

Living in the Encounter



”Threshold as an Opportunity”

The 3rd European Congress
for Persons with Special Needs
18th – 21st August 2005
Prague



Invitation to the European Festival of Encounter

Some 500 people attended the first European Congress “Living in the Encounter” in Berlin in 1998. The main theme of this congress had to do with the biography of the individual. The second congress took place in 2001 at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, where about 600 people from all over Europe, and even a few from America, came together.



2001 at the Goetheanum

The theme in Dornach was “Building Bridges”. Both congresses were so incredibly impressive that it was clear to all of us that there had to be a third congress.

The third congress will take place next summer (2005) in Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic. Prague is a very special place. It lies at the centre of the newly reunited Europe. It is a very beautiful city, with its famous bridges over the Vltava, and full of historical interest. Also its name, Prague, is significant – translated into English it means “Threshold” and so forms the bridge between the East and the West of Europe. Prague, “The City at the Threshold” is able to build bridges – between people,

between nations. Therefore “Threshold as an Opportunity” was chosen as theme of the Congress.

In the course of our lives we all come up against certain “thresholds”: barriers, difficulties, whether we are bound to a wheelchair or full of fear when facing new situations. However, the crossing of such a threshold can be an important new beginning. When 600 people come together for the Congress in Prague, with various needs of help and support of their fellow men, it is an opportunity to make a real contribution to the strengthening of human relationships in both the East and the West of Europe.

Congress information

The Congress is being planned and organised with and for persons with special needs. The Congress will be held in the **Prague Congress Centre** on the Vyšehrad, which can easily be reached by underground. The main language will be German, but there will be Czech and English translations. If you need help with translation into another language, please arrange it yourself or advise us. We



1998 in Berlin

Programme

Time	Thursday, 18th August	Friday, 19th August	Saturday, 20th August	Sunday, 21st August
9:00	Arrival <i>Please check in at your hostel first, if possible (from 14:00 onwards)</i>	Communal singing Lecture Break	Communal singing Lecture Break	Communal singing Speech Break
11:00		Workshops	Workshops	Final open Forum
12:45		Mid-day meal	Mid-day meal	12:00 Mid-day meal
14:00	Registration and information at the Congress Centre	Excursions	Excursions	Departure
17:00	Opening ceremony			
18:00	Party with buffet, music and dancing	Evening meal	Evening meal	
19:30 –21.00		Concert and theatre – open to the public	Czech evening: local culture	

will be taking our **mid-day and evening meals** in the Congress Centre.

The **workshops** take place in a building just a few minutes walk from the Congress Centre. There will be quite a large number of workshops with a wide variety of activities, all of which will be related to the main congress theme. You will be able to choose between such subjects as: painting, singing, music, dancing, mime or discussion to name but a few. The **excursions** will take us to many of the interesting sights of Prague. You will be able to register for the workshop or excursion of your choice on arrival at the Congress Centre.

Accommodation

The main accommodation will be in a student hostel in 2- to 3-bedded rooms and there will be a communal breakfast before leaving each day for the congress. We can also offer limited accommodation for persons with wheelchairs or serious mobility problems close to the Congress Centre. If you need to take advantage of this facility, please note it on the booking form.

Congress fee

The fee for the Congress will be **Euro 180** (approx. £ 120). This is an all-inclusive price for attending the Congress and includes accommodation and meals, workshops and excursions. The Congress is fortunately being substantially supported by certain charities and foundations and the fee of Euro 180 by no means reflects the full costs.



1998 – Music Workshop

Booking

If you want to come, please **book as early as possible** because there are only 600 places available. Please restrict the number of applications to not more than 5 to 10 persons, according to the size of your community. You will be sent a confirmation of your booking and a request for payment in due course. If you wish we can send you more copies of this leaflet. It is also available in German and Czech.



1998 – Open Forum

Please send your completed booking form to:

Akademie Tabor – Kongress 2005

Jana Zajíce 32, Praha 7, 170 00, Czech Republic

Phone: 00420/2/33 38 24 92 (*You can reach us best on Wednesdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.*)

Mobile: 00420/728/70 54 55

Fax: 00420/2/33 38 24 94

E-mail: kongress@in-der-begegnung-leben.de

Some members of the Academy can speak English or German. You can find out more about the Congress from our web-site:

www.in-der-begegnung-leben.de

Organisation

The Congress is being organised by an independent group of people from Germany and Prague. The Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. in Germany is in charge of the management in cooperation with the Conference for Curative Pedagogics and Social Therapy in Switzerland.