



Newsletter December 2010

efсли 2010 conference report - Paul Belmonte

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“When efсли President Maya de Wit opened the 2010 conference in Glasgow, she warned the delegates of an infectious bug that has spread throughout Europe. The “efсли bug” has a profound effect on everyone who catches it and is highly contagious. Symptoms of this bug include excitement, enthusiasm and a desire to attend every efсли conference in future!”



Sign Language Interpreting for Deaf Students

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“The University of Hamburg offers a new professional education programme that is unique in Germany in offering a formal qualification for Deaf sign language interpreters.”





From left to right:

Stéphane Gobert, secretary (AFILS, France)
Maya de Wit, president (NBTG, Netherlands)
Marinella Salami, vice president & head of training department (ANIOS, Italy)
Liivi Hollman, member (EVKTÜ, Estonia)
Paul Pryce-Jones, treasurer (ASLI, England, Wales & Northern Ireland)

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www.efsli.org

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If you have any sign language interpreter news, what is happening with your national association, details of your Annual General Meeting or your Conference, knowledge of upcoming training events or other related events, then please share them with us. Send details to the Editor at newsletter@efsli.org ■

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Editorial

Dear member,

The efsli newsletter has a new professional and attractive look! In the last few months efsli went through another change, the efsli board. We have a wonderful team of new board members, which you will meet throughout this Newsletter. In this issue you will find more in depth information about events that efsli attended or organised, and important developments within our field. You can also read about the very successful efsli AGM & conference from a Scottish and a Croatian perspective.

The efsli Newsletter is a reflection of the daily efsli activities in many different countries. Since the summer efsli was represented in Italy, Scotland, England Wales & Northern Ireland, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, and Turkey. The efsli board is looking for a newsletter editor who would like to gather this European activity starting from the next issue to be published in March 2011. In the following pages you will find a description of the tasks required for the editor position. If you would like to support the efsli network, please see if this is something for you.

We wish you very happy and inspiring reading!

Maya de Wit & Marinella Salami
Editors efsli Newsletter



The Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters (SASLI) hosted a very successful efsli AGM & conference in Glasgow. A very big thank you goes to the organizing committee and all the volunteers who made the event to a true success. The efsli AGM & conference is an annual celebration of our profession, a great opportunity to exchange new ideas, expertise, and joy to see many international friends and colleagues again. Thank you also to the 232 participants and the wonderful presenters from across Europe and beyond for their enthusiastic and insightful contributions.

At the AGM the efsli board said goodbye to Zane Hema who had served on the efsli board for eight years and Elke Schaumberger for three years. Zane and Elke have made an enormous contribution to efsli. Zane with setting up a smooth running financial department as treasurer, efsli Newsletter editor, members and past coordinator of the SAF committee. Elke as head of the publicity and promotion department and putting efsli on the map with posters, flyers, pictures, special offers, promotions, business cards, and website content.

We were very happy to welcome new members to the efsli board: Paul Pryce-Jones (ASLI, UK) and Liivi Hollman (EVTKÜ, Estonia). Paul is the new treasurer and Liivi is responsible for the publicity and promotions department. In addition, we were very excited that Marinella Salami was re-elected to the efsli board. Marinella has carried out the efsli training department for the past three years and turned it into a very successful department with many schools around Europe.

At the AGM the new efsli Research Fund (eRF) was officially established. The eRF was set up to encourage individuals to carry out research in the field of sign language interpreting. The annual application deadline is April 1st. The coordinator of the eRF is Christopher Stone. On the efsli website you can find more information.

The efsli Special Attendance Fund (SAF) was again very successful this year in obtaining funding, but also making it possible for 11 interpreters from 7 countries to participate in the efsli AGM & conference. The SAF coordinator David Wolfenden stepped down as a coordinator after 4 years. David did a wonderful job in running the SAF and a great thank you goes to David for all his time, energy, and dedication. The new SAF coordinator is Yvonne Jobse from the Netherlands. She is assisted by a wonderful committee of interpreters from across Europe.

Another inspiring efsli event was the efsli trainers' seminar in Helsinki organised by Diak University of Applied Sciences. Nearly 50 trainers, interpreters, and researchers from across Europe participated on the topic of "voicing – a mission impossible?" Diak hosted a smoothly organised seminar with a variety of presentations, workshops, and discussions. A great thank you to Diak for taking on this task.

At the moment the ANIOS organising committee for the efsli 2011 conference is working hard to make another wonderful efsli event happen from 16 – 18 September 2011 in Vietri sul Mare (Salerno) in Italy. We are all looking forward to seeing you there, or at another efsli event during 2011. ■

efsli 18th Annual General meeting Glasgow, Scotland

by Maya de Wit, efsli president

On 10 September 2010 the efsli board was excited to welcome 19 full members, national association of sign language interpreters, to the efsli Annual General Meeting. The efsli AGM took place in the heart of downtown Glasgow, Scotland. Since the last AGM in Tallinn, Estonia, efsli welcomed four new full members: Croatia, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, making the total number of full members 26. Attending the AGM were also many observers, including 11 participants through the efsli Special Attendance Fund (SAF) from Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Ukraine, Poland, and Serbia.

The efsli board presented the activity report of the last year and the plans for the coming year of each efsli department. One of the new exciting developments was the establishment of the efsli Research Fund, which was presented by Christopher Stone. A check of 1000 Euros was officially handed over from the efsli treasurer Zane Hema to Christopher Stone. Also the newly designed logos for the efsli Research Fund, the SAF, and the trainers' seminar were presented. David Wolfenden gave for the last time as SAF coordinator a presentation of all the SAF committee work. He handed his task over to Yvonne Jobse from the Netherlands.



At the AGM the efsli membership proposal that was made by the efsli board was discussed. The good discussions ended in the adoption of the new membership fees for associate and full members. In addition, a working group was established to investigate a good model for changing the efsli individual membership fee. The aim is to present this at the upcoming AGM in Italy in 2011.

A new part of the AGM was the discussion with the membership. The efsli board sent out a survey before the AGM to fill out by the efsli full members. The survey results were the basis of the discussion and concerned the conference topic of 'synergy'. An interactive discussion led by Marinella Salami and Stéphane Gobert, efsli board members, was held.

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At the end of the AGM the efsli board had to say goodbye to Zane Hema, who served on the board since 2002, and Elk Schaumberger, who was on the efsli board since 2007. Zane and Elke dedicated an enormous amount of time, energy, and expertise to efsli and they were given a warm goodbye with signatory t-shirts of all the present participants. The efsli board was happy to welcome Paul Pryce-Jones (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and Liivi Hollman (Estonia) to the efsli board. We are very much looking forward to working together the coming years. Thank you to all the delegates and observers for an inspiring and positive AGM. ■■



Call for papers, efsli conference 2011

The efsli 2011 Scientific Committee is seeking submissions for papers to be presented at the 2011 efsli conference.

In the spoken language interpreting field, sight translation has mostly been considered as a supportive method of interpreting, a pedagogical tool to exercise and develop simultaneous and consecutive skills.

Over the years it has gained much attention by researchers and scholars whose studies have given sight translation a higher professional function and status.

In our working world, translating from a signed language to a written language and vice versa, is a fairly recent development, which involves both deaf and hearing interpreters, when working with subtitles, news, websites, translation of books and articles, when a video text need to become a sign speech or in everyday correspondence, etc. Sight translation and sight interpretation meet at the cross mode. They share differences and similarities: mental processes, use of language modalities and professional practices that need to be further investigated.

The efsli 2011 conference would like to focus on practical and theoretical issues about sight translation and interpretation in order to gain valuable and broader insight into the interpreting process, such as:

- How should a sign language interpreter prepare to perform a sight interpretation of a written text?
- How should a sign language interpreter prepare to perform a sight interpretation of a signed text?
- What are the most common do's and don'ts of sight interpretation?
- Language processing and sight interpretation – what challenges for sign language interpreters?
- What kind of training do sign language interpreters need?
- Technology and sight interpretation: how technology can be an ally to sign language interpreters.



Submission of proposals:

Presentations may be either

- a) Plenary lecture-style presentations of 40 minutes (30 minute presentation; 10 minutes for questions)
- b) Poster presentations (A1 format)

Proposals should be submitted by January 30th, 2011 and should include:

- Name of presenter(s)
- Brief CV for each presenter
- Contact details for correspondence
- Title of presentation
- Language of presentation
- Abstract (maximum 300 words)

Proposals should be submitted in English in a Word document to: abstract@efsli2011.org

All abstracts will be reviewed by the scientific committee:

- Anna Cardinaletti, Italy
- Aleksandra Kalata-Zawlocka, Poland
- Humberto Insolera, Italy
- Marco Nardi, United Kingdom
- Elena Pizzuto, Italy
- Rita Sala, Italy
- Marinella Salami, Italy

The selection criteria will be based on relevance, significance, quality, originality, clarity, and overall presentation.

Official notification of acceptance or rejection of proposals will be made by March 15th 2011.

Selected presenters are required to register by April 15th 2011.

Full papers/power-point presentations must be submitted no later than June 30th 2011.

Presenters will meet with interpreters on-site to prepare interpreters for all presentations.

Conference languages will be English, Italian, Italian Sign Language, and International Sign.

All presenters who wish to use a different spoken or signed language will have to supply their own interpreter. ■



Make a difference, make a contribution by Yvonne Jobse, SAF coordinator

As is probably known to all, the **efsl** Special Attendance Fund, which was established in 2004, has been aiming to provide funds for interpreters who themselves have not enough means to be able to attend an **efsl** conference. And of course we hope that the experience of attending a conference makes a difference to these interpreters, we hope that they take their experiences back to their own country and maybe even try and make a difference there.

One of the success stories of the Special Attendance Fund is that of Poland, in particular that of Aleksandra Kalata-Zawlocka. Aleksandra's first time at an **efsl** conference was in 2006, in Prague. At that time there was, as she says: "virtually nothing: no association, no education, no training programme, no awareness".

After that conference, she introduced the idea of team interpreting to her colleagues in Poland. The Polish interpreters were very excited about the concept, and so, in October 2008, at the University of Warsaw, an interpreter team was there to interpret a lecture. The first time ever!

In the following years, with support from the SAF, Aleksandra was able to attend more **efsl** conferences. These conferences brought her and her colleagues more concepts and new ideas to move forward. At the 2008 conference in Voorschoten, she was able to announce the start of the first university interpreter training. And in 2009 in Estonia, she even reported the establishment of the Association of Polish Sign Language Interpreters (STPJM) and Poland was accepted as an **efsl** full member.

This is only one example of the difference the Special Attendance Fund can make. In its six years of existence there have been 31 participants, many of them with similar stories.

The credits for these success stories go to no one else than you, all of us, the whole **efsl** community. You all have been generous and have given our fellow interpreters, people like Aleksandra, the opportunity to make changes in their interpreter community and even in their country.

The SAF has been a very big success over the years, and we would like to continue that. To keep these success stories happening, the Special Attendance Fund relies on your donations. With the SAF getting more and more known, more and more applications from interpreters are being sent. Last year, we received applications from twenty seven interpreters!

Of course the SAF-committee would like the opportunity to sponsor as many applicants as possible, but we do need the funds for that. Initiatives are taking place already, for instance



there are interpreter associations who organise raffles like the **efsl** AGM raffle each year, but we do rely on individual donations as well.

If you would like to contribute to the SAF, please visit the **efsl** website. There is a button on the home page for you to make a contribution.

On behalf of all the participants, past and future, it is most appreciated! —



Searching for synergy ...found at the efsli AGM

Impression of the efsli 2010 conference by Daniela Miler, Croatia



Before I didn't fancy September much; in my mind it always marks the end of summer holidays, warm sea and sunny beaches, and the start of school, work, traffic jams... Then I met efsli. Efsli Conference. Quite a nice being she is, that lady Efsli Conference. I've heard people talk about her, heard some had luck to see her in person, there is even a saying she spreads around some kind of bug, which makes you want to follow her whenever and wherever. She just gives you a date and place and, without thinking whether you should go or not, BAM- you're already there. I had a chance to meet EC for the first time in Tallinn in September 2009. And BAM- On September 10th this year, I found myself in Radisson hotel, Glasgow, Scotland, UK- without much thinking. Precisely, with no thinking whatsoever.

The conference theme Synergy- moving forward together comprised the wide variety of topics related to sign language interpreting. It was interesting and educational to learn examples and situations from many different countries as much as it was lovely to meet familiar faces again. That is what efsli conferences are mostly about- learning and sharing with colleagues. Having that many people from that many countries in one place, all being related to the same profession, can broaden one's horizons during a coffee break almost as during an expert presentation.

All stakeholders of relevant field have to try to work together for the same cause in order to accomplish a common goal, to move forward. Profession and self-development can only be achieved if interpreters are working as a team, if they are willing to cooperate with all parties involved in the interpreting process- from the educators, agencies and clients to colleagues. If they do so, then they can reach synergy, which is a guarantee that together they will outperform even their best individual and they all will benefit.

AGM was quite a show this year, I only missed popcorns while watching a lively discussion, voting, saying goodbyes and hellos to the Board members and watching funny videos devoted to Elke, Zane and David. And one important thing that crossed my mind during the AGM was that exactly that event is the best example of searching for synergy, a good introduction to the conference. Synergy is not only about agreeing on everything, about giving up or pleasing others, but about defending your beliefs, tolerating others' and trying to meet them halfway. At the AGM, members, acting as policy makers, argued their viewpoints in order to achieve the best solutions. It was real democracy in action and only after bringing decisions together, can they function as a group, as a team. This is when synergy happens.

All the people involved in the organisation and realisation of this event made a hell of a job. The venue was terrific, food delicious, sessions were informative and workshops inspiring. There was a great selection of workshops offered, so anyone could choose according to their interests. Even the entertaining part of the conference was educational; we have learnt how to taste and drink Scottish whiskey and how to dance the Keelie. The latter was probably the best example of practicing synergy- firstly some moved forward. While others moved backward. Hence, many ended with someone stepping on their feet. It didn't look promising in the beginning, but we tried, and practiced, and finally- we all moved forward. Together. Quite a (dance floor) synergy it was.

So, do I need to say it? Yes, I am EC-bug infected. Please don't try to cure me.

And I do love Septembers from now on. ■



When efsli President Maya de Wit opened the 2010 conference in Glasgow, she warned the delegates of an infectious bug that has spread throughout Europe. The “efsli bug” has a profound effect on everyone who catches it and is highly contagious. Symptoms of this bug include excitement, enthusiasm and a desire to attend every efsli conference in future!

Arriving at the conference hotel on Saturday morning, I could already see the bug taking hold. It was great to meet up with so many old friends and to make many more new acquaintances. As interpreters using signed languages, we seem to spend so much time having to explain what we do and how we work. Now at last, we were surrounded by people who do the same things as we do, who understand the joys and frustrations, who just get what it means to do this inspiring yet difficult job. The hotel was filled with so many people from different countries, different backgrounds, Deaf and hearing. Sometimes we didn't even have a language in common, signed or spoken, yet somehow everyone was able to communicate and understand.

The conference theme was Synergy – Moving Forward Together. This spirit of team work and co-operation was evident throughout the weekend. Arranging a conference on this scale is never easy and the organisers and volunteers put in an incredible amount of work to make sure everything went smoothly. They all looked so welcoming with their bright smiles and yellow t-shirts!

There was definite synergy on display in the interpreting team. Signed and spoken language interpreters, Deaf and hearing, worked hard to make sure the communication went smoothly and successfully. I had mixed feelings: pride in the fabulous work they were producing and relief that I didn't have to do it! They got a huge round of applause at the end of the conference and they thoroughly deserved it.

We were especially pleased to have our conference opened by Hilary Third from the Scottish Government's Equality Unit. Our Government has been very supportive of the sign language interpreting profession over recent years and it's good to have their continued backing. We all felt a sense of pride as Adam Kosa, Europe's first Deaf MEP addressed the conference. To have someone involved in the creation of policy in the European Parliament address us in a signed language was unforgettable.

An efsli conference wouldn't be the same without the dinner and entertainment on the Saturday night. Music, dancing, laughing, eating and possibly even a glass or two of the local refreshments all mean a fun evening. It was especially impressive to see all the delegates still smiling when they arrived back at the conference on Sunday morning!

Anyone who was still sleepy as we reconvened was soon wide awake as Professor Graham Turner gave the Keynote Address. He quoted Gandhi: “Be the change you wish to see in the world”. Our profession faces many challenges, from the inside as well as the outside. By being trusting and trustworthy, all of us can work together to build a positive atmosphere where we are all encouraged and supported. There is a lot that we as individuals can do to create trust and when we do, we create a synergy in which we are stronger as a group than we could ever be as individuals.

The efsli bag has now been handed to ANIOS who are arranging the conference in Italy next year. Looking back over the time we had in Glasgow, I think everyone was already planning to be there. Again and again as I passed through the hotel lobby, I heard people saying, “See you next year!” That's what the efsli bug does to you. There isn't a cure, so there's no point fighting it. See you all in Italy! ■



The newly established efsli Research Fund (eRF)

by Christopher Stone, coordinator eRF



After the vote was carried at the AGM 2009 an egroup was established to draft the documentation needed for an eRF ready for presentation at the AGM 2010. This group was established 7th January 2010 with the drafting of the documents completed May 2010. When presented at the AGM 2010 members supported the establishment of the efsli Research Fund (eRF).

The eRF has been set up to provide funds to individuals who would like to undertake research in a topic related to sign language interpreting and the research topic should be innovative or shed new light on a topic previously explored. The funds can cover up to 100% of the research costs, but it is assumed individuals will have another source, or sources, of funding to cover some of their research costs. The funds can cover a variety of costs and these may include for example: travel, administration costs, the publishing of the research. Other costs related to the research will be covered and applicants should not hesitate to ask the eRF committee about whether costs are eligible.

At the AGM 2010 the documentation was agreed. These include: an application form, and a guide to filling in the application form which includes the background, eligibility criteria, details of application requirements and contact information. Applicants may be individual sign language interpreters, or professionals working in the field of deafness, sign language research or communication and accessibility. The applicant must also reside in one of the European countries that are a member of the Council of Europe. Applicants should have the support of their national organisation of sign language interpreters when one exists, or from a relevant independent organisation otherwise.



The board kindly donated €1000 to establish the funds and any future efsli seminars will include a contribution per participant so that the funds will increase over time. We are looking for funding and donations from any individuals or bodies who would support the development of sign language interpreting via research and have been delighted to receive some money from the efsli trainers seminar and the NGBT AGM. Please encourage you organisation or individuals to support us and let us know any ideas you have for fund raising.

If you have any questions please contact us at researchfund@efsli.org - the deadline for applications this year will be 1st April 2011 with announcements of successful applications made at the efsli 2011. ■



efсли trainers' seminar 2010 – Mission accomplished

by Isabelle Heyerick, Flemish Sign Language interpreter - Flemish Sign Language researcher & Vice-president of Tenuto vzw

During the last weekend of October, sign language interpreter trainers gathered in Helsinki for the EFSLI trainers' seminar (efsliT). During two days the conference would focus on: Sign-to-voice interpreting: mission impossible?. The seminar was hosted by DIAK (Diaconia University of Applied Sciences) in the Lighthouse, home of the Finnish Association of the Deaf. An excellent venue for this kind of event.

On Friday three presentations and two parallel workshops were organized. Beppie van den Bogaerde (Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands) presented her keynote speech on Voicing Barriers. Her talk clearly listed the different barriers that interpreter trainers experience when teaching sign-to-voice skills. The demands are various; the basic language proficiency, the amount of contact hours required and the aspects of how to teach a second language as complex as a signed language. During the presentation Beppie also offered some predictors to success and exemplified how these can be integrated in an interpreting training programme. Another key issue that was touched upon is the importance of taking a more research-based approach to didactics. In conclusion, the participants got some good advice; define the barriers, provide solutions and collaborate together. This immediately started after the keynote talk during a discussion involving the participants.

After the coffee break Raija Roslöf (Diak University of Applied Sciences, Finland) presented the IISE (Training Sign Language Interpreters: International Settings) project. Those who attended the efsli 2010 conference in Glasgow are already familiar with the EU funded project which researches, collects and promotes good practices in sign language interpretation in international settings. Keep an eye on the IISE website for further news and developments: <http://www.project-iise.eu>.

After lunch Sonja Erenkamp (University-College of Sør-Trøndelag, Norway) uncovered some of the main reasons why the process of sign-to-speech interpreting is experienced as challenging. The list of possible pitfalls when voicing seemed endless and this might have overwhelmed some participants. Sonja discussed problems such as; short term memory issues, structural difference between signed and spoken languages, the fact that deaf persons more easily accept sloppy signing from an interpreter, but the hearing people will not accept sloppy voicing. During her very interesting talk she proposed a new language model which states that signed languages draw on two mechanisms, one of them is called active iconicity and this instantly became the word of the day.

A very good debate occurred after this presentation that challenged all of us to rethink our views on languages in general. Afterwards, it was time for us to get involved in two parallel workshops: Sign to voice interpreting – mission challenging and Interpreter in a cultural crash. The day was round up with a conference dinner.

On Saturday three more presentations were planned. The first one was given by Renaat Van Hende, Maartje De Meulder and myself (Isabelle Heyerick) from Tenuto (continued training for Flemish Sign Language interpreters, Belgium). Our presentation "It's never out of our Hands", Reciprocal empowerment leading to an improved sign to voice interpreting process, introduced a new way of teaching interpreters how to improve their sign-to-voice skills. Our method puts a deaf moderator in control of the input and output, leading to a situation where both the deaf presenter and the interpreters are empowered. We were very glad to see that many of the participants were enthusiastic about our proposed approach. They were clearly inspired, which is one of the goals of EFSLI and EFSLIT conferences.

Raija Roslöf presented the results of a questionnaire on how voicing is taught across Europe. This was a very insightful presentation, stating that there are different "keys to success"; namely inclusion of deaf trainers, working with good and experienced trainer teams, having enough resources, ensuring a work-life (i.e. community) connection, keeping up with latest research, teaching interpreting skills once the language is acquired and letting students exercise in real life situations.

Marinella Salami and Maya de Wit gave us the tools to get more out of Europe and explained what efsli and efsliT stand for and aim to obtain in the future. I was in awe for what they already have realized and plan to do. If you want to know more, keep on reading the efsli newsletter.

The proceedings of the seminar were summarized by Beppie van den Bogaerde who did a great job putting everything together. I believe that we all left Helsinki with an appetite to explore and to put the knowledge that was shared into practice. ■



efsli in Turkey

by Marinella Salami & Stéphane Gobert, efsli board members

Turkey is an enchanting country, a bridge between East and West. Crossroad of cultures, traditions and customs. Istanbul, its former capital city in ancient time, perfectly represents these two souls with fascinating minarets, colourful bazaars and impressive Christian churches.

From the 20th to the 26th of September, the Turkish National Federation of the Deaf (<http://www.turkdeaf.org/default.html>) celebrated its 50th anniversary with an exciting programme of cultural activities.

A conference was held as well. Representatives from EUD (Berling Stefansdottir), EUDY (Philippa Merricks & Dennis Hoogeveen) and efsli (Marinella Salami & Stéphane Gobert) were invited to illustrate their past achievements, present goals and future projects. efsli offered its support to improve the status of sign language interpreters hoping that Turkey might be able to host future efsli training events, set up their own interpreters association and become a full member of efsli.

Celebrations continued with amusing showcases by Deaf theatre companies. Performances from Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Serbia, Romania and of course Turkey enchanted an audience of deaf and hearing signing community.

As a commemoration to this new cooperation between efsli and Turkey, Ercüment Tanriverdi, President of the Turkish National Association of the Deaf, offered to efsli a trophy representing their 50th Anniversary and efsli had a chance to offer the proceedings of the 2009 conference in Tallinn "Sound Mind in Sound Hands".

efsli would like to express its gratitude to the Turkish National Federation of the Deaf for their warm welcome and look forward to sharing other moments of mutual exchange in the near future. ■



efсли summer school 2010 – a brief overview

by Marinella Salami, head of the efsli training department



efсли summer school made more than 30 participants very happy in the beautiful (and very hot) city of Siena.

“Interpreting in international settings” was the topic tackled by our trainers, Carol-lee Aquiline and Bill Moody. They both do not need any introduction. Their long standing experience and reputation in the interpreting field and in the international Deaf community speak for themselves. The workshop did not aimed to teach International Sign (IS) tout court. This latter was the mode of communication used by trainers and students and thus it actually offered a good opportunity to improve IS skills. However, the course had wider and more ambitious targets.

There is a growing demand of sign language interpreters being able to work in international settings attended by a variety of sign language users and language speakers. Career prospects and study opportunities mobilize Deaf and hearing professionals through the globalization process around the world. International conferences are still important meeting places for exchanging ideas and networking. Moreover, immigration flows of Deaf people from developing countries to the Western industrialized world challenge Deaf and hearing interpreters. In most of these cases, International Sign is being used to establish communication exchange and English functions as a global lingua franca.



To know what IS is, how it works, how and by whom it can be used offered the possibility of reflecting upon the interpreting process in wider terms, exploring one’s national sign language from a multicultural perspective and learning new interpretation techniques (or empower the ones already learnt). Discussions on the role of Deaf and hearing interpreters, on consumers’ perspectives and ethical issues also stimulated participants to give their contribution and share their point of view. The “hands on practice” sessions were particularly appreciated and focused on practicing interpretation from spoken English, developing listening skills with an emphasis on English spoken by non-native speakers and how to feed Deaf interpreters interpreting into IS.

efсли would like to thank our trainers and participants once again for their inspiring contribution, the Siena School for Liberal Arts (<http://www.sienaschool.com/>) for hosting the training and Alessandra Battagin for taking care of the house-keeping and the efsli stand during efsli summer school.

See you next year for more exciting efsli training events!

Reference: efsli policy on IS: <http://www.efсли.org/efсли/trainers/istrainingpolicy.php> ■



IISE Project held a test course for conference interpreters

by Raili Loit, local coordinator of the IISE team in Estonia



Before the EFSLI 2010 conference, which took place in Glasgow, Scotland, a two-day training seminar was held for the interpreters working at the mentioned event.

The course took place shortly before the conference on the 9th and 10th of September and it was arranged and carried out by the team of trainers, who work together in an international EU funded project called IISE: Training Sign Language Interpreters - International Settings. The main aim of this project is to research, collect and promote good practices in sign language interpreting and to develop training materials for an educational package called "Sign Language Interpreting in International Settings". The training materials that will be the final outcome of the project, have been tested and improved according to the results of a field-test (held during efsli 2009 conference in Estonia) and two test-courses – one took place in spring 2010 for the interpreter students of Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) and Tartu University (Estonia), and the second is the one that was held in Scotland before and during efsli 2010 conference.

Although all the above mentioned courses can be considered quite successful as they have given the IISE team a lot of valuable information and feedback, the course in Glasgow was still probably the most successful one. At this test course, while compiling the course materials, it was possible to rely more already on the results and feedback of previous test courses and also the surveys, which have been conducted in relation with the IISE project. On the other hand, a great role in the overall success was also played by the participants who were very active, open to receive what was offered and willing to share their thoughts on different topics.

The test-course in Glasgow was attended by all the 13 interpreters, who provided interpreting services to more than 230 conference participants from 32 different countries in the following languages and interpreting teams:

- English - international sign (2 hearing interpreters)
- English - British SL - international sign (2 hearing and 2 deaf interpreters)
- English - British SL (2 interpreters and 1 private interpreter for one presentation)
- English - Russian (2 interpreters)
- English - French (2 interpreters)

Special attention during the course was given to the topics of attitude, teamwork, and preparation, as from the feedback of previous test-courses and surveys it was shown, that these are first and foremost considered to be the three most important ones in assuring successful interpretation. In addition other topics were discussed such as cultural knowledge and identity, teaming, checklists for different parties involved in providing the overall interpreting service and working in interpreter chains. Information sharing and theoretical discussions were combined with practical exercises, where the interpreters had a chance to try out the working of the most challenging "soon-to-happen" interpreting chains as well as the cooperation between their team members.

The two days of the course were a good chance for the interpreters to get more acquainted with each other and to forestall different problems that might come up at the actual interpreting situations.

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The time spent together also made the spoken language and sign language interpreters get more aware of each others work, which was also an important part in making the cooperation in the whole interpreting team more fluent.

According to the results of the survey, which was sent to the interpreters after the conference, the two day IISE training in general got positive feedback. Interpreters responded, that they were happy to have a chance to attend the training, although some also commented that it could have been somewhat shorter, and not organized so shortly before the efsli 2010 conference (as they would have liked to have had more preparation time by themselves), little less concentrating on signing issues (as not everyone was a sign language interpreter) and more dealing with the concrete preparation of the actual event to happen. The responses indicated that the most useful parts of the course were team work, practicing of interpreting chains, cooperation, and interpreting techniques.

The chance to get to know all the team members and build up a good team spirit was valued highly as well - the success of this could also be seen and felt by the interpreters themselves during the performance at the conference. According to the open comments of the survey that was sent to all participants after the conference, the cooperation, flexibility and team work of the interpreters got good overall ratings too: "The flow and co-operation between the team was seamless", "Fantastic team work", "It seemed to me like a very good form of collaboration", "They seemed to be a very cooperative and supportive team" – these are just a few examples of the answers that were given about this matter. As for the IISE team, the

overall positive and supportive attitude within the whole interpreting team and great cooperation during all these two days of training and two days of conference was probably the best outcome of the course as well and we would sincerely like to thank all the interpreters for helping to achieve that.

At present the IISE project is getting close to its end, as the two years of work will be finished in December 2010. At the moment the project team is busy with last minute work of compiling and producing training materials for an educational package, which will include several topics related to interpreting in multicultural and multilingual settings. The materials will be published on a DVD, that will be shared (without charge) with anyone who is interested in using it for training interpreters for working in international settings. In addition the project will also develop a web-based "Quick Guide to Working with International Interpreter Teams". For more information about the project or DVD see the project's web page www.project-iise.eu, where you can also find the contacts of the project coordinator (Diaconia University of Applied Sciences). ■



Implementation of Sign Language Legislation Conference in Brussels, 19 November 2010

by Liivi Hollman, efsli board member



On Friday, 19 November 2010, an historical event took place at the European Parliament in Brussels. Maya de Wit, the President of efsli and the efsli board had the honour to participate in the first Implementation of Sign Language Legislation Conference organised by the European Union of the Deaf and hosted by Dr Ádám Kósá, member of the European Parliament.

The main aim of the conference was to support the recognition of sign languages and sign language legislation in Europe, but moreover, to support and encourage the implementation of existing legislation. Because, the real work only starts after the revolution, as László Tőkés, the Vice-President of the European Parliament, said in his opening speech. Therefore, legislation and recognition cannot be the aim in itself, but should be followed by better services improving access to education, public life, employment etc. By having a pioneering Deaf person as a Member in the European Parliament and the first Deaf people as Members of Parliaments of European Member States, the Deaf community has taken the first steps of the thousand miles journey as expressed by Markku Jokinen, the President of WFD.

Use of sign language is a basic human right and access to the information in one's own language is one of the main principles of democracy within Europe. Equal access and a barrier-free Europe for sign language users is mainly provided through quality interpreting services provided by trained and qualified sign language interpreters. But the recognition of sign languages does not only mean the right to use sign languages without restrictions, it also leads to the support of research and the development of the languages as well as the promotion and appreciation of the culture of which the language is an integral part.



The presenters of the conference were Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission, Ildikó Bernáth, Ministerial Commissioner for Disability in Hungary, Berglind Stefánsdóttir, President of the EUD, Markku Jokinen, President of the WFD, Maya de Wit, President of efsli, Liz Scott Gibson, President of WASLI, Mark Wheatley, Executive Director of the EUD, Csilla Bartha from Eötvös Loránd University and Research Institute for Linguistics, Helga Stevens, Member of the Flemish Parliament in Belgium and Member of the Senate at the Belgian Federal Parliament, Dr Gergely Tapolczai, Member of the Hungarian Parliament and Professor Patricia Shores-Hermann from Zürich University of Applied Sciences of Special Needs Education.

They described the best practices in Europe, different ways to sign language legislation and what happens after the legislation is already in place and what steps must be taken when the party is over. There are examples in Europe where legislation has opened the doors for different services as well as examples where accessibility for Deaf people and the right to communicate in their own language is restricted despite of the existing laws and acts. Therefore, the need for continuous lobbying was stressed. The call for unified minimum standards to set up in the EU for the education and for the services provided to sign language users was also expressed by the presenters as well as by the audience. As for interpreting services, the more professional that the interpreters are the better access for the sign language users that can be provided. Therefore the minimum standard for sign language interpreters should be a bachelor's degree in addition to language proficiency and cultural knowledge, suggested Professor Shores-Hermann.

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All working and participating interpreters present at the conference

The conference concluded with the signing of a Brussels Declaration by Dr. Ádám Kósá, the Presidents of EUD, efsli, WFD, WASLI and the representatives of the National Associations of the Deaf. The Brussels Declaration on Sign Languages in the EU is a document containing demands regarding education, sign language interpreting, employment and other areas.

Among other things it states that indigenous national sign languages are native languages of sign language users, and sign languages as well as Deaf Culture are one of the pillars of the Sign Language Using Community, there they must be protected and promoted nationally and regionally. Communicating and using a native language is a fundamental human right and every sign language user must have the right to use their native sign language without restriction or discrimination. Sign language users must have equal access to public life, education, and employment and this full participation must be promoted and protected through legislation.

The aim of the document is to make the policy makers aware of the needs of the Deaf Community as well as give the Deaf leaders a document to achieve recognition at national level.

After the conference, a book Sign Language Legislation in the European Union, written by the EUD in co-operation with the National Associations of the Deaf and National Associations of the Sign Language Interpreters was launched. It is the first comprehensive study of legislation relating to sign languages in EU and its member states. The book includes an overview of legislation at UN and EU level as well as the existing legislation regarding the sign languages of each EU country. The descriptions of the countries also include the national sign languages, the estimated number of its users and the latest figures of registered sign language interpreters. The book shows that the sign languages used in Europe are mentioned in and recognised by a number of different laws and documents including constitutions, disability laws, educational acts, and language laws, some countries even have separate acts or laws for sign language.

After the conference the efsli board also participated in the EUD 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner during which many fond memories from the previous Presidents and board members of EUD were shared including historical videos and photos, and chats with Deaf people from all around Europe. In her wonderful greeting speech Maya de Wit, the President of efsli gave the EUD our openness, our experiences and our hearts on a way we walk which we undertake together. ■

Professional Training Program in Sign Language Interpreting for Deaf

Students at University of Hamburg by Simone Scholl, Angus Baigent and Christian Rathmann



Deaf sign language interpreters have been working in Germany for many years in diverse settings in which Deaf foreign visitors and/or immigrants or Deaf people with either special needs or little linguistic background in German have required interpreting services. Nowadays, there is an increasing number of Deaf sign language interpreters working in the context (but not limited to) of international conferences, Deaf sport events or cultural events where one of the languages is either International Sign or sign language of another country (see for example Boudreault 2005, Ladd 2003, Stone 2006, Stone, Adam & Carty 2010).

Until now, there has been no professional training designed and developed for Deaf interpreters in Germany. The experiences that Deaf interpreters have gathered in these scenarios has led to well-defined demands for the setting up of dedicated professional training in this area, and, with this, recognition that this new professional group are not merely “helpers for hearing interpreters” (the so-called “relay interpreters”), but sign language interpreters in their own right.

The Institute for German Sign Language and Communication for the Deaf (IDGS) in cooperation with the Office of Continuing Education for Academics (AWW) at the University of Hamburg offers a new professional education programme that is unique in Germany in offering a formal qualification for Deaf sign language interpreters. The programme follows a modular structure. The six basic modules and two advanced modules take the form of seminars and workshops and are mainly orientated around practical expertise. One third of each module consists of lessons which students are required to attend (approximately 14 hours), while two-thirds are made up of preparation and homework (approximately 28 hours).

They include three distinct combinations of languages: German Sign Language and a sign language of a different country German Sign Language and International Sign German Sign Language and written German.

This program covers all the topics essential to any program leading to a formal qualification as a sign language interpreter:

- (a) Memory training techniques as a basis for effective interpreting processes
- (b) Translation studies (with the emphasis on acquisition of cognitive skills which serve as a foundation for interpreting processes and self-reflective interpreting error analyses)
- (c) Professional ethics with particular reference to development of professional identity as a Deaf Interpreter and to code of ethics
- (d) Applied sign language linguistics for interpreters, such as sociolinguistics (including sociolinguistic variations, e.g. region, age, gender), home sign systems, linguistic properties of International Sign and the use of the iconic resources in sign languages as well as the use of signing space
- (e) Translation of written language into sign language
- (f) Simultaneous interpreting
- (g) International Sign
- (h) Interpreting from an autocue with emphasis on TV- interpreting and on translating written texts into sign language for online media.

After successful completion of the six required basic modules and two optional advanced modules, the graduates are entitled to enter for governmental certification exams that candidates in Germany are required to pass to become state-certified sign language interpreters. The candidates choose which one of three possible language combinations mentioned above to focus on.

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Discuss on the online efsli forum:

“training of deaf interpreters”. More

information on the education of sign

language interpreters: www.efsli.org/

efsli/trainers education.

As with university degrees and the degrees conferred by higher education colleges, this governmental certification examination is a recognized qualification for hearing interpreters. This ensures a formal qualification for Deaf interpreters that is on par with those of their hearing counterparts, which in turn means a right to appropriate pay rates which are laid down in the law on the remuneration of expertise providers, interpreters, translators and on the compensation for honorary magistrates, witnesses and third parties (Legal Remuneration and Compensation Act, JVEG).

Passing these governmental certification examinations is also a prerequisite in Germany for the membership of professional sign interpreting associations which provides a solid foundation for their professional development. Deaf interpreters will attain the same job description and professional status as their hearing colleagues. Only the combination of languages is an implicit indication as to whether an interpreter is Deaf or hearing.

The professional education program is also of interest in the ongoing EU project EuroSign Interpreters, a part of the EU program for lifelong learning. The project is led by the University of Sussex in the UK. Other project partners are the Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters in the Czech Republic and the Institute for German Sign Language and Communication of the Deaf at the University of Hamburg; a new partner located in Poland is also likely to join the project soon. Project aims include (but are not limited to) the raising of awareness of Deaf interpreting in two sign languages and the development of a resource that allows Deaf entrepreneurs access to European markets. In addition, the creation of professional guidelines for Deaf interpreters is planned, which is based on the results of expert panel groups in various domains held throughout the project partners' home countries.

The core of the project is the creation of teaching materials for the four sign languages represented in the project consortium which will be integrated into an eLearning platform that can be used in training Deaf interpreters. Furthermore, the project partners aim to have a good cooperation with EFSLI. This will encourage existing professional interpreting associations to invite Deaf interpreters by training as full members and to provide professional support. ■

efsli Newsletter editor VACANCY

The efsli board is looking for an efsli Newsletter editor. The efsli Newsletter editor is a voluntary position and until today has been carried out by the efsli board. Due to the increase in duties and tasks of the efsli board, the need has risen for a person who would like to carry out this task.

The efsli Newsletter is published three times a year, in March, June, and November. The layout is carried out by a DTP professional, and is not the responsibility of the editor. The tasks of the editor is to:

- Decide on the content of each efsli Newsletter (3 x per year)
- Cooperate with the efsli board on specific efsli related content
- Network and contact potential authors to contribute to the efsli Newsletter
- Collect the contributions by a set deadline
- Collect illustrative materials
- Edit the contributions and cooperate with the DTP professional on the exact set up per page
- Finalise the Newsletter in cooperation with the DTP professional and the efsli board

The efsli board is looking for a person who likes to contribute to the profession on an international level within a defined but flexible task. A creative person who knows how to work with internet, email, and text editing software and who likes to network internationally. If you would like to take on this exciting task, or if you like further information, please send an email by January 1st to newsletter@efsli.org



“The efsli board wishes you an inspiring, healthy and wonderful 2011!”

efsli calendar

January 2011

January 21–23

efsli winter school, Performing Arts Interpreting Nitra, Slovakia
www.efsli.org/efsli/efslischools/winterschool_2011.php

February 2011

February 17–19

International Symposium: Videoconference and remote interpreting in legal proceedings, London, England
www.videoconference-interpreting.net/Symposium.html

June 2011

June 22–26

National Asian Deaf Congress, New York, USA
www.nadc-usa.org

July 2011

July 18–23

2011 RID National Conference: Growing Globally, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
www.rid.org

July 22-25

WASLI Conference, Think Globally, Act Locally, Durban, South Africa
www.wasli.org

July 18–24

16th World Congress of the WFD, Global Deaf Renaissance, Durban, South Africa
www.wfd2011.com

September 2011

September 16-18

efsli 2011 AGM and conference "Sight Translation - Sight Interpreting - Meeting at the Cross Modes", Salerno, Italy
www.efsli.org

September 14-15

EUMASLI seminar, Salerno, Italy
www.eumasli.eu

Advertising policy

All efsli related material will be advertised free of charge, documentation should be forwarded to the newsletter editor. All other material for example: courses, businesses, individual freelancers and their services, Trainers, Agencies, Universities and/or training centres, equipment, etc depending on the membership category will be published at the rates state. Materials should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at newsletter@efsli.org

Please be informed that we welcome advertisements with relevance to the members and also other publicity not completely in line with the aims and objectives of efsli. However the Board reserves the right to reject any advertisements or announcements that are considered inappropriate. The prices of the advertisement refer only to one published advert in one edition of the newsletter. Any further publication would have to follow the same procedure.

Page size	non-members	members
Full page	€100	€50
Half page	€60	€30

Deadline, formats, payments

Proof of payment and electronic documentation of the advert (PDF, rtf, txt) should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at the address above.

The Board reserve the right for all material which is received later than the following deadlines to be published in the next issue and/or on the website. Policy and rates for advertising on the website will follow shortly.

The deadlines for contributions are:

15 February for March edition

15 May for June edition

15 Oct for Nov edition

To place an Advertisement please contact Liivi Hollman at publicity@efsli.org



Newsletter December 2010