

ARTISANS OF HOPE



ARTISANS DE L'ESPOIR

European Art-  
Association «SolArt»

Adress :

1652, Belgium, Alseberg

Nijsberglaan, 52

Tel./fax :

+ 32 25382714

E-mail :

daria.gissot@gmail.com

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

<http://soart.org/en/content/so-kids/>

The **Artisans of Hope School** is a project which aims to establish a conductive education school, which will be located in Belgium, for children and parents who are interested in learning creative and functional techniques to care for their children with motor disabilities.

#### Presentation of the future Conductive education school

During classes, parents and children (aged from 2 to 8), will learn essential skills and methods to help them reach a maximum level of independence. Our school will focus on early intervention for children with motor disabilities. Children will learn and play with their peers in a therapeutic setting with

age-appropriate instruments and equipment. They will learn in a fun and positive environment with songs and activities, yet at all times they will be developing their speech and language skills, as well as overall physical and cognitive skills. As this is an essential time for child development, our school will also work on each child's individual learning potential through activities that challenge them and encourage progress, all while having fun with friends.

The aim of our school is to facilitate the practice and repetition of daily living skills as well as academic and social skills. Children will learn how to adapt acquired skills to different situations in their home, school and community. The peer setting will motivate and encourage the development of speech and language skills in addition to fostering age-appropriate play and interactions. Parents will also give advice on how their child can apply the abilities which they have picked up to everyday activities, thus promoting a greater independence in their child's life. Children will learn independence, health, hygiene, and much more.

The school will hire an instructor who is a graduate of the Peto Institute to teach the children. This instructor will provide his/her unique teaching techniques and a fresh perspective as well as teaching the basic conductive education principles. In Conductive Education special furniture and products are used by instructors and are designed and manufactured with the aim of benefiting the development of a child.

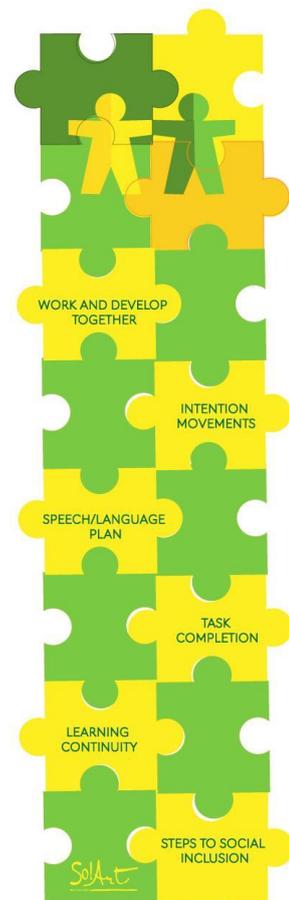
We hope to be able to organize our first camp before the opening of the school, i.e. during the month of March 2016.

## What do we need for this school?

Special furniture and equipment: adders, plinths & stools can be put to use in a number of Conductive Education settings and can help towards tailoring each child's programme to his/her needs. All of the products are made of wood. We will need also a wide selection of handgrabs, handsticks, handrails, mirrors, mats and other accessories available to order from the Peto Institute in Budapest which are designed to help unlock childrens' full potential.

## Aims of the project:

- Our project aims to boost skills and share best practice between Member States specialists in the area of special education.
- Artisans of hope will provide opportunities for a wide range of European individuals working with disabled children to work together, train, gain experience and also volunteer abroad.
- Artisans of Hope will provide an example of cross-border partnership in several Member States in the fields of Education, Training, Socialisation and organisations with regard to fostering cooperation and bridging the worlds of future social inclusion of disabled children.
- Artisans of Hope will bring together the experience of existing EU methods and skills in the fields of Education, Socialisation, Training and integration to offer more opportunities for disabled children through cooperation and achieving concrete results.





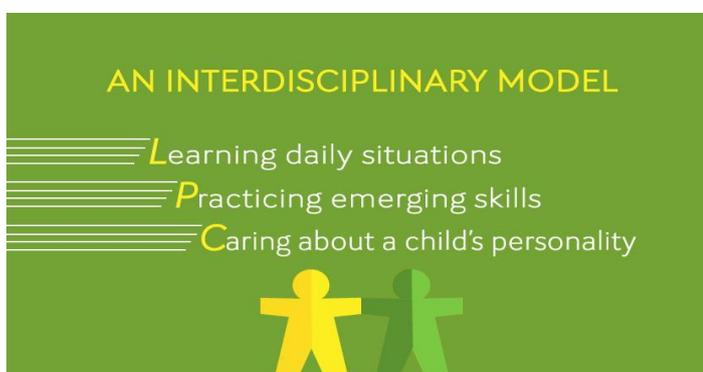
Origin of the picture: <http://conductivelearningcenter.org>

## About conductive education

Conductive Education is a learning system devised by the Hungarian humanist András Peto which merges elements of education with rehabilitation. The system deals not only with physical needs, but also with the social and psychological issues facing people of all ages who are dealing with neurological conditions. Conductive education is neither therapy, treatment nor cure. It recognizes motor disorders as chronic conditions which result in problems of learning or relearning which will respond to appropriate teaching.

### How does it differ from other therapies?

Conductive education is neither therapy, treatment nor cure. It recognizes motor disorders as chronic conditions which result in problems of learning or relearning which will respond to appropriate teaching. Children aged 2-16 participate throughout the day in developmentally-appropriate activities based upon each child's own individual assessment and needs. These activities include: muscle stretching exercises, large and small motor skill activities, transitioning, movement and mobility exercises, sitting up with or without help, developing hand-eye coordination, self-help skills including feeding, toilet training, dressing, working with adaptive equipment as required, verbal and non-verbal communication.



## A pioneering conductive education school in Belgium?

Fifteen million children in the EU have special educational needs. The lack of special needs schools for children with disabilities is an issue that has wide-ranging consequences for the EU's social and economic fabric. Belgium's approach to special needs education is one of inclusion and equality. There is a strong commitment to giving every child the right to an education which maximises their potential. While Belgium has laws in place to integrate special needs pupils into mainstream schools, it still lacks the services and support networks to make that happen. To cite the Belgian Association for the Parents of Disabled Children: "The fundamental problem is that teachers need more training and, more than anything else, they also need to familiarise themselves with different techniques from other countries. In addition, parents need a place to practise with their children". In Conductive education, involving parents in classes is not only welcome but actively encouraged, with children attending classes on a regular basis. Conductive education, the backbone of the Conductive Education program, is believed to be one of the most successful methods when it comes to addressing motor disorders.

### Conference on Conductive education with the support of the European institutions

The So!Art association would like to propose a one day conference and we would be very interested to hear how EU institutions might lend their support to this initiative.

### The aims of the conference on conductive education

Debates, both among occupational therapists and the wider public regarding special needs schools and rehabilitation have never been as animated as they are today. The increasingly global issue of integrating disabled people is leading to social, economic and cultural change in EU countries while 'traditional' techniques of rehabilitation also need to be massively overhauled. Furthermore, there is a great need to explore the different possibilities that exist when it comes to sharing best practice between Member States specialists.

### Main topics

- We aim to discuss ways to implement aspects of conductive education in European school programmes and share ideas about the most important issues regarding child rehabilitation today.
- We aim to present Conductive education as a working and complete model of education for disabled children.

## Speakers and participants

We will be delighted to invite the executives from the Peto Institute in Budapest to talk to participants about the Peto method and how to implement it. Our second keynote speaker may be Judit Pazmany, senior instructor and the first person to introduce conductive education to France (CEC du Gard, South of France). It would be useful to invite Timea Chassot-Keller, Senior instructor, from the first conductive education school in France (EHM centre, Pouilly-sur-Loire, Burgundy). Also, speakers from the Brussels Centre La Famille, including Pedagogical coordinator of the Centre, Mr Yves Bawin, would all help to ensure that we have a fruitful exchange.



Origin of the picture: <http://conductivelearningcenter.org>