

efсли's view on the provision Deaf sign language interpreters

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The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efсли) supports interpreting services provided by trained and qualified sign language interpreters, whether Deaf or hearing.

The provision of professional sign language interpreting services provided by an interpreter who is Deaf is still not common practice throughout Europe. Deaf sign language interpreters can work for example as translators between their written language and sign language or as interpreters between two sign languages. There is actually an increasing demand for Deaf interpreters/translators across Europe especially in international settings.

Current educational programmes mainly focus on training sign language interpreters who are hearing and are mostly not accessible to Deaf persons who would like to become sign language interpreters.

Although limited training is available for Deaf sign language interpreters, in order to provide quality interpretation services efsli highly recommends the use of qualified and trained interpreters. With the understanding that at present training programmes are not fully accessible, efsli calls on the educational institutions to match their curriculum to the current needs in the market.

To support the professional development of Deaf interpreters, efsli is

hosting a working seminar in September 2012 for experienced Deaf interpreters throughout Europe. The aim of the seminar is to provide a platform where Deaf interpreters can exchange their views and expertise on the development of their educational and employment opportunities and their professional development. The outcomes of the working seminar will provide efsli with a basis of how to further the professional development of Deaf interpreters.