enikő Kocsis*

I qualified as a **conductor-teacher at the Pető Institute** in 1995, beginning what has become a lifelong commitment to Conductive Education (CE). My early career took me to the National Institute of Conductive Education in Birmingham, where I worked for two years before returning to Hungary. There, I supported families in remote areas of North East Hungary as a **travelling conductor**—an experience that shaped my understanding of accessibility and the importance of reaching underserved communities.

In 2003, I joined **The Rainbow Centre for Conductive Education**, where I have now worked for 23 years. As Head of Children's Service, I remain passionate about working with children and their families, and I am committed to passing that passion on to the teams I lead. Alongside this, I have spent many years as a practice tutor, supporting the development of future conductors, and I deliver Level 3 training for conductor assistants. More recently, I have gained qualifications in Special Educational Needs and Disability Law, enabling me to support families through Education, Health and Care needs assessments. I have also served as a Special Educational Needs and Disability governor at a large primary school for over six years.

Now, as **Chair of the Professional Conductors' Association (PCA)**, I am excited to focus on **strengthening our professional community**, both nationally and internationally.

The **Professional Conductors' Association (PCA)** exists to support conductors, conductor assistants, and all professionals involved in Conductive Education. A central part of our work is building and sustaining meaningful connections—between individuals, organisations, and countries. The PCA plays a vital role in maintaining the continuity and professional integrity of Conductive Education across the UK and beyond.

We:

- Promote the professional status of conductors and encourage ongoing continuing professional development (CPD)
- Provide and uphold the Code of Practice and Professional Standards
- Produce publications and guidance to strengthen a unified professional voice
- Require registered conductors to complete at least 25 hours of CPD annually
- Offer annual workshops and events to support networking and knowledge sharing

A key priority for the PCA is the development of **international partnerships**. Conductive Education has always had strong roots across borders, and maintaining these connections is essential for its continued success. We are actively strengthening our collaboration with the European Conductors' Association and building closer links with the Semmelweis University Pető Faculty. These partnerships enable the sharing of expertise, alignment of professional standards, and the creation of new opportunities for learning and innovation.

**Our annual conference** is a key platform for this collaboration. This year's conference focused on strengthening professional relationships both within the UK and internationally. It provided a valuable opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and partners, including a delegation from the Pető Faculty, among them the Dean of the Peto Faculty and the Vice-Rector of Semmelweis University. Their presence enabled meaningful discussions and helped lay the foundations for future collaboration.

We are delighted to announce that **the next conference will take place on 13 March 2027 in London**, hosted by CPotential. This event will continue to strengthen international dialogue and professional exchange.

The PCA is entering an **exciting phase of development**, with several initiatives designed to enhance connection, accessibility, and professional support:

- A full redesign of the PCA website to improve usability and access
- A members-only area offering tailored training and workshop resources
- Updated Code of Conduct and Professional Standards reflecting current best practice
- Introduction of a trademarked PCA logo for registered conductors
- Development of new vision and mission statements

We are also looking forward to welcoming members of the European Conductors' Association on their forthcoming **visit to the NICE Centre** for Movement Disorders in Birmingham this October, which will further strengthen our shared learning and collaboration.



Finally, I would like to **thank everyone** who continues to contribute to and support Conductive Education. Your engagement, collaboration, and dedication are what make this professional community so strong. By working together—across organisations, disciplines, and countries, we can ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for Conductive Education.



NEWS FROM

## Hungary

### **First Designated Institute of Practice: A Milestone in International Partnership**

We are proud to announce that the Conductive Learning Center of North America (CLC) in Grand Rapids has become the first institution in the world to be awarded the **Designated Institute of Practice** title by Semmelweis University's András Pető Faculty. This recognition honors 27 years of excellence and a partnership that has flourished since 1999, bridging Hungarian expertise with American dedication.

This official collaboration strengthens the future of conductive pedagogy by providing a high-quality international training site for Pető Faculty students. More than just a title, it represents a shared commitment to restoring independence and dignity to children and families through professional excellence.

Read the full story about the ceremony and our professional partnership [here!](#)

### **Fencing for All: Semmelweis University at the Forefront of Inclusive Sport**

Semmelweis University recently participated in the "Fencing for All" international conference in Rome, where experts from 15 countries gathered to discuss inclusive sport development. Representing the András Pető Faculty, our team presented a unique Hungarian model that integrates conductive pedagogy with school-based fencing to support athletes with special needs, such as autism and ADHD.

The event emphasized that fencing is a powerful tool for social and emotional development, highlighting the need for inclusive coaching and structured environments. This professional collaboration has already led to new opportunities, including an upcoming visit to The Change Foundation in London to further refine best practices with the British Fencing Association. Our goal remains clear: strengthening an international network that ensures the sport of fencing is truly accessible to everyone.

You can find the original article in Hungarian language [here!](#)

### **A Historical Milestone: Robot-Assisted Therapy at the Pető András Faculty**

On March 24, 2026, Semmelweis University officially inaugurated its state-of-the-art robotic mobility and gait development park at the Conductive Pedagogical Center. This 300-million-forint investment, funded entirely by the university, marks a new era in rehabilitation. By integrating advanced technology with the unique conductive method, the center now offers a truly child-centered, innovative approach where robotics and conductive pedagogy work in harmony.

Rector Béla Merkely and State Secretary Péter Takács emphasized that these robotic tools do not replace the human touch but rather enhance the work of conductors and therapists, allowing for more effective recovery and research. Supported by social security, this development ensures that patients have access to the most modern treatments available, further strengthening the university's global standing in healthcare and education.

To see the photogallery of the new department, click [here!](#)



NEWS FROM

**Belgium**

## Mountain Adventure for Centre La Famille

For the first time in more than **30 years**, a group from **Centre La Famille** set off for an unforgettable mountain stay in **Valmeinier**. The week was filled with discovery, fresh alpine air, and a wide range of inclusive outdoor activities.

Supported by a dedicated **handisport team**, the participants enjoyed **sled dogs**, **adaptive skiing**, **luges**, and other accessible mountain experiences. The focus was on **participation and pure enjoyment**, allowing each young person to explore new sensations and challenges. Some hemiplegic participants were able to **try standing skiing**, while others experienced **greater autonomy using hand-steered luges** — moments of pride and exhilaration that marked the entire stay.

This exceptional project became possible thanks to the remarkable mobilisation of the staff teams, who worked together to raise the necessary funds. Their efforts included taking part in the **20 km of Brussels**, rallying numerous sponsors, and coordinating several fundraising initiatives. Their commitment turned a long-standing dream into reality.



The result was a week rich in shared moments, new skills, and lasting memories — a milestone for the young people and the entire Centre La Famille community.



NEWS FROM

## Sweden

### Conductive Education Gains Momentum

*Growing demand for Conductors, increased advocacy, and the launch of a new national foundation signal a potential turning point for Conductive Education in Sweden.*

Conductive Education (CE) in Sweden is entering a phase of renewed attention and development. Across the country, multiple organizations are currently recruiting Conductors and related professionals, reflecting a rising demand for pedagogical approaches to motor development within education, healthcare, and rehabilitation.

Despite CE having been established in Sweden since the 1990s, there is still no domestic higher education pathway for Conductors. Services therefore continue to rely largely on internationally trained professionals, highlighting a significant structural gap.

#### A New Foundation for Change

A major recent development is the launch of **Jo, Du Kan-stiftelsen** (*The “Yes, You Can” Foundation*), also known as the Foundation for Motor Learning Development.

The foundation is built on a critical insight: although disability is often symbolized by wheelchair use, people with motor disabilities remain among the most overlooked groups within existing support systems. Current interventions in Sweden tend to focus on compensation—assistive devices, accessibility, and personal assistance—rather than on supporting individual development.

At its core, the foundation promotes a principle that has long been under-recognized: **that people with motor disabilities have the right—and the ability—to develop through appropriate pedagogical support.**

#### The Missing Link: Pedagogy and Motor Learning

A key challenge highlighted by the foundation is the lack of specialized pedagogical knowledge about how motor impairments affect learning.

In practice, many individuals are expected to acquire both practical and theoretical skills without structured opportunities for motor-based learning. This can mean learning to write without physical interaction with tools or understanding spatial concepts without active movement experience.

Such gaps underline the relevance of Conductive Education, where movement, cognition, and learning are integrated.

#### Bridging Experience, Practice, and Advocacy

The foundation brings together both professional expertise and lived experience. Among its founders are Conductor and CE pioneer **Eszter Horváth Tóthné**, film director **Lars Mullback**, who discovered CE as an adult, and **Jonas Sareid**, who leads the foundation's advocacy work.

Together, they aim to strengthen awareness, build networks, and contribute to long-term structural change.

## Goals and Next Steps

The foundation focuses on:

- promoting education, research, and knowledge dissemination,
- strengthening individuals' development and participation in society,
- advancing Conductive Education as a holistic approach.

Planned activities include participation in **Almedalen Week 2026**, as well as media initiatives connecting policy discussions to everyday lived experiences.

## Looking Ahead

While Sweden has a strong welfare tradition, support for people with motor disabilities still lacks a systematic pedagogical approach to motor development. Access to CE remains limited to a few cities, and many families continue to seek complementary support outside the public system.

At the same time, growing recruitment, continued family engagement, and new initiatives such as Jo, Du Kan-stiftelsen indicate increasing recognition of these needs.



**Sweden may now be approaching a turning point—where Conductive Education moves from a complementary service toward a more recognized and integrated role.**



NEWS FROM

## Austria

### Exciting Developments

**University Cooperation:** We have established a formal cooperation with Semmelweis University and the Petö Institute to offer internship placements for students. Following a successful audit, the groups at Therapie Institut Keil were officially approved and confirmed as suited training sites.

To ensure the best possible support, we have identified "Mentor Conductors" with at least five years of professional experience. These colleagues are participating in a 30-hour hybrid training from May 12th to 14th in Budapest to align with the university's conductor training guidelines and qualify as official supervisors.

All future students have already been provided with a comprehensive onboarding package, including a handbook, guidelines, and house rules, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our first interns this September.

**New Location:** In January 2026, we successfully opened a new conductive kindergarten site in Vienna to expand our services.

**Project "BildungsBrücken" (Building Bridges):** This project focuses on preparing children (ages 3–6) for the transition to inclusive settings using a staged model. We have just successfully completed the mid-term evaluation, documenting the positive progress of this transition system.



NEWS FROM

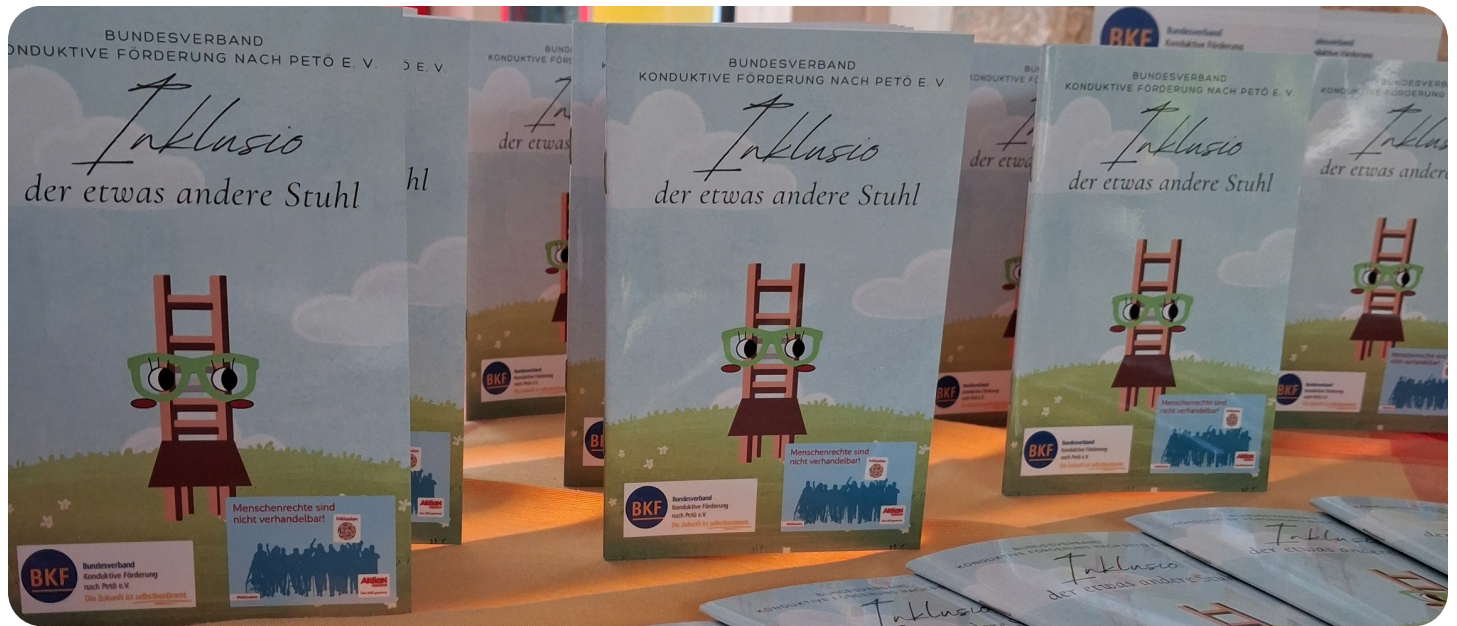
## Germany

### Fighting Together

The Federal Association for Conductive Education (Bundesverband Konduktive Förderung e.V.) participated in the action day at Pfennigparade Phoenix School on the European Day of Protest for the Equality of People with Disabilities.

At our information booth, numerous visitors were able to learn about conductive education and rehabilitation. We were particularly pleased that, thanks to the support of Aktion Mensch, we were able to reprint and distribute our children's book "Inklusio"— which tells the story of a Petö chair — at the event.

It was an all-around successful day — marked by a great deal of fighting spirit for the rights of people with disabilities and a strong sense of solidarity.



**New Team Member:** Since April, Eva Wächter supports us with administration, public relations and marketing. Eva is a trained physical therapist and industrial clerk. In the last 6 years, she has worked in marketing and public relations at an orthopedic technology company, where her responsibilities have included writing copy for various channels and creating content for social media.

She first came into contact with Conductive Education about 20 years ago during a training placement at a preschool facility. Now she is very much looking forward to supporting the ECA with all her heart.

**Internship Placements:** Krisztina Desits from Nuremberg is currently updating her contact list regarding internship placements in CE for students of the Evangelische Hochschule Nürnberg. Some existing contacts appear to be outdated, so she would greatly appreciate receiving updated contact details of relevant contact persons at institutions or partner organizations worldwide.

Recently, they have received inquiries from students interested in completing a 20-week internship in Ireland and Brazil between February/March and July/August 2027. Krisztina would be very grateful for any suitable contacts or recommendations. You can contact her at [krisztina.desits@evhn.de](mailto:krisztina.desits@evhn.de).



**effective • innovative • conductive**

**Imprint**

*Publisher: ECA European Conductive Association,*

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