



**efqli**

one continent one sign



## Introduction

The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli) is a non-profit organisation that works towards gaining a higher status of sign language interpreting in Europe. Its members are national & regional associations, individuals & associates from all over Europe and other parts of the world.

The aims of efsli are:

- Sharing information and experience
- Improving the professional standards
- Providing advice and support
- (Inter)nationally presenting the interests of sign language interpreters



## History and network

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efsli was established in 1993 and provides a network of sign language interpreter organisations, related organisations, and individuals across Europe and beyond. It is meant to be a forum where expertise and information can be exchanged, learned, and used to implement at local level.

efsli also offers information to businesses, governmental institutions, and others seeking specific advice. In these matters, efsli cooperates with other organisations, such as the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) or the Council of Europe (CoE).

efsli is divided into six departments. The head of each department is a board member and responsible for the department strategy and related work. The efsli board works closely together as a team. efsli board members are volunteers who are committed to seeing efsli established as a positive resource for Sign Language Interpreters throughout Europe.



## **efsli AGM and Conference**

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Every September efsli organises its annual general meeting and conference in cooperation with a national interpreter organisation as host. Interpreters, trainers, students, and users of interpreting services participate in this exciting event. It gives a great opportunity to exchange information and expertise with participants from across Europe and beyond.

The first efsli conference was held in 1994 in Edinburgh (Scotland). Since then, the efsli event has been organised every year in different hosting countries like Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, England, Finland, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Estonia.

Over the years, efsli has published many conference proceedings as well as a CD-ROM with Signs for Countries and Cities in Europe. These products can be ordered via the online shop at the efsli website.



## Training

Every year efsli organises two training programmes: one in summer and one in winter or spring. The aim of these efsli schools is to improve the professional skills of sign language interpreters from all over Europe.

One of efsli's main priorities is to ensure access to learning and training opportunities to interpreters who live in countries where there is no formal recognition or certification of skills and professional awareness.

The first efsli school was held in 2006. Since then five efsli schools have been organised in the Czech Republic, Malta, Croatia, and Italy. So far the schools covered different topics such as interpreting from and into English, understanding Deaf Culture, working with Deaf interpreters, interpreting in international settings, and deafblind interpreting.

“Friendly atmosphere”



“Safe environment  
for learning and  
practice”





“Meeting colleagues from different countries and share experiences”

**More than 100 interpreters have participated over the past four years.**



“Great fun!”



## SAF

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The efsli Special Attendance Fund (SAF) provides financial support to interpreters from European countries with a GDP of 15.000 Euro or less to attend an efsli Conference and AGM.

The Special Attendance Fund receives its donations from interpreter organisations, special organised benefit events and from individuals. These donations are an essential contribution to provide support to eligible interpreters.

Since 2004, the starting year of the efsli Special Attendance Fund, interpreters from many different countries were able to take part in the efsli conferences: Croatia, Czech Republic, Kosovo, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine.

**You can support the  
Special Attendance Fund  
and donate online.**



## **Become an efsli member!**

Currently efsli has 26 full members (national associations of sign language interpreters). In addition, efsli has associate members, e.g. interpreter training programmes, interpreting services, and many individual members.

Individual membership is open to sign language interpreters and other interested persons who subscribe to efsli's aims and objectives.

### **Individual membership benefits are:**

- Monthly "efsli in brief"
- Three times a year the efsli Newsletter
- Access to the efsli online forum
- 50% off on all efsli publications and products
- Discount on efsli workshops and schools
- 50% off on advertising costs for the efsli Newsletter and efsli in brief

**If you would like to support the work of efsli, receive membership benefits, and the latest news: join efsli!**







For more information, please visit the efsli website:  
[www.efsli.org](http://www.efsli.org)

or send an email to:  
[secretary@efsli.org](mailto:secretary@efsli.org)