

# Link



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June 2012  
English Edition

Autism - Europe

- E-communicators for people with autism
- Finished at school campaign
- Knowledge management for autism organisations

- Autism-Europe International Congress 2013 :  
Scientific Programme Committee appointed  
& call for abstracts

All lit up in blue for  
autism awareness



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For Diversity



Against Discrimination



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# Editorial



Dear friends,

2012 is the European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity. Research shows that autism is just as prevalent in older people as it is among younger age groups. Despite the fact that the situation concerning autism is very diverse among the European countries, ageing is a growing concern everywhere. Many parents and relatives are worried about what will happen when they are no longer there to care for their family members with autism. Autism-Europe decided to raise awareness of this issue with the aim to ensure that elderly people with autism can lead lives that are as dignified and fulfilling as the lives of other citizens. The challenges linked to ageing and positive examples of support for older people with autism from across Europe will be the main topic of the European Days of Autism events in October. Ageing and autism will

also be discussed in various forums throughout the year, and beyond, in order to promote a better society for all citizens in Europe.

Another social trend in relation to autism is the increasing role of new technologies in everyday life. New technologies offer many positive prospects to facilitate the development of education, inclusion and independence of people with autism. However, it is sometimes difficult to find your way amongst the maze of apps and tools that are now available. You will find in this edition a little overview of some of the products currently available to assist in basic communication. Of course, this guide is not meant to be exhaustive and as each person with autism is unique, there is no 'one size fits all' solution. However, we do hope this article will give you some guidance to further explore the opportunities offered in the field of new technologies.

As we speak about social trends and how they relate to autism, of course the first step in any initiative to improve the quality of life of people with autism is that society as a whole is made aware of autism. That is precisely the objective of the World Autism Awareness Day. In this edition, you will see that, again this year, European organisations and individuals have mobilised themselves through all kinds of initiatives on April 2 to make autism more visible and understood. Congratulations to you all on your great work!

Best wishes,

**Zsuzsanna Szilvásy**  
President

**Aurélie Baranger**  
Director

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Cover : The Budapest Parliament lit up in blue for World Autism Awareness Day, 2012.

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# World Autism Awareness Day 2012



As the number of people diagnosed with autism continues to grow every year, so does the number of events and activities held on World Autism Awareness Day. This day, declared by the United Nations in 2007, is held on April 2 each year. In 2012, Autism-Europe members held a wide range of activities, from concerts, film festivals and photo competitions to balloon releases, flash mobs, swimming the length of the English channel, and even a Guinness World Record attempt. Read on to find out more about all the creative and colourful ways that our members drew public attention to autism.

## Actions around Europe

### Croatia



Members of the Croatian Association for Autism organised events around the country. In Zagreb, a public event was held, with the Mayor of Zagreb and representatives of government ministries. In Kaštela, a special photo event was organised in which people created the shape of a puzzle piece as a symbol for autism on a beach.

### Czech Republic



In Prague, APLA held a photo competition. They received 88 entries from across the country, all incorporating the colour blue and reflecting the world of people with autism. One of the winning photos appears above.

### Finland



The Finnish Association for Autism and Asperger's Syndrome (FAAAS) held an event in Helsinki with music and rhythm workshops, video screenings and an information stall. The event attracted around 100 participants.

### France



Many events were held across the country, where autism is the 'national cause of the year'.

## United Nations Secretary-General's message

Autism is not limited to a single region or a country; it is a worldwide challenge that requires global action.

Although developmental disabilities such as autism begin in childhood, they persist throughout a person's life. Our work with and for people with autism should not be limited to early identification and treatment; it should include therapies, educational plans and other steps that lead us towards sustained, lifelong engagement.

Reaching out to people with autism spectrum disorders requires global political commitment and better international cooperation, especially in sharing good practices. Greater investments in the social, education and labour sectors are crucially important, since developed and developing countries alike still need to improve their capacities to address the unique needs of people with autism and cultivate their talents. We also need to promote further research, train non-specialized care providers, and enable the autism community to more easily navigate care systems to obtain services that can support and mainstream individuals with autism.

The annual observance of World Autism Awareness Day is meant to spur such action and draw attention to the unacceptable discrimination, abuse and isolation experienced by people with autism and their loved ones. As highlighted by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, people with autism are equal citizens who should enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(Read the full text at: [www.un.org/en/](http://www.un.org/en/))

**Ban Ki-moon**



# Ringing the bell for autism

For the third year in a row, Autism-Europe members cooperated with US organisation, Autism Speaks, and NYSE Euronext to raise awareness of autism through bell-ringing ceremonies at stock exchanges across Europe. The ceremonies have become a tradition since the inception of World Autism Awareness Day in 2008. Duncan Niederauer, CEO and Director of NYSE Euronext, and parent of a child with autism, has generously given the honour of ringing the opening or closing bells at NYSE Euronext stock exchanges to autism organisations each year.



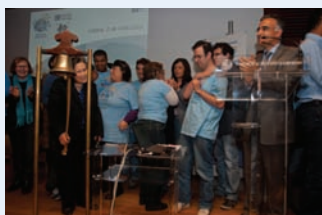
## Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Yoshi de Nijs [a young man with autism who is also the son of Dutch author Belinda Meuldijk] sounded the opening gong of the NYSE Euronext Stock Exchange in Amsterdam. Yoshi was accompanied by Fred Stekelenburg, director of the Dutch Autism Association (Nederlandse Vereniging voor Autisme), Anne Louise van Lynden van Sandenburg (Head of Listings, Netherlands at NYSE Euronext) and her son Teddy, and Erik Jan Harmens (Head of Corporate Storytelling at Citigate First Financial) and his wife and child.



## Brussels, Belgium

Representatives of Autism-Europe, the Wallonian Autism Association (Association de Parents pour l'Epanouissement des Personnes avec Autisme) and the Flemish Autism Association (Vlaamse Vereniging Autisme), with Professor Ghislain Magerotte of the Specialised University Service for People with Autism and Mr Nicolas Bodson, the head of cabinet for the Belgian Secretary of State for people with disabilities (Mr Philippe Courard), who rang the NYSE Euronext Stock Exchange opening bell.



## Lisbon, Portugal

Representative of the Portuguese Autism Federation (Federação Portuguesa de Autismo), Isabel Cottinelli-Telmo, and people with autism ringing the NYSE Euronext Stock Exchange bell at the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, before a large audience of people with autism.



## New York, USA

Suzanne and Bob Wright, co-founders of US organisation, Autism Speaks, rang the opening bell at the NYSE Euronext Stock Exchange, joined by iconic American fashion designer, Tommy Hilfiger, CEO of NYSE Euronext, Duncan Niederauer, and other special guests.



## Paris, France

Vice President of Autism-Europe, Evelyne Friedel, with André Masin, President of the French Association for the Management of Services for People with Autism, and his adult son who has autism, Guillaume Masin. Guillaume rang the NYSE Euronext Stock Exchange opening bell, and the group were joined by Albert Algoud (well-known French journalist, writer and humorist who is also the father of an adult son with autism).



## Warsaw, Poland

Vice President of SYNAPSIS Foundation, Joanna Grochowska & President of Warsaw Stock Exchange's Management Board and Ludwig Sobolewski ringing the opening bell at the Warsaw Stock Exchange.

## Greece



GSPAP and its members celebrated in cities across Greece. In Athens, a seminar with talks from professionals was followed by a musical performance by people with autism and a documentary film screening. Famous football players also held a special match for autism which gained much media attention. In Thessaloniki, a discussion meeting on the topic of autism and bullying was held, and a celebration was also held in Ioannina.

## Hungary



Members of the Hungarian Autistic Society held events across the country. In Budapest, there was an awareness raising walk through the city, a flash mob in a shopping centre with well-known Hungarian comedian, Kovacs Andras Peter, a press conference and film screenings. In other cities, there were many more awareness-raising walks/runs, meetings, balloon releases, concerts, and open days at autism organisations.

## Iceland



The Icelandic Autistic Society (Umsjónarfélag einhverfra) launched their renewed website, [www.einhverfa.is](http://www.einhverfa.is), with more information about autism, the education system from kindergarten to college and services available in the community. They also released a new brochure about autism with illustrations by a young artist with Asperger's syndrome.

## Ireland



The Irish Society for Autism launched a book titled 'Reflections and Personal Experience on the Charter of Rights for People with Autism' (this European charter was drafted by Autism-Europe and adopted by the European Parliament in 1996). The book includes chapters written by medical experts in the field, individuals with autism, advocates and family members

## Italy



ANGSA, Gruppo Asperger and other organisations held events in Rome that included sports events, games, information stalls, film screenings and a dj set, in which people with autism were able to share their passions and sensory experiences with 1000 people who attended. In Turin, they also organised a free film festival called 'CinemAutismo' which was attended by 450 people. Gruppo Asperger also gave a presentation about autism to a meeting of the United Nations Women's Group in Rome. In Novara, ANGSA organised a conference on the topic of guidelines and best practices in the field of autism and an exhibition of art by children who have a friend who has autism. The exhibition was attended by the students of 15 local schools and a book of all the artworks was produced.

## Luxembourg



The Autism Foundation of Luxembourg organised a balloon release event and asked some restaurants to create an 'Autism Menu'. The restaurants donated at least 1 euro per sale to the Foundation. A Portuguese organisation based in Luxembourg also held an event for World Autism Awareness Day, with Portuguese music, dancing and a card game.

## Macedonia



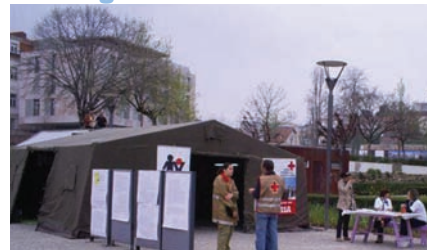
The Macedonian Scientific Association for Autism co-organised a futsal (indoor football) tournament in Skopje that attracted over 300 people. The event was opened by a child with autism and featured well-known football players, as well as musical performances and speeches by professionals and government representatives. A press conference was also held, with the event's media patron, Sportsko Radio.

## Poland



SYNOPSIS Foundation organised a cycling fundraiser called 'Rally for Autism' in Warsaw. This event has been held annually for the past eight years, attracting a total of 6,900 participants and raising more than €130,000. This year's event was sponsored by Foundation Orange, who gave money for each kilometre ridden by each participant, and involved more than 100 volunteers. The event also featured a big blue heart sculpture to express that 'The Rally for Autism is first of all driven by the human heart'. A meeting for families of people with autism and volunteers was also held in the evening.

## Portugal



Members of the Portuguese Autism Federation organised a seminar on the rights of people with autism in Lisbon, as well as a round table discussion event featuring people with autism. In Leiria, a tent was set up in the city centre with information and activities designed to raise awareness about autism among the public. The Portuguese Government also voted unanimously on a statement of support for people with autism.

## Scotland



Scottish Autism held a fundraising event in which people with autism and their supporters swam the length of the English Channel. In teams, participants swam a combined total of 1,363 laps of a pool; equalling the length of the English Channel. The organisation also raised money and awareness by packing shopping bags for customers in a supermarket who gave donations. (For more activities in Scotland, see United Kingdom below).

## Slovakia



The Society for the Help of People with Autism, Slovakia (SPOSA) held a cultural event at Bratislava Castle under the patronage of the Slovakian First Lady, Mrs. Silvia Gasparovicova. The event was attended by a large group of families affected by autism and the public. At the end of the program, the Bratislava Castle was lit up in blue.

## Spain



Autismo Burgos held an exhibition of pictures made by adults who have autism. During the exhibition opening, a set of policy proposals for autism were read to the crowd. In Barcelona, more than 100 people participated in creating a mural as part of a project by Autism la Garriga and Foundation Congost Autism. The Foundation's services were also featured in a special television report.

## United Kingdom



In the United Kingdom, the National Autistic Society launched its 'Awesome for autism' awards in which individuals who have helped a person with autism can be nominated for a prize. In Scotland, Inverness Castle was lit up in pink and purple – the National Autistic Society's colours.

## Actions around the world

Our non-European members also organised a range of interesting events for World Autism Awareness Day 2012.

## Kuwait



The Kuwait Center for Autism organised a range of events including a Guinness World Record attempt, for a new record entitled 'Largest flaming image using candles' in which the word 'AUTISM' was created using 40 thousand candles. They also organised an awareness-raising campaign with signs on public buses and posters for pharmacies, a film screening, a sports day, lectures in schools, an autism awareness competition, concerts, a lecture for parents and open days at the Kuwait Center for Autism and the Gulf University. The events gained much media attention including appearances by autism specialists on television programs and articles in newspapers.

## Lebanon



The Lebanese Autism Society held a 'Walk for autism' in Beirut and a meeting titled 'Autism – Care and Creativity', at the Grand Serail under the high patronage of the Prime Minister of Lebanon.

# All lit up in blue for autism awareness

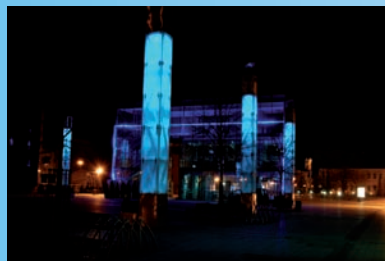
This year, all around Europe, and all around the globe, over 100 buildings were lit up in blue to mark World Autism Awareness Day. From Lisbon to Budapest, prominent buildings and landmarks were lit up blue for the night. These include the Chateau de Versailles near Paris, Wester Tower in Amsterdam, the Bourse in Brussels, the City Hall in Lisbon and the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. In 2013, we hope there will be even more.



France - Cannes



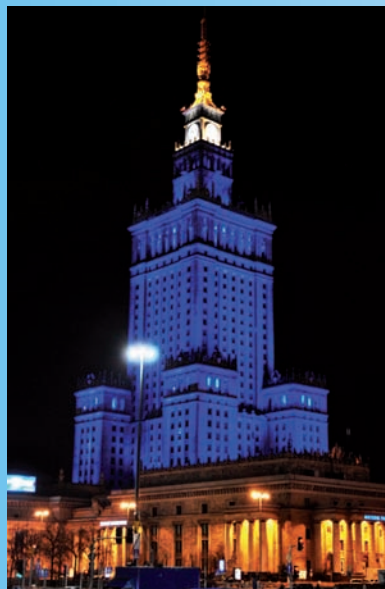
France - Cannes



Slovakia - Martin



The Netherlands - Amsterdam



Poland - Warsaw



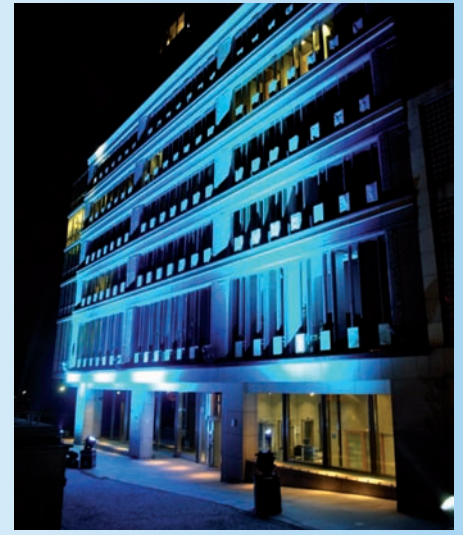
The Netherlands - Amsterdam



Belgium - Brussels



Hungary - Budapest



Poland - Warsaw



Spain - Tarragona



Hungary - Kecskemét



Poland - Warsaw



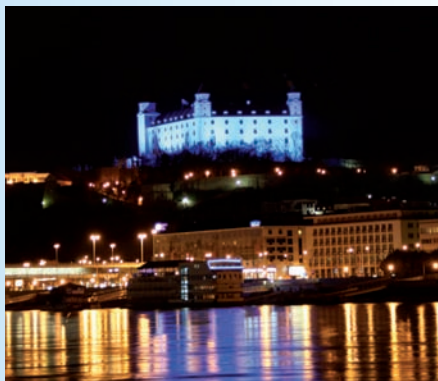
Macedonia - Skopje



Poland - Warsaw



Portugal - Coimbra



Slovakia - Bratislava



The Netherlands - De Bilt

Will your city be next?



# Autism-Europe expands its horizons

A report on Autism-Europe's Annual General Assembly and related events, 2012



In May, 52 representatives of autism organisations from 21 countries met in Istanbul for Autism-Europe's 2012 Annual General Assembly. The annual meeting was combined with a study visit, a Council of Administration Meeting and an Extraordinary General Meeting. Some highlights from the meetings are outlined below.

## Study visit to school for children with autism in Istanbul

Autism-Europe members attended a study visit to the Hamit Ibrahimiyeye School for Children with Autism in Istanbul. At the school, tours of the facilities were provided to Autism-Europe members, with the opportunity to ask questions to facilitate sharing of knowledge. Presentations were also given by the school's principal, representatives of Turkish member organisation, Todev, and a young man with Asperger's syndrome who shared his experiences.

## Autism in Turkey

Presentations were given about the situation of people with autism in Turkey by member organisation, Todev, and a representative of the Turkish government. A Turkish

psychiatrist also highlighted that the 'medical model' remains the dominant approach to autism, although the 'social model' is gradually being adopted across the country. Presentations are available on the Autism-Europe website.

## Policy development workshop on autism and ageing

This workshop enabled Autism-Europe members to contribute experiences from their countries to inform the development of the policy report on ageing that Autism-Europe will produce this year as part of the 2012 European Year of Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity

## Enlargement of Autism-Europe's membership to include non-European autism organisations

An Extraordinary General Assembly was called to vote on a proposed amendment to the Autism-Europe statutes. The adoption of the amendment allows non-European organisations to become members of Autism-Europe. 'Non-European Members' can now exchange knowledge, experience and best practices among our network of members, benefiting all members.

## Three new member organisations joining Autism-Europe

At the Annual General Assembly, three new member organisations were elected to join Autism-Europe; the Danish Autism Society, Fondazione Oltre Il Labirinto (Italy) and Child with future (Ukraine).

## Renewal of Autism-Europe's Council of Administration

New representatives were chosen for Autism-Europe's Council of Administration, raising the total number of countries represented on the Council to 25 (details of all current members can be found on the Autism-Europe website).

## Report on 2011 activities of Autism-Europe

Autism-Europe's activities in 2011 including our cooperation with the European Disability Forum on policy and advocacy for people with autism and other disabilities at the European level were presented.

## Training session on legal capacity of people with autism under the UNCRPD

A summary of this session, was given by lawyer and Autism-Europe Vice President, Evelyne Friedel in the previous edition of *LINK*.

## Thank you to our Turkish hosts

The meetings were generously hosted by Autism-Europe's Turkish member, Todev, whose staff and volunteers were the most gracious of hosts, and we extend our warmest thanks for all your efforts to make the meetings successful and enjoyable.





## Electronic communicators for autism - which one to choose ?

Most parents of children with autism have heard miracle stories in recent years about how electronic communicators have helped children with autism to communicate in ways they had never been able to do before. But, when every child with autism has different abilities, interests and challenges, and there are so many different e-communicators available, how can a parent know which one will be most useful for their child? And, of course, is it available in the right language? Luis Pérez, Director of Aucavi School for students with autism in Madrid, and his staff (Diego Vela and Patricia Matilla) conducted a study to evaluate some of the many e-communicators that are now available.

Comparing electronic communicators is a bit like comparing apples and oranges; they each have different features. And, of course, each person with autism has different needs. Instead of trying to determine which is the best e-communicator, or giving them all a rating, Pérez and his colleagues focused on highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of many, with the aim to assist parents and teachers to choose the right tool for each individual with autism.

Pérez and his colleagues tested the e-communicators based on their knowledge developed over many years of working directly with people who have autism. They also asked the school students and their parents to test the apps and worked with them to evaluate each one. While the study did not use a specific scientific method, a reference vocabulary of 200 words was used as the basis for comparison.

### Notably, their study found:

- The majority of e-communicators are available for use on iPads, iPhones and Android (rather than for Microsoft Windows based devices);

- Each of these platforms offer different possibilities for customisation, so while it may be easy to customise an e-communicator on one platform (eg. Microsoft Windows), it may be more difficult on another (eg. Android);
- The free and inexpensive e-communicators are often as good as the ones that must be purchased;
- E-communicators developed by parents or close relatives of people with autism often have limited functionality and are less customisable than e-communicators that have been developed by professionals or multidisciplinary teams (probably because these are often designed for one specific person with autism, rather than many different people with autism).

On the following pages, evaluations are provided for some of the e-communicators in the study. The rest can be found at [www.autismeurope.org/publications/reports-and-good-practices/](http://www.autismeurope.org/publications/reports-and-good-practices/)

## What is an electronic communicator?

'Electronic communicators' (or 'e-communicators') are tools that help people to communicate and express their needs, wants, thoughts and ideas.

They can be very useful for people who have a communication impairment (including autism) and those who need to communicate in a context where they don't speak the same language.

They usually use pictures to demonstrate words and concepts, and are available in several forms, including software applications or 'apps' for various devices including computers, tablet computers and smart phones.

*"States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation."*

- Art. 26 of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

*"People with autism have the right to the equipment, assistance and support services necessary to live a fully productive life with dignity and independence."*

- Charter for Persons with Autism (adopted as a written declaration by the European Parliament, 1996).

Background image : [www.vectorbg.net](http://www.vectorbg.net)  
Image above : CPA, one of the apps, on iPad

# Tips for parents when choosing an e-communicator

## 1. Consider your child's individual needs and abilities

As people with autism can have very diverse abilities, start by considering what is most important to your child. For example, some children may have the ability to communicate only the most basic needs based on pictures, while others may understand language reasonably well and require the ability to make more complex sentences. Similarly, an app that uses particular colours or designs may work well for one child, but disturb another.

## 2. Consider customisation

Customisation can be important to help an individual express what is impor-

tant to them. The ability to add words or translations can also provide a very useful way to adapt electronic communicators for less-spoken languages in Europe. Choosing a platform that includes an in-built camera can also be very useful to assist some children with autism to capture and express the people and things that are important to them.

## 3. Prioritise user-friendliness for both you and your child

As many parents will need to teach their child how to use an electronic communicator, as well as assisting them from time to time and customising the tool, it's important that it's easy for both

parent and child to use. Also consider who else will use the e-communicator (siblings, teachers) and whether they will be able to use it easily too.

## 4. Take advantage of free apps and free trials

If you are concerned about your child being upset by trying a product that may not work well, try some free apps and or 'lite' versions yourself before giving them to your child.

## 5. Always consult professionals who work with the person who has autism

Coordination with professionals will help

# Comparison of some e-communicators



### Ablah I Ablah HD

**Price :** 14,99€  
**Platform/s :** iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch  
**Languages :** Spanish, English, Portuguese  
**Communication level :** basic

#### Strengths :

- Sentences can be created very quickly.
- Allows common sentences to be saved and reused.
- Operates in one window (no separate windows for each word category).
- Pre-recorded sentences are available.

#### Weaknesses :

- Confusing interface.
- Requires good eye-finger coordination when navigating and choosing words from the one screen.
- It is possible for the user to accidentally change settings.
- Not very intuitive to use.

**Style orientation :** PECS (Picture exchange communication system)  
**Produced by :** Juan Carlos González Montesinos  
**Website :** www.ablah.org



### Pictodroid Lite

**Price :** Free  
**Platform/s :** Android  
**Languages :** Spanish, English, French  
**Communication level :** basic

#### Strengths :

- Easy to customise (add words and images) using your regular computer (using folders in Windows).
- Unlimited number of word categories.
- Very clean interface without any distracting elements.
- Very clear to see and use on smartphones with small screens.

#### Weaknesses :

- It is difficult to customise other features without reading the manual extensively.
- It only allows simple sentence construction.
- It is possible for the user to accidentally change settings. It doesn't have a separate configuration app (or 'mother system').

**Style orientation :** PCS (picture communication system)  
**Produced by :** Accegal  
**Website :** www.accegal.org/Pictodroid-lite



### Azahar

**Price :** Free  
**Platform/s :** Windows, Windows Mobile.  
 It is expected to be available for Android and iPhone later this year.  
**Languages :** Spanish, English, French  
**Communication level :** basic

#### Strengths :

- Very customisable (images, sounds and even videos can be added).
- There is a separate configuration app for parents and teachers which provides plenty of support.
- Key combination is required to exit the system, so users won't accidentally close the app.
- There are other apps included in the suite, with the same interface, which enable more communication.

#### Weaknesses :

- Slow and not very intuitive to use.
- There are only a limited range of images provided. These are not very clear and are not standardised to existing systems (such as PCS, PECS, ARASAAC).

**Style orientation :** PECS (Picture exchange communication system)  
**Produced by :** Fundación Adapta / Fundación Orange  
**Website :** www.proyectoazahar.org



### Pictodroid

**Price :** Free  
**Platform/s :** Android  
**Languages :** Spanish, English, French  
**Communication level :** Intermediate

#### Strengths :

- Enables relatively complex sentences.
- Introduces articles and prepositions automatically.
- Allows most frequently used sentences to be recorded and used again.
- Introduces the possibility of plurals.
- Clear and clean design.

#### Weaknesses :

- The final app has not yet been released (the analysed version of this app is a beta version).
- Relatively low customisability.
- Only allows limited addition of new word categories.
- Less intuitive to use than the 'lite' version of this app (see Pictodroid Lite).

**Style orientation :** PECS (Picture exchange communication system)  
**Produced by :** Accegal  
**Website :** www.accegal.org/pictodroid

to ensure the best possible outcomes from the use of an e-communicator.

## 6. Consider the context

In which situations will the e-communicator be used? Is it really necessary (or is it already possible for the person with autism to communicate in some situations without a device)? Where will it be used (consider environmental factors such as water, sand, banging, etc)?



Image : Gautena.

Image : Joannes, in Spain, using the eMintza.

# for people with autism



## Plaphoons

**Price :** Free

**Platform/s :** Windows, Android

**Languages :** Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, Catalan, Basque, Galician

**Communication level :** Intermediate

### Strengths :

- Clear and simple interface.
- Has a simple, Windows-like design for installation, choosing options, etc.
- Once you configure the communication board, it's very easy to use.
- If you have configured the communication board for the Windows version of Plaphoons, you don't need to configure it again if you want to use the Android version.

### Weaknesses :

- The configuration / customisation is time consuming (each feature of the communication board - image, sound, colours, etc - needs to be defined independently).
- The manual is needed.
- The final app for Android has not yet been released (the analysed version of this app is a beta version).

**Style orientation :** PCS (Picture communication system)

**Produced by :**

Projecto Fressa / Jordi Lagares

**Website :** [www.xtec.cat/~jlagares](http://www.xtec.cat/~jlagares)



## e-Mintza

**Price :** Free

**Platform/s :** Windows, Mac (desktop/laptop), Android

**Languages :** Spanish, Basque. It is expected to be available in French and English soon

**Communication level :** Intermediate

### Strengths :

- Videos can be added.
- Word categories can be related to one another (for example, you can create a category of food such as 'breakfast' that relates to other categories like 'meals').
- Plenty of support is provided within the app.
- The key combination required to close the app can be customised.

### Weaknesses :

- Only allows jpeg and mp3 files.
- The number of images that can appear in each window is limited.
- There are distractive elements on the interface.
- The configuration / customisation is time consuming.

**Style orientation :** PECS (Picture exchange communication system)

**Produced by :** Fundación Orange

**Website :** <http://fundacionorange.es/emintza.html>



## Dilo

**Price :** Free

**Platform/s :** Android

**Languages :** Spanish, English, Portuguese

**Communication level :** Advanced

### Strengths :

- Text-based communication.
- An unlimited number of sentences can be created.
- The communication board allows many sentences to be displayed.
- SMS and email features.

### Weaknesses :

- Reading and writing only, therefore only suitable for literate people.
- Limited number of word categories available per window, which makes it slow to build sentences.
- Not very intuitive.
- The manual is needed.

**Style orientation :** Text only, no images.

**Produced by :** lter

**Website :** <https://play.google.com>

Evaluations of additional e-communicators in the same study can be found at: [www.autismeurope.org/publications/reports-and-good-practices/](http://www.autismeurope.org/publications/reports-and-good-practices/)

For more information on Aucavi College and Aucavi Foundation, contact: [lpmaza@fundacionaucavi.org](mailto:lpmaza@fundacionaucavi.org)

This article intends to provide useful information to our readers on some of the many electronic communicators that are currently available. This article is not intended to promote any particular product, nor does it reflect any policy position of Autism-Europe.

# Being unable to speak doesn't mean you have nothing to say

## A Danish mother and son's experience with e-communicators

**Heidi Thamestrup is the mother of eight year-old Birk, who has autism and doesn't use any verbal language. Last year, Heidi bought an e-communicator to help Birk communicate, and she has learned some valuable lessons as a parent about apps, platforms, customising for lesser-used European languages and keeping her son interested in communication.**

Birk used PECS and sign language since his early childhood, but as he has an average level of intelligence and is growing up, he needs to communicate using more detailed language.

Heidi explains: "I knew that for my son, an e-communicator would be his language, maybe for a couple of years or maybe for his whole life... so it was important for us that he could use it in all possible situations. For example, on an iPad at school, but also on a smaller device that fits in his pocket when he is playing or taking the bus."

As Heidi and Birk live in Denmark, it was also important that they could customise the e-communicator for the Danish language, as well as for Birk's specific interests.

"I didn't know how long it would take me, as a parent, to get familiar with the e-communicator. I thought I would probably have to change its settings sometimes while we are both still learning about how to use it, and I was worried that such changes might disturb my son", she explains.

"I really wanted Birk to like this new way to communicate, and to give it a second chance if we had to make changes."

So Heidi considered the factors that would encourage her son to use an e-communicator.

"Birk already loved playing computer games on his Nintendo DSi, so I knew he would be more willing to accept an e-communicator if he could also use it on that platform."

"The app also had to have nice detailed pictures because Birk really likes details," describes Heidi.

Heidi chose an app called 'Tap2Talk', which is one of the more expensive e-communicators, but found it was worth the investment.

"It was easy to add your own pictures and sound recordings, and create your own categories of words and sentences, as well as schedules. And, my son could also use it on his Nintendo DSi," she rationalises.

Then, at school, Birk discovered another app that he liked even more, called 'Avaz'. He came home from school one day and showed Heidi that he had taken photos of his teachers using this new app and categorised them as 'mine lærer' (Danish for 'my teachers').

"I am amazed by what these kids can do when given the right tools," remarks Heidi. "When we introduced him to the Tap2Talk app - he used it so easily and naturally, it was like he had just been waiting for us to bring it in to his life."

"At first it might seem like a lot of choices and tapping - and it is - but it's easy and it works tremendously fast. And my son loves it! As a matter of fact, he often sleeps with the iPad under his pillow," laughs Heidi.





# Campaigning to ensure that education doesn't stop after school for people with autism in the UK

By Anabel Unity Sale

In the United Kingdom, Ambitious about Autism launched the 'Finished at School' campaign last year to call for more and better educational opportunities for young people with autism when they leave school.

Recent research shows that less than 1 in 4 young people with autism continue their education beyond school. Many young people with autism have to stay at home or move into residential care, often with people much older than themselves.

The Finished at School campaign has already achieved the first step in fixing this problem: the Government of the United Kingdom will have a national education, health and care plan for people with disabilities from birth to the age of 25 years.

Mark Atkinson, Director of Communications, Policy and Research at Ambitious about Autism says: "We are delighted the Government has announced plans to create a clear legal right to educational support up to the age of 25 years for young people with disabilities. This reform has the potential to revolutionise the life chances of tens of thousands of young people with autism who are currently denied access to any educational opportunities beyond school."

"We will be campaigning hard with our partners to ensure the 'comparable' statutory protections are clear, robust and apply to all young people who need them," he added.

The Finished at School campaign is also calling for:

- A funding system that gives young people and families more information, choice and support;
- A cross-government focus on outcomes and destinations for young disabled people;
- A workforce in the further education sector with the skills to support young people with autism to achieve their ambitions.

The campaign has gathered a lot of momentum and is now backed by 10 further education colleges, 23 national organisations, 80 parliamentarians and over 3,000 individual supporters.

As part of the campaign, a College Inclusion Charter was also launched. The campaign is asking further education colleges to sign on to the charter, committing themselves to deliver quality educational opportunities for learners with autism and other disabilities. The charter was launched in May by the United Kingdom's Minister for further education, skills and lifelong learning, John Hayes MP, and six colleges in England have signed on to it already.

## The aims of the Charter are :

- To encourage further education providers to commit to improving their educational offer to young people with autism and other disabilities;
- To raise awareness of the educational needs and rights of learners with autism aged 16 to 25 years;
- To build a coalition of further education providers to make a strong case for improving education for learners with autism and other disabilities aged 16 to 25 years, across England.

Sign the pledge to support the Finished at School campaign and find out more about Ambitious about Autism: [www.AmbitiousAboutAutism.org.uk](http://www.AmbitiousAboutAutism.org.uk)

Image: Ambitious about Autism's Youth Patron, Josie Ryan, signing the Finished at School pledge at the campaign launch in October 2011 at the House of Commons.



# Capturing over 40 years of accumulated knowledge about autism

## Scottish Autism develops a knowledge management strategy

By Charlene Tait, Director of Development at Scottish Autism

The level of knowledge and experience held by staff in autism organisations is fundamental to the services that they can offer to individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. A lot of valuable knowledge can be lost when a staff member leaves. These are some of the reasons why Scottish Autism has recently implemented a strategy to capture over 40 years of knowledge that have accrued among its staff members and ensure that this knowledge helps current and future staff to ensure the high quality of their services.

### What is knowledge management ?

The idea of 'managing knowledge' may at first seem a little obscure. What does it mean to manage knowledge? The concept of knowledge management is based on the recognition that knowledge among staff members is an asset that should be harnessed, analysed and used to maximum effect. At this time, knowledge management strategies tend to be more established in commercial companies and organisations, yet these processes and practices are highly relevant to all organisations in which continuous learning, staff development and knowledge sharing practices could be beneficial to clients.

### Why develop a knowledge management strategy?

For organisations that provide services to people on the autism spectrum, the recognition of their individuality and the need to personalise approaches to their support is paramount. Experience in Scottish Autism has shown that by capturing, examining and sharing knowledge about individuals and about autism more broadly, our staff develop a robust knowledge about autism that is both theoretical and practical. This maximises the benefits of our services to people with autism and their families. Additionally, it enables our organisation to contribute to national debate and the wider body of autism related knowledge.

**“...knowledge management strategies tend to be more established in commercial companies and organisations, yet these processes and practices are highly relevant to all organisations...”**

**“This maximises the benefits of our services to people with autism and their families.”**

### Conducting a 'knowledge audit'

For Scottish Autism, the first step in developing a knowledge management strategy was to undertake a 'knowledge audit' among its staff of more than 800 people.

The audit included a series of focus groups to find out the key influences on staff members' practice, philosophy and values as well as their perceptions of organisational leadership on autism and how organisational knowledge is used and shared.

Image:  
Staff from Scottish Autism taking part in Communities of Practice focus group.



Next, a staff survey was used to find out staff members' perceptions of their own knowledge of autism and how they use this to inform their practice. The survey, as well as a focus group, were used to elicit tacit knowledge; the everyday working knowledge that staff have often built up over many years of work. Individuals don't always recognise their own **tacit knowledge** as an asset that is valuable to others; for them it is just what they do as part of their job. Therefore the detail of this type of knowledge can be difficult to obtain. An example of this was a staff member who had undertaken a very detailed and sympathetic approach to supporting a young man with autism who was facing the imminent death of a close relative. What she described was an example of excellent practice. It was clear that the principles that underpinned this highly personalised approach were valuable to others who work directly with people who have autism and that this example should be shared.

**“...individuals don't always recognise their own tacit knowledge as an asset that is valuable to others; for them it is just what they do as part of their job...”**

Finally, an audit of **explicit knowledge** resources was conducted to identify materials and approaches that had been used or developed by staff and could be useful to others. Explicit knowledge (in this context) means knowledge and resources such as policy documents and guidelines on working with people who have autism and practical approaches used in individual support plans. The explicit knowledge audit revealed many 'hidden gems' that could be used throughout our organisation. For example, a very comprehensive resource on communication was being used in our school, and with some adaptation it could also be useful to our other services.

A further advantage of conducting a knowledge audit (using a range of methods) is that it provides a baseline against which progress can be measured.



Image:  
Academic Team supporting Scottish Autism with Communities of Practice (left to right: Elpida Makriyannis, Karen Guldborg, Jenny Mackness).

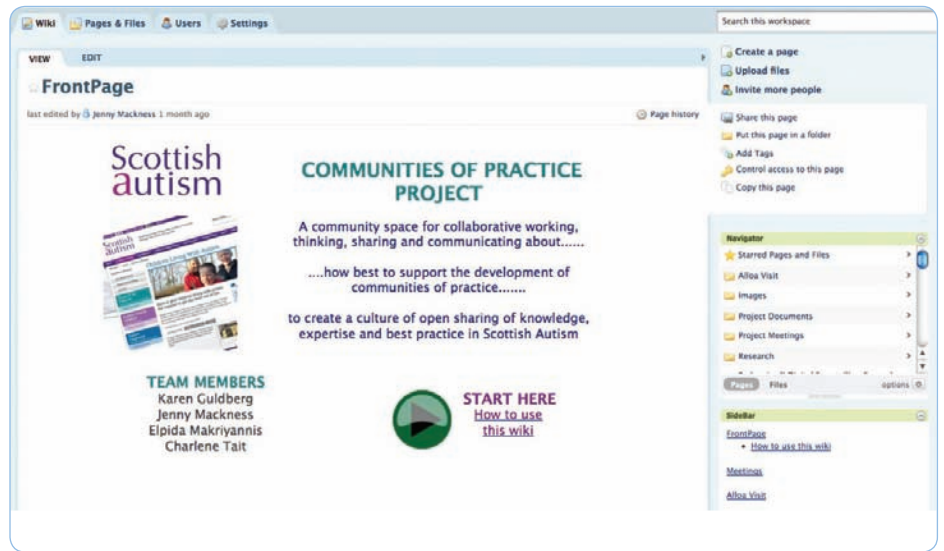


Image: Scottish Autism 'Wiki' - a platform for sharing knowledge, resources and best practices online.

### The strategy in practice

Scottish Autism is beginning to see the benefits of aspects of the strategy, for example:

- **Communities of practice** – Supported by a team of academic experts, 'communities of practice' have been developed, in which staff can come together through an online platform to share knowledge, learn from one another and work collaboratively on specific projects. These are now available online and are particularly relevant for staff who work across a wide geographical area;
- **'Knowledge Share Events'** – A series of events aimed at sharing knowledge and understanding about autism with other professionals, parents and individuals on the spectrum are currently underway;
- **Engagement with research** – Scottish Autism is leading some research projects and will soon appoint a 'Researcher in Residence' to support the development of research-minded practice among staff. Scottish Autism's website also facilitates opportunities for people with autism and their families to engage in research;
- **Resource development** – Scottish Autism is using organisational learning to develop information materials for families, professionals and people with autism. These materials are available on the 'Knowledge Services' section of the website and can assist families with everyday challenges such as encouraging good sleep habits, addressing eating issues or getting a haircut.

### About Scottish Autism

Scottish Autism was initiated by a group of parents in 1968. Today the organisation provides a range of education, support, and short break services to children and adults across the autism spectrum.

The organisation has over 40 years of experience in enabling individuals to have positive and successful lifestyles and to achieve outcomes that are meaningful for them and their families. Throughout this time a significant amount of knowledge, understanding and effective practices have been accumulated. Scottish Autism has a long tradition of sharing expertise through conferences and training, and has recently taken knowledge sharing to the next level through its knowledge management strategy.



## More information

- For more information about Scottish Autism and the knowledge services they offer, visit:  
[www.scottishautism.org](http://www.scottishautism.org)
- For more information about developing a knowledge management strategy for an autism organisation, contact Charlene Tait:  
[charlene.tait@scottishautism.org](mailto:charlene.tait@scottishautism.org)

Image: Scottish Autism shares its knowledge and expertise with parents and professionals at Knowledge Share Event, Edinburgh.



## Tips for developing an effective knowledge management strategy

- Conduct a knowledge audit to take stock of the important knowledge that exists in your organisation;
- Consider different types of knowledge among your staff - explicit knowledge (policies, guidelines, approaches to specific issues) and tacit knowledge (the everyday working knowledge that staff members hold in their heads);
- Develop and or participate in 'communities of practice' in which staff can share their knowledge, learn and work through common problems together;
- 'Communities of practice' should be led by staff members with support from senior managers and relevant experts;
- Make sure the knowledge management strategy works with existing business plans, staff training programs and quality assurance processes;
- Keep it practical and relevant - don't overwhelm staff members with additional paperwork;
- Facilitate an organisational culture in which knowledge is valued and shared systematically to foster continuous learning and development among staff.

# Seminar on national and European strategies for autism

Save the date!

November 6, 2012

The seminar will be held at the European Parliament in Brussels and will focus on strategies for autism at the national and European level. The 'Autism Spectrum Disorders Strategic Action Plan for Wales' will be showcased as an example of how a national autism strategy can achieve outcomes such as improved access to diagnosis, intervention, support, education, training and employment for people with autism.

This event will be hosted by Welsh MEP, Kay Swinburne.

For more information and to register for this event, contact: [secretariat@autismeurope.org](mailto:secretariat@autismeurope.org)



# Tribute to Joan Roca Miralles



**Sadly, founder member of Autism-Europe, Joan Roca, passed away in March this year.**

At the age of 82 years, Joan had spent the past 37 years working to improve the rights and conditions of people who have autism. Joan was the father of two daughters, one of whom has autism and is in need of a high level of support.

Joan was one of the founder members of Autism-Europe in the early 1980s. He was also an instrumental organiser of the Autism-Europe International Congress V that was held in Barcelona in 1996. This very successful congress attracted the largest number of congress delegates ever (over 1600 people), with many thanks to Joan's commitment.

At a national level, Joan was also the founder and President of Autisme la Garriga in Spain, a multidisciplinary organisation that provides services for the entire lifespan of people with autism and their families.

Joan will be missed as a dear friend to many and remembered as a tireless worker who fought to improve the conditions of people with autism. An inspiration to others, Joan's legacy will not be forgotten.

## European Days of Autism to focus on autism and ageing

**Lyon, France, October 5-7, 2012**

This year, the European Days of Autism events will focus on the theme of autism and ageing; an issue of increasing importance to many autism organisations around Europe.

A public conference will be held on autism and ageing, highlighting European best practices in the field.

Members of the Autism-Europe Council of Administration will also take part in:

- A study visit to a residential care centre for elderly people with autism;
- A round table with a French organisation for people with Asperger syndrome;
- Presentation of Autism-Europe's draft report on autism and ageing (and opportunities for members to contribute to the final report);
- Autism-Europe's Council of Administration meeting.

The 'European Days of Autism' is an activity of Autism-Europe in which representatives of autism organisations and individuals come together to gain and share knowledge on a themed topic in relation to autism. The 'European Days of Autism' is held in a different city in Europe in October each year. Autism-Europe's members also organise awareness and information events at national level.

The events in Lyon will be held by Autism-Europe in conjunction with French host member, Sésame Autisme, and Canadian autism organisation, TED sans Frontières. The events are also taking place as part of the European year for active ageing and solidarity between generations 2012.

**More information :** [www.autismeurope.org](http://www.autismeurope.org)



European Year for **Active Ageing**  
and **Solidarity between Generations 2012**



## New project to increase the visibility of girls with autism in Europe



Several Autism-Europe members have joined forces to create a new project called 'Autism in pink' that aims to increase awareness of autism among girls and women.

The project has many objectives, including to:

- Develop training modules for families and professionals;
- Conduct a study on prevalence, needs, diagnosis, characteristics and mental disorders;
- Develop a project website and a documentary film;
- Publish a virtual book with individual stories;
- Establish working groups with relatives of women with autism;
- Conduct a camp for women with autism.

The National Autistic Society of Great Britain, Autism Federação Portuguesa, and Autism Burgos from Spain are involved in this project, among other partners. The project will continue for the next 2 years and will be completed in January 2014.

## Online network for all autism professionals



Where Autism Professionals Connect

The National Autistic Society in the United Kingdom has launched 'Network Autism', a new online networking resource that can be used by autism professionals around the world.

The National Autistic Society in the United Kingdom has launched 'Network Autism', a new online networking resource that can be used by autism professionals around the world.

'Network Autism' allows professionals to pose questions, engage in discussions, and share knowledge and best practices with each other via online discussion forums. The forums cover a broad range of topics in relation to autism and many articles on autism research, best practices, case studies and individual opinion are also provided.

"Network Autism is our chance to connect the dots between professionals and develop solutions to problems that sometimes can't be fixed alone," says Carol Povey, Director of the NAS Centre for Autism.

Network Autism is free to join and already has over 1,500 members. It is open to all professionals who work in an autism-related field and all forums are conducted in English.

Check it out: <http://network.autism.org.uk>

## Dental health program for people with autism



In France, a new dental health program has been developed for children and teenagers with autism to foster better dental hygiene and access to dental care.



The program prepares people with autism for dentist appointments and educates them about daily dental hygiene. The approach is multi-disciplinary and the objective is to remove anxiety and reduce challenging behaviours. The program has

several steps to familiarise patients with the dentist environment and establish a personalised dental care plan.

The program uses the TEACCH method and provides adapted tools to support communication, including pictograms and a picture-based educational book, comic book, educational films, calendar to record teeth brushing and a soundtrack.

Check it out:

[www.sohdev.org/autisme-et-sante-orale](http://www.sohdev.org/autisme-et-sante-orale)

## New technologies for autism



Autism-Europe recently presented our technology projects to the 'Technologies for autism: Tools, trends and testimonials' conference in Valencia, Spain.

The projects we presented included the 'FIRST' project to develop a tool that will simplify text and documents to make

them easier for people with autism to understand; and the ASC-Inclusion project that is developing interactive games for children with autism to understand and express emotions.

More information on the projects:

[www.asc-inclusion.eu](http://www.asc-inclusion.eu) and [www.first-asd.eu](http://www.first-asd.eu)

More information on the conference:

[www.itasd.org](http://www.itasd.org)

In this section, short news items are chosen for printing based on their relevance at the time of production. Other updates are also printed in our regular electronic newsletter (you can register to receive this free of charge on the Autism-Europe website: [www.autismeurope.org](http://www.autismeurope.org))



# Putting autism on the national agenda in Ukraine



**In the few years since it began in 2009, Ukraine's 'Child with future' organisation has already achieved a lot for people with autism, including official recognition of autism.**

In the few years since it began in 2009, Ukraine's 'Child with future' organisation has already achieved a lot for people with autism, including official recognition of autism.

In a country where the condition of autism was largely unknown, Child with future has achieved official recognition (at the government level) of autism in children. Now in Ukraine, children under 8 years old can receive a diagnosis of autism. This represents a huge step forward, as recognition is fundamental to rights, awareness and services.

Based in Kiev, Child with future has also established Ukraine's first network of pre-schools to support children with autism and other special needs. The pre-schools take an early intervention approach to supporting people with autism from very early in life. The pre-schools incorporate education and rehabilitation facilities for the children, as

well as support programs, workshops and individual consultations for parents. To ensure the quality of the services, the organisation has worked with international experts to provide training and education programs for teachers and professionals who work with children with autism.

Much work remains to be done to improve the quality of life of people with autism in Ukraine (for example, older children and adults with autism are still being wrongly diagnosed with other conditions). Child with future takes a strategic approach to these problems by bringing together government officials, parents, teachers, doctors and other stakeholders to affect changes at the government level.

As part of the 'European Days of Autism' in October last year, Child with Future organised a round-table event that was attended by government officials, doctors, international experts and parents, who sat down together to discuss the most urgent needs of people with autism. The event resulted in the Ministry of Health including Child with future in their working group with on the issues of improving of psychiatric aid for children.

Child with Future has also helped to establish a new national Ukrainian coalition, called 'Autism-Ukraine', which was formed with the aim to bring together all organisations that help people who have autism (of all ages) and their families, on the basis that together they can achieve more.

Child with future is governed by a board of parents of children with autism. The organisation is funded by private sponsors and parents do not pay membership fees.

**More information:** [www.cwf.com.ua](http://www.cwf.com.ua)



Child with future is now an associated member of Autism-Europe.



# Rainman's Home

## Supporting adults with autism step-by-step towards greater independence

**For the past 20 years, Rainman's Home has been helping adults with autism to develop communication skills, independence and skills for the workforce.**

Their daycare centres operate a three-stage program in which 40 adults with autism can gain important living skills, step-by-step.

The first stage of the program (the basic group) enables participants to build up communication skills, and engage in practical training and therapeutic cooking.

The second stage of the program (the focus group) is all about individualisation: cognitive training, computer work, cleaning the work area, silk-screen printing, working with wood and clay, outdoor and social activities, sports and music.

The third stage is the group for people with higher autonomy, which focuses on autonomy training, woodworking, ceramics, housekeeping and gardening.

Participants normally start attending the daycare centres from the time they finish compulsory schooling, but there are no age limits and participants can attend for as long as they choose.

The program aims to slowly integrate participants into the job market, using specialised professional training and support methods. The organisation believes that transition from the rather protected environment of the daycare centre to the 'real working world' should come step by step; for example through the 'Rainman artist group'. Participants can also take part in special projects such as film, sports and leisure activities according to their preferences.

Rainman's Home strives to link pedagogic theory and practice. Chairpersons of Rainman's Home Anton Diestelberger and Theres Zöttl are highly specialised and have developed a pedagogic concept in which embracing diversity, considering individual needs, structured teaching and learning, highly professional staff, a work environment of mutual respect and a thought-out room

concept are central. They also provide expertise for another similar school and training courses.

Rainman's Home was founded in 1991 by parents of children with autism who sought a way for their children to continue developing their skills after compulsory schooling and live happy and satisfying lives. The organisation began as a small daycare centre in the basement of a school, where it operated until 1995 when it gained financial support from the Vienna municipality to move into larger premises. In 2005, the organisation opened its second daycare centre.

In addition to its regular daycare program, Rainman's Home has achieved a lot. It has hosted research forums on autism, produced publications and reports, conducted courses and seminars, been the subject of numerous media reports (on television, radio and in newspapers), held art exhibitions (of works by the artists groups), held charity fundraising events and much more.

Within the framework of Autism-Europe, Rainman's Home wants to promote cooperation in Central Europe and foster networking in Austria.

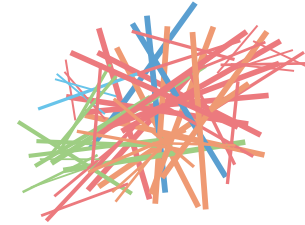


Rainman's Home is now a full member of Autism-Europe.

### More information :

Website: [www.rainman.at](http://www.rainman.at)  
 Email: [rainmans.home@aon.at](mailto:rainmans.home@aon.at)  
 Facebook: Rainman's Home and Autism Austria





# Autism-Europe 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress Scientific Programme Committee appointed

The following scientific committee members have been appointed to determine the programme of the Congress and to ensure the quality and relevance of the presentations.

## International members



**Prof. Tony Charman**  
(United Kingdom)

Professor Charman holds the Chair in Autism Education at the Institute of Education, London, and practices as a Chartered Clinical

Psychologist, working with children who have autism. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and more than 25 book chapters. He has served on a number of expert panels related to autism for the United Kingdom and the United States governments, and he works closely with autism organisations in the UK to advocate for the rights of people who have autism.



**Dr Michel Favre**  
(France)

Dr Favre is the President of Pro Aid Autism, an association for parents of people who have autism, and Vice President of the ARIA association that manages community-based services for adults with autism. Dr Favre has been involved in advocacy for the rights of people with autism for many years and he is also the father of a 26 year-old son who has autism. Dr Favre is also Co-Director of the French National Reference Laboratory for Human Papillomavirus at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.



**Dr Joaquin Fuentes**  
M.D. (Spain)

Dr Fuentes is Consultant Child Psychiatrist at the Policlínica Gipuzkoa, in San Sebastián. He is also a Research Consultant at

GAUTENA, an autism support organisation in San Sebastián (to which he has contributed significantly over many years). He is working on several research projects at regional, national and European levels. He has published numerous articles and chapters, and has served as an editor of several leading scientific journals, as well as serving on several boards and committees of international autism and child psychiatry organisations.



**Dr Fred R. Volkmar**  
M.D. (United States)

Dr Volkmar is the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology and Director of the Yale University Child

Study Center in the United States. He is also the Chief of Child Psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Dr Volkmar was the primary author of the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-IV section on autism and pervasive developmental disorders, as well as being the author of hundreds of scientific papers and chapters, and several books, on the topic of autism. Dr Volkmar has also been the principal investigator on three significant grants for autism research and has served as an editor of several prestigious research journals on the topic of autism and psychiatry.

## Hungarian members



**Dr Anna Balázs**  
M.D.

**Honorary Chair**

Dr Balázs is Chair of the Board of the Autism Foundation in Budapest, as well as being Head of the Foundation's interdisciplinary Methodological Centre (which she founded). She is a child and adolescent psychiatrist, with more than 20 years of experience in working with people who have autism.



**Zsuzsanna Szilvássy**  
Chair

Zsuzsanna is the President of Autism-Europe and the Vice President of the Hungarian Autistic Society. She also works as the Manager of the Autism Help Centre in Hungary. She has over seven years of experience in advocacy for the rights of people who have autism and is the mother of a 14 year-old son who has autism.



**Virág Bognár**

Virág is an external lecturer in medical sociology at the Semmelweis University of Medicine in Hungary. She is participating in several research projects at national and international levels, and is currently a PhD candidate.

## Call for abstracts

The Autism-Europe 10th International Congress will accept abstracts for presentations between October 1, 2012 and January 11, 2013.

**More information :**

[www.autismcongress2013.eu](http://www.autismcongress2013.eu)



**Dr Judit Simó**

Dr Simó is a paediatrician and child psychiatrist who has 18 years of experience in the field of autism. She has also served on national boards and committees related to autism.



**Dr Krisztina Stefanik**

Dr Stefanik is a psychologist who has over 20 years of clinical experience as a specialist in the field of autism. She is the Vice Dean for Scientific and International Affairs and Research Leader in Education for People with Autism at the Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Education at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. She has also served on national boards and committees related to autism.



**Csilla Szauer**

Csilla is the Director of the Public Foundation for Equal Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities in Hungary. Csilla has 15 years of experience in creating service

programs for people with disabilities at national and international levels.

**More information :**

[www.autismcongress2013.eu](http://www.autismcongress2013.eu)

**Register now for very early bird prices!**

**Benefit from a big discount on congress registration between November 15, 2012 and January 31, 2013.**



# MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF AUTISM-EUROPE

## FULL MEMBERS

(national associations of parents of people with autism)

### ARMENIA

Autism Overcoming  
Yerevan, Armenia  
9 Arshakuniats St.,  
Tel: +374 91 41 59 83  
+374 91 73 90 12  
E-mails: mark-as@mail.ru;  
gabillilit@yahoo.com

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1180 Wien  
Tel: +43 1 478 64 34  
Fax: +43 478 91 95  
E-mail: rainmans.home@aon.at  
Website: <http://rainman.at/>

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# 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress AUTISM-EUROPE

26-28 September, 2013  
Budapest, Hungary

*New Dimensions for Autism*

## Important dates

### Online registration:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Very early bird | 15 November, 2012 - 31 January, 2013   |
| Early bird      | 1 February, 2013 - 31 May, 2013        |
| Regular         | 1 June, 2013 - 31 August, 2013         |
| Late            | 1 September, 2013 - 15 September, 2013 |

Call for abstracts: 1 October, 2012 - 11 January, 2013

Notification of presenters: 30 April, 2013

[www.autismcongress2013.eu](http://www.autismcongress2013.eu)

