



EUD and EFSLI Partnership Agreement

Prepared by: EUD and EFSLI

This coincides with the agreement set forward by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)

Partnership Agreement

Purpose of Partnership Agreement

This agreement serves to outline ways to enhance, strengthen and cultivate a robust and enduring collaboration between the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) and the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI) for the express purpose of benefiting Deaf people (and those who use sign language) and the sign language interpreting profession in Europe.

EUD Mission and Vision

EUD Mission - To promote, advance and protect the rights of and opportunities for Deaf people in the European Union.

EUD Vision - Emancipation and equal opportunities are key philosophies in the work of EUD towards achieving an equal position in society with recognition of Deaf people as full citizens in our own right.

EFSLI Mission and Vision

- To encourage and promote deliberation and mutual exchange of the profession of interpreting services within Europe
- To work to secure official recognition of the profession of Sign Language Interpreting
- To encourage and promote scientific and pedagogic initiatives to improve standards of Sign Language Interpreting and Interpreter training
- To provide advice and support to Sign Language Interpreters, Interpreter trainees, Interpreter trainers, and users and providers of Interpreting services
- To present the interests of the profession of Sign Language Interpreting to appropriate bodies

Joint Commitment

EUD and EFSLI affirm the importance of a joint working relationship through the following efforts:

- Work in close cooperation and actively exchange information that is of common interest or that may have an effect on both organisations and its members
- Encourage collaborative agreements and activities between National Deaf and Interpreting Associations.
- Support and attend each organisations' National Conference
- Publicly recognise the importance and support each organisations activities
- Recognises the primacy of EUD to advance political, cultural, educational and sign language rights of Deaf people in Europe. It also recognises the primacy of EFSLI to advance the profession and rights of sign language interpreters, including standards, competency and qualifications of interpreters.

OBJECTIVES

- Recognise each organisation through respective websites
- Identify, arrange and attend meetings together with representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission
- Provide information on specific topics as required (to assist in the development of position papers, policies etc).
- Co write position papers on relevant topics to both organisations

- When applicable, refer requests for information to the most appropriate organisation (EUD or EFSLI)
- Participate or present at each organisations National Conference
- Identify potential projects and funding opportunities for both organisations to work together on
- Meet at least twice a year to discuss current issues
- Design a five year strategic working document for EUD and EFSLI to identify common topics to collaborate on.

Geographic Reach

This agreement refers to EUD Members, EEA and EFTA countries and Israel.

Principal Contacts

The principal contacts for this agreement are:

EUD Contact

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EFSLI Contact

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Commencement/Expiration Date

This agreement is takes effect from the date of last signature and is operational until 1st June, 2012 at which time it will expire unless extended.

This document may be updated as the need arises. Any revision will be discussed with and approved by EUD and EFSLI.

European Union of the Deaf
Berglind Stefánsdóttir, President

European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters
Maya de Wit, President

22 May, 2010 DATE

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