



Newsletter: Summer Edition

“Professional Improvements” June 2011

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Lifelong Learning Programme



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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Professional Improvements

by Tim Curry Editor

Dear members,

It's spring again, time for another edition of the efsli newsletter. Where I come from in the U.S. we say, if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. Sometimes that is true of our profession. If we don't like one assignment, wait until the next one. We have good days and bad days. Sometimes we dwell on our mistakes or on our choice of words, signs or decisions too much. It is good to reflect and gain insight on how to improve ourselves, but we also need to remember we did the best that we could at that moment. This is how professionals behave.

This edition is themed "Professional Improvements". Many times, we categorise interpreters as "interpreters and professional interpreters". However, what do we mean by that? Some people would say, a professional interpreter is a highly skilled interpreter that follows a code of ethics. I would say, yes, that could be one definition. However, a professional does not necessarily mean "skilled" in the languages. I think we should separate the word professional from the skilled interpreter and analyse what it means. I have seen many highly skilled interpreters who did not act professionally. I have also seen the opposite, a very professional service provider who was not highly skilled at the interpreting process. However, many times, our clients will prefer the professional attitude with lower interpreting skills to a highly skilled unprofessional person.

Professionalism is a quality of character. It is hard to teach. Each of us must develop these characteristics ourselves. Professionalism is a mixture of moral values, business ethics, social skills and communication skills. As interpreters we need to be well-versed on the proper etiquette of multiple settings. This takes time, experience and awareness of our surroundings.

The articles in this issue detail some ways that our profession is growing and how we may start to improve our professionalism. Our president has wonderful news about how efsli has great opportunities to evolve with support from the European Union. Our vice president takes a look at ANIOS in Italy, which is hosting our annual conference in September, and how they have come from small roots to blossom into a large ever-growing organisation. The president of EULITA personally introduces us to that expert organisation of legal interpreters. Efsli has developed a professional relationship with EULITA to encourage teamwork between our spoken-language colleagues and us. We also have interesting articles about new services from Vienna, research in the Czech Republic, new online sign language classes from several countries and more. The research and new services that are being developed should encourage each of us to strive to improve our professional services.

In the Czech Republic, Deaf leaders asked me to develop a two and a half year program (now finishing its first year) to educate and train their sign language students who wished to become interpreters. From this personal experience of the new collaborations, seminars and products, I see more and more activities to improve our vocation. There will be times we need to change our point of view or our methods of teaching, but we should not be afraid to take those chances. Winston Churchill told us that, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

However, I do not like change if the goal is only "to change". Arthur C. Clark reminded us that, "The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible."

Letters to the Editor or articles can be submitted to newsletter@efsli.org.

Deadlines for submission:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Spring Edition: | February 15 |
| Summer Edition: | May 15 |
| Winter Edition: | November 15 |





At the end of March, the efsli board received the exciting news that the application to the EU for the Jean Monnet Operating Grant had been approved. The Jean Monnet Operating grant is to support efsli to operate on a daily basis. The efsli board had applied for a three-year framework agreement, which means that with this approval efsli has been awarded an annual grant for 2011 and has signed a three-year agreement. This means that efsli has to still report annually on the operating grant, submit the final reports and also send in a new work plan and budget for 2012, at the end of 2011, and for 2013, at the end of 2012.

This three-year framework agreement provides a better opportunity to enhance efsli's work plan for a long-term period of three years, instead of a short-term plan for one year. Please take a look at the more detailed article in this Newsletter on the Jean Monnet Operating grant, the EU ET 2010/2020 and the efsli work plan for the coming three years.

Due to the large EU financial support, efsli has been able to continue to contract our administrative support, Minke Salome. Minke has been proven to be of excellent benefit to the daily efsli work. Her main responsibility is

coordinating the mailbox of the efsli secretariat and the membership management. The second person contracted by efsli is Lourdes Calle, as the new efsli project coordinator. Lourdes is a sign language interpreter from Spain with experience in managing projects. The efsli board is very much looking forward to moving efsli forward with the support of our new staff.

In the coming months efsli will be present at several important events. The EUD seminar in Budapest, which was attended by our treasurer Paul Pryce Jones and myself as efsli president (see this issue for a report) In addition, the first efsli Training on Demand will take place in Denmark at the end of June. Mark Wheatley, EUD director, and I will be presenting together at the WASLI conference in July South Africa. Following these events, we are all very much looking forward to the efsli AGM and conference in Vietri sul Mare in Italy, which will be preceded by the two-day EUMASLI seminar. ANIOS, the Italian Association of Sign Language Interpreters, has been working very hard to organise this annual efsli event. The participants will be treated to a true cruise along the Amalfi Coast on Friday evening, which is free for efsli individual members. We are also thrilled to have Christian Rathmann as our keynote speaker, opening the efsli conference on Saturday morning. The scientific committee managed to present an inspiring programme with presenters from across Europe and beyond.

Till we see each other at one of the many events, keep yourself up to date by visiting the latest news on the efsli website.

Maya de Wit
efsli president

ANIOS: a journey through history

By Marinella Salami, efsli vice-president and Elena Pizzuto



Marinella presenting at the ANIOS seminar

A promotional seminar of ANIOS, one of the two Italian Associations of Sign Language Interpreters, was held in Rome on the 15th of April which was a journey through the history of the association from the 1980s, when ANIOS was established, to the upcoming future when ANIOS will host the efsli AGM and conference in Vietri sul Mare (Salerno, Italy) from the 16th to the 18th of September. Being an ANIOS member myself, it was very exciting to be there on behalf of efsli to present a paper on sign language interpreters from the efsli perspective.

Sign Language interpreters share common backgrounds all over the world. Their story always begins in the same way. Italy makes no exception. ANIOS was founded in 1987 by a small group of Italian Sign Language interpreters with the support of the Italian Deaf Association. It was meant to operate as a local association at a regional level. The growing interest in Sign Language studies and Sign Language interpreting as a profession, ensured ANIOS gained national status. Now it has nine regional branches all over Italy while its headquarters are in Rome. The existence of interpreter associations is one of the most important indicators of professionalisation. ANIOS is making every effort to improve the standards of the profession, interpreter training and working conditions. One of the big challenges of present day is the recognition of Italian Sign Language (LIS) as a language in its own right. The Italian Deaf Association has lobbied in favour of such a law with ANIOS by its side. It is now time to reap the benefits of what has been sown. A bill has been approved by the Senate on the 16th of March and is now under discussion at the Chamber of Deputies for its final approval. Politicians from the Italian Parliament were present at the ANIOS seminar as a sign of mutual cooperation and support.



MP Luciana Pedoto opening the ANIOS seminar

The role of Italian Sign Language interpreters has undergone tremendous changes. Basically considered as helpers in the old days, they have gradually become aware of bearing the status of “bilingual-bicultural professionals”. The very first sign language interpreter training courses were set up at the beginning of the 80’s although it is not really appropriate to talk about “training”. As a matter of fact, it was wrongly believed that to be a skilled sign language interpreter meant to be a good signer only. Would-be interpreters were taught single signs that had equivalent words in spoken Italian. They learned to transfer spoken Italian words into signs and they were not required to voice-over. Sign Language grammar, syntax and morphology were unknown subjects and the interpreting processing task was totally ignored. The form of communication used by Deaf people was generally labelled as “gestures”, “pantomime” or it was confused with the manual alphabet, which had been used by different generations of hearing school boys and girls.

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Humberto Insolera, EUD Board member, greeting participants

ANIOS: a journey through history

Academic discussions about the nature of signed languages had already been started, but it was only in 1987 that the first scientific book on the visual communication of Deaf people was released and the term "Italian Sign Language" (or LIS for short) was introduced. Research has brought about a development towards Deaf and Sign Language awareness and in turn towards the goal of improving Sign Language interpreter education. Unfortunately, a standard curriculum valid all over Italy still does not exist. Therefore sign language interpreting training varies from area to area and can be very unequal in quality. Courses usually take two years (sometimes three years) for a total amount of classroom teaching ranging from a minimum of 700 hours to a maximum of 1,200 hours. Each type of course has its own modular system, i.e. full-time classes or lessons twice or three times a week plus occasional weekend classes. So, different combinations are possible.



The president of ANIOS, Marcello Cardarelli, introducing the seminar

Most Italian sign language interpreters work on a freelance basis. Sometimes they are hired for one-year contracts (which can be renewed annually) especially in educational settings. Although the majority take interpreting as a second job (it is still difficult to make a living at it, except for a "happy few"), there is not a shortage of interpreters, as Marcello Cardarelli, president of ANIOS, has said. More correctly - he pointed out - they are not well distributed across the country. So it may happen that we have too many interpreters located in one area and not enough in another.

ANIOS is now looking forward to efsli 2011, the big event of the year. An attempt to organise the efsli AGM and annual conference in Italy was first made in 2005 by another association. The project did not take off due to budget difficulties. The dream has now come true and the efsli AGM and conference will be hosted by a country



Antonietta Bertone, chief coordinator of ANIOS organizing committee for efsli 2011



efsli 2011 will take place in Vietri sul Marea

in the Mediterranean region after so many editions in the Northern European countries. Antonietta Bertone, chief coordinator of ANIOS organizing committee, gave an overview of the official programme and illustrated the latest updates about the event. A private beach, sunny days and delicious Italian food are waiting for you in Vietri sul Mare. Registrations are coming in very rapidly. Do not forget to book your place to be part of the Italian history of sign language interpreters.

The ANIOS seminar was dedicated to the loving memory of Elena Pizzuto, a renowned Italian researcher in the sign language field and member of the efsli 2011 Scientific Committee. She prematurely passed away last January and she will be deeply missed by all of us.

Ciao, Elena!

Presenting EULITA – European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association

by Liese Katschinka



This international not-for-profit association (aisbl) was established under the Criminal Justice Programme of the Directorate-General Justice, Freedom, and Security of the European Commission (project number JLS/2007/JPEN/249) in November 2009.

Since that time, some 20 professional associations of legal interpreters and translators in 14 EU member states have joined EULITA as full members. The almost 35 associate members comprise two European organizations, the international professional associations AICC and CIUTI, several universities and individual members, as well as interpreter and translator organizations from outside the European Union and from overseas countries.

EULITA has joined the EU's Justice Forum as one of the stakeholders in the judicial process. As such it contributed to the EU Directive on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings, which was ultimately adopted on 26 October 2010. The Association is now planning regional workshops under another EU project in order to foster the implementation of the Directive.

In the course of its first year of operation, EULITA was invited to join a number of EU projects as an associate partner and, in fact, cooperated with the CCBE on the project of factsheets for defendants in criminal proceedings. Interdisciplinary cooperation will continue to be one of the priorities in the years to come, since it contributes towards better training and continuous professional development of legal interpreters and translators, as well as more effective communication through interpretation.

Working on model curricula for the training of legal interpreters and translators, as well as on a European code

of ethics and professional conduct, together with Best Practices for language services in judicial settings are the tasks ahead of the Association, as it embarks on its second year of activities.

The Executive Committee of EULITA consists of Liese Katschinka (Austria), President, Christiane Driesen (Germany), Vice-President, Zofia Rybinska (Poland), Vice-President, Kristiina Antinjuntti (Finland), Secretary, Lucía Castaño-Castaño (Spain), Treasurer, and the members Flavia Caciagli (Italy) and Maya de Wit (Netherlands).

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about EULITA visit their website at www.eulita.eu. You can also contact them at their registered office: Lessius University College, B-2018 Antwerp, Jozef De Bomstraat 11, Belgium or by email at info@eulita.eu.



Introducing Minke Salome!

by Tim Curry, Editor



We all have benefited from the hard work of this individual. Many of you know her name, but not many of us know who she really is. So, here is a short interview to get to know her.

Where are you originally from and where do you call home now?

I was born in 1953 in the Netherlands in a new drained part of land (polder). With a lot of farmers, my parents were the first inhabitants there. I now live near Apeldoorn, which is in the middle of the country.

What languages do you know?

Dutch, English and German. In France, I can order a cup of coffee or look for a hotel, but the difficulty is that French people talk so very quickly as soon as they think you speak their language (sorry Stéphane!).

Where and why did you learn these languages?

In our country, most people of my generation learned a few languages in high school. I like to use my languages when meeting people from other countries/cultures. My English became even better during my secretarial job at an American company where I worked for 12 years.

How long have you been interpreting?

I only worked as a communication assistant and not as an interpreter. I tried to work with a keyboard and took the training when I was 50. Due to that training, I met a lot of interpreters and became secretary of the Dutch association of SLI. Secretarial work is what I like best. I have a lot of respect for SLI, because it is a very complicated profession.

When did you first get involved with efsli?

When I started my job for the Dutch Association of SLI (2005), I worked together with Maya de Wit. I was responsible for the registration of the efsli conference in the Netherlands in 2008, where I met a lot of enthusiastic efsli members and felt myself adopted into the efsli family. When I saw the vacancy of the efsli job last year, I did not hesitate to apply for this challenge.

What do you do for the efsli board?

I started with administrative work, and recently my role has expanded with more secretarial tasks. One of my tasks involves the membership work, like registering new members and financial control of the membership fees (and sending reminders ;)). I also make sure that certain information on our website is up to date such as, European training overview/web shop/country reports. In addition to that, I support the board on several daily tasks, like the upcoming AGM. Every day I am processing all the incoming email and I enjoy the international contacts very much.

What do you like most about efsli?

Efsli is a growing organisation with a lot of work to be done. I like starting new things. I also like the professional work of the efsli board and have already seen the necessity of all interpreters in Europe to share information and represent themselves as a European association. The Special Attendance Fund of efsli and the new Research Fund give me the feeling that efsli really cares for interpreters in all European countries, and not only for the modern western European ones. I am proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation.

Tell us something about yourself that might be surprising.

In my view everybody is special, but to surprise someone takes more! I am a very optimistic person; I love my family and my job. I feel it as a privilege to be in good health so I can make beautiful trips all over the world with my husband. My view of life: remember yesterday, dream of tomorrow, but live today!

Tim Curry

editor

efqli conference ITALY 2011. Register NOW!

Registration deadlines: Before July 1st: regular After July 1st: late

Friday night CRUISE!
Meals and breaks INCLUDED!
Student DISCOUNT!



Check out the full details and see who's already coming at our website!
www.efqli2011.org. You can pay using a bank card with Paypal or via bank account.

This year's conference will be a unique event. This will be the first time the efqli conference will be held in beautiful southern Europe. This is a great opportunity to meet with colleagues from all over Europe and abroad. Many experts in our field will be presenting and you will have ample time to engage them in conversation during our social gatherings. Each year efqli brings us together to revitalize each of us. Such a conference gives us motivation and energy to continue our passionate drive to improve our profession. Please join us in September!



www.efqli2011.org



Education and Culture DG

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provincia di salerno



New interpreting service of sign language in Austria: DolmetschServicePlus

by Elke Schaumberger

Team Galerie Leitbild Geschäftsbedingungen FAQs Impressum Kontakt

DolmetschService Plus
Gebärdensprache

DolmetschService Plus

DolmetschServicePlus ist ein eingespieltes Team aus Gebärdensprachdolmetscherinnen und -dolmetschern, das Ihnen durch fundierte Ausbildung und langjährige Erfahrung ein umfassendes Service bietet.

Unser Haupttätigkeitsfeld ist die bestmögliche Absicherung der Kommunikation zwischen hörenden und gehörlosen Menschen. Eine gelungene Verständigung zwischen Ihnen und Ihrem Gegenüber ist unser oberstes Ziel.

© 2011 DolmetschServicePlus

Who is behind the interpreters' platform DolmetschServicePlus?

Four experienced sign language interpreters, Christian Bruna, Patricia Brück, Elke Schaumberger and Sabine Zeller have decided to cooperate more closely and offer their services on the web. They have created a service portal for deaf and hearing customers. They come from different professions: teacher for the deaf, trainer, text editor, spoken language interpreter, accountant, and look back on more than 40 years of experience in sign language interpreting in educational, medical, political and work related settings as well as in the media.

The idea was Elke's who had studied and worked abroad, had seen interpreters' agencies there and wanted to improve the interpreter service in Vienna. She asked her three colleagues with whom she had already teamed, if they were interested in networking more closely and to launch a website together. It took more than one

year and some professional help by deaf and hearing consultants to define the services as well as the concept of the website. There were many decisions to make like defining communication modes, workflow from query to invoice, and PR activities. There are regular team meetings to be held and information to be distributed as quickly as possible. Moreover, not to forget, improvement of the services, contact with customers, internal training and many other tasks. Nevertheless, it is a lot of fun! Try it yourself! www.dolmetschserviceplus.at

The website is easy to access for all customers: information is available and accessible (WCAG 2.0) in written and sign language. Therefore, the service is also available to blind, visually impaired or physically challenged customers. Deaf customers like the clear design and the presentation of the sign language text on the left side of the screen.

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New interpreting service of sign language in Austria: DolmetschServicePlus



They comment that it feels right to give the priority of the left side to sign language so that the written text seems to be the translation of the video, which, by the way, really has been the concept of the authors. In fact, they started from the signed text and adapted the written text to the signed version.

Apart from that, the website gives access to the services, but also a lot of information on interpreting, translating and on sign language. There are frequently asked questions for new customers who have not been confronted to sign language users before.

On top of that, DolmetschServicePlus offers new kinds of services. Apart from the usual combination of German and Austrian Sign Language, they offer interpretation from/into English, German Sign Language and International Sign, they do translations, they do text corrections, they edit written and signed texts, they offer consultancy on sign language interpretation for organizers of events or conferences, they hold seminars on didactics of sign language training, on sign language interpreting or on concept formation in deaf children.

So far, so good. But why and how has this platform of sign language interpreters been set up? Austria is a kind of developing country in regards to sign language and its interpretation. The Austrian Association of Sign Language Interpreters was only founded in November 1998 after the World Conference of the Deaf had taken place in Vienna in 1995. Austria has about 100 sign language interpreters the majority of whom are self-employed. In some federal states there are interpreting agencies run by the deaf associations. This is not the case for Vienna, the capital with the largest deaf community of the country.

To find an interpreter for a meeting, deaf and hearing customers had to make use of the mailing address of the Sign Language Interpreters' Association and could only hope that one of the more than 30 interpreters would answer and be available. They had to deal with all interpreters who answered. Now, the situation has changed. DolmetschServicePlus offers customers the chance to look for another interpreter if all four of them are already booked. The client only fills in an online form and the query is in the queue to be dealt with. There is also an online feedback form that can be used to give comments or critiques on the services as well as on the website itself. But DolmetschServicePlus still wants to improve. They will soon set up the first video relay service in Austria that is supposed to be available twice a week in the beginning stages. And they want to encourage the training of deaf interpreters in Austria and team with them.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Efsli encourages all its members to share their experiences with each other. This article includes a general overview of a new activity intended to improve our clients' experience and the working conditions of interpreters. I hope it gives you a new perspective to help reflect on your own situation and how you might improve conditions in your own region.

Contact: Elke Schaumberger,
elke.schaumberger@dolmetschserviceplus.at

Survey results: Satisfaction with interpreting services for Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients in the Czech Republic.

About the survey:

From October to December 2011 the Czech Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters (CKTZJ) carried out a pilot survey focused on the opinions of Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients concerning the interpreting services in the Czech Republic. This was the first of its kind in the Czech Republic.

The current situation in the Czech Republic: Based on the current Czech legislation, Deaf and hard-of-hearing people have a right to have access to interpreting services and these services are provided by several organisations. Interpreters of Czech sign language (CZJ) can obtain some educational courses at a university level and through courses organised by the CKTZJ.

About the survey methodology:

The aim of the methodology chosen was to involve as many respondents as possible and make the survey user-friendly to sign language users. Due to lack of time, the research team chose an on-line questionnaire, which was translated into CZJ. Both Deaf and hearing specialists were involved in the preparation and design, and implementation of the survey. The information about the survey was disseminated via Facebook, personal e-mails, personal research team networks, and by contacting organisations associated with the Deaf. To support respondents who have little knowledge of computer use, the research provided technical support.

The required data were gathered in 30 days. 227 Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients of different ages, education and gender from all 14 regions in the Czech Republic took part in the survey.

Some highlighted survey results are shown below:

- Most respondents have CZJ as their preferred language and use CZJ interpreting services.
- 12 % of respondents still use a friend instead of a professional SL interpreter.
- 40% of respondents order sign language services less than once a month, 31% order interpreting two to five times per month
- Most interpreting services are provided for doctors' appointments, various presentations, and visits to state authorities.
- 77% of respondents do not receive interpreting services when needed less than once a month and mostly for a doctor's appointment (31%), attending various presentations (20%) and appointments at state authorities.
- The highest number of interpreting services is provided to Deaf in the capital city of Prague.

- 70% of respondents are aware of the Code of Ethics of SL interpreters
- Deaf clients demand from sign language interpreters mostly clear interpreting (42%) and nice behaviour (22%).
- 29% of respondents have two preferred interpreters

Major problems concerning interpreting services mentioned by respondents:

Interpreter does not understand the Deaf client (16%), interpreter is not familiar with the topic he/she is interpreting (16%), Deaf client does not understand the interpreter (12%), interpreter comes late (12%), interpreter is having a chat with hearing members of the interpreted situation (11%), and interpreter breached the commitment of confidentiality (7%)

Currently the main problems in the area of SL interpreting in the Czech Republic include:

low number of professional interpreters (46%), poor pay for SL interpreters, insufficient education of the interpreters (13%), and inability of the interpreters to follow the code of ethics (11%).

According to most of the respondents, the current situation is far from satisfactory, but there has been a visible improvement in sign language interpreting in the last 10 years.

Conclusion:

Results and recommendations have been delivered to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic to suggest specific steps for further improvement of interpreting services for deaf and hard-of-hearing in the Czech Republic. The current research identified a number of weak points in the SL situation in the Czech Republic, but to understand them in depth, further research conducted by means of different methods should be considered.

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank all members of the research team for having implemented this survey. We appreciate the cooperation of the respondents who have helped us make steps towards improvement of the sign language interpreting situation in the Czech Republic.

Tamara Kovacova,

Team leader of the survey project for CKTZJ

Seminar of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD)

The art of lobbying – effective strategies to maximize national implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - by Maya de Wit, efsli president & Paul Pryce-Jones, efsli treasurer



SINOSZ, the Hungarian Deaf Association, hosted on 27th May 2011 the seminar of the European Union of the Deaf in Budapest. Paul Pryce-Jones, efsli treasurer, and Maya de Wit, efsli president, attended the seminar on behalf of efsli. The topic of the seminar was ‘Yes we can! The art of lobbying – effective strategies to maximize national implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’. Nearly 100 participants from across Europe attended the important event, such as the delegates and presidents of the national deaf associations.

The seminar was opened by Ádám Kósa, president of SINOSZ and member of the European Parliament. Ádám Kósa stressed the importance of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the responsibility that we ourselves have to take on to ensure the ratification and the implementation of the convention. Markku Jokinen, president of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), informed the participants that WFD developed a new tool that explained the convention in international sign in more detail, which can be obtained by contacting WFD.

The keynote speaker of the seminar was Susan B. Walker, who was one of the main lobbyists behind the international campaign to ban landmines. She explained the process the campaign went through in order to get the Mine Ban Treaty. Walker emphasized that the persons who know what they need are deaf persons themselves: “Do not wait till they come to you, but be proactive and strategic and collect the necessary information and present this to the responsible parties.” An essential strategy is to mention the UNCRPD in any of the documents, reports and conferences that you organise. In addition, it is recommended to produce ‘shadow’ or parallel reports. These reports are produced on the basis of the data that you collect yourself and can be presented to the UN or other governmental

institutions or political parties to present the information from your perspective as well, and not just from the governmental level. This information is very much needed and should be produced before it is requested by external parties.

Humberto Insolera from the EUD board delivered a packed presentation with information on the varying levels of legal obligation that EU declarations and laws can impose. He laid out the articles of the UNCRPD where sign languages are mentioned, emphasizing the importance that a definition of languages within the document (Article 2) includes signed languages. The Articles on Accessibility (Article 9), Freedom of expressions and opinion and access to information (Article 21) and Education (Article 24) mention sign language or access to interpreters. He highlighted that some nations such as Austria mention sign language at the constitutional level; others like Hungary have specific laws concerned with sign language while some nations such as Germany and the UK use disability legislation or other means to provide access to information in sign language and interpreters.

The last presentation before lunch was delivered by Gábor Gombos, a specialist in the human rights of people with psychosocial disabilities, his presentation focussed on the strength of collaboration for all interest groups and Disabled People Organisations. Mr Gombos had a direct role in the formulation of the UNCRPD as a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He explained that previously differing organisations may have competed for attention and funding from governments but by supporting each other and taking an strong interest in the aims of other organisations leads to strength through unity.

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Seminar of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD)

He described the Quaker model of decision-making, used when formulating the UNCRPD, which includes active listening to create a truly consensual decision amongst all parties before going forward with recommendations to authorities. This meant that all arguments and disagreements are solved behind closed doors and a united front was presented to the UN.

Following lunch, a very engaging presentation was given by Lars Knudsen, the Communication and Media Officer for the EUD. He stated very clearly that national Deaf associations wanting empowerment need to engage with the media to gain the spotlight and achieve their aims. Stories and issues presented to the media must include basic news values such as conflict, prominence, proximity and timeliness. The issue of confused messaging was also addressed as Deaf associations were warned away from diluting their impact by drifting from the main point of their campaigns. Lars also emphasised that all information must be factually correct. Journalists will research and double check facts, if any discrepancies are found then the validity of the source comes into doubt. Positive results of campaigns in Denmark were given including the situation of an unemployed qualified architect; the Deaf association created a campaign with print media focussed upon design and architecture publications, that not only brought to light the discrimination faced by Deaf professionals but resulted in a job for the architect.

The Hungarian Deaf MP Dr Gergely Tapoiczai took the last topic of the day and concisely encapsulated the route that SINOSZ took to achieve sign language legislation in Hungary. He referenced the work of Mr Gombos and the UNCRPD but also described the information bus that travelled around the country informing people about the lives of Deaf people and bring the news of the UNCRPD to Deaf people. Apparently one of the more popular attractions with hearing people was the opportunity to be photographed in a large chair, which was in the shape of a giant hand.

The seminar was brought to a close by Mark Wheatley, EUD director, summarising all the informative presentations that had been given, but that was not the end of the day. Berglind Stefansdottir, EUD President, was able to share the exciting news that the Icelandic Parliament were at that very moment voting on the proposition to increase the legal status of Icelandic Sign Language. A live feed was set up via on a large screen and a crowd gathered to watch the last comments of the discussion and the successful vote. It was a very exciting end to a useful day.

More information on the UNCRPD:
www.un.org/disabilities/

Proceedings from the 30th Anniversary conference of AFILS are ready!

This important event was co-organized by Paris 8 University and brought together researchers, trainers & linguists working in the field who contributed to the recognition of the profession of sign language interpretation in France. Go through 30 years of history to learn about the struggle for the creation of training programmes, the development of SL interpretation in mental/health, legal settings, education, and remote interpreting. A taste of sign language interpretation in Quebec, WASLI & efsli are also detailed. For a copy of the booklet or for more information, please visit www.afils.fr.



Signs2Go: Learning one sign language through another

The Signs2Go online course is now available at www.signs2go.eu! This is a cost-free self-learning tool that makes learning British Sign Language through Norwegian, Italian, Dutch or German Sign Language possible.

The course is based on the expectation that Deaf people will want to use their first sign language to learn a second or foreign sign language. No spoken or written language is used in the course. It is all sign language!

The course was developed in an EU project from January 2009 until March 2011 (for information on the project, go to www.signs2go.eu and click on „i“ for „information“). The main work was done by Deaf sign language teachers Clark Denmark (UK), Unni Helland and Randi Margrete Høidahl (Norway), Tom Uittenbogert (Netherlands), Sabine Fries (Germany) and Luigi Lerose (Italy).

Each of the ten units of the course focusses on an episode from the BSL series Wicked (www.bsibt.co.uk/wicked). The units can be used in any order. BSL videos can be approached through BSL explanations or a choice of national sign languages. Each unit contains extensive language exercises. Online-help is available in sign language.

Please, try out the course and give us your feedback on learning one sign language through another! Please fill in the online questionnaire at www.deafacademy.eu (available in English and German)!

We are also very much interested in adaptations of our course. So, if you have an idea of how to use the Signs2Go framework for your own teaching and learning purposes, do get in touch with us to discuss possible adaptations!

Go to www.signs2go.eu! Contact us at info@signs2go.eu!

advertisement:

The advertisement features a central graphic with a dark blue background. At the top center is the 'SIGNS2GO' logo, which consists of three stylized hands in white and blue above the text 'SIGNS2GO' in white. Below the logo, five sign language teachers are shown from the chest up, each performing a different sign. They are arranged in a semi-circle. From left to right, they are: a woman with red hair (Norwegian), a man in a striped shirt (Italian), a man in a red shirt (UK), a man in a red shirt (Dutch), and a woman with dark hair (German). Below each teacher is a small rectangular flag of their respective country: Norway, Italy, United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Germany. The background of the entire advertisement is a stylized world map in shades of blue and green. At the bottom center, the website address 'www.signs2go.eu' is written in white.

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

14th-15th November, 2011



“Building up a standard curriculum for sign language interpreters across Europe”

The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli) is pleased to announce a working seminar on sign language interpreters' qualification systems in Europe to be held in the Netherlands from the 14th to the 15th of November 2011.

The aim of the seminar will be to develop a “standard” or model curriculum for sign language interpreters with reference to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) - http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc44_en.htm

The working seminar is open for all sign language interpreters' trainers and training institutions across Europe.

Mark your calendar and save the dates! Further information coming soon!

Contact person: Marinella Salami, efsli training department, marinella.salami@efsli.org

Supported by the EU Lifelong Learning Programme



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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

efsli calendar

July 18–23 2011

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

July 22-25 2011

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

July 18–24 2011

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

August 1–4 2011

FIT (International Federation of Translations) XIX World Congress, Bridging Cultures, San Francisco, California, USA
www.fit2011.org/index.htm

August 6-14 2011

European Juggling Convention 2011, Munich, Germany, special events for deaf jugglers, interpretation into IS and German Sign Language provided
www.ejc2011.org

August 22-26 2011

9th Annual Mental Health Interpreter Training Institute, Troy University, Montgomery, Alabama, USA
www.mhit.org/2011institute.html

September 16-18 2011

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

September 14-15 2011

EUMASLI seminar, Salerno, Italy
www.eumasli.eu

September 16 2011

Postgraduate Conference on Current issues in Sign Language, Deafness and Cognition (CISLDC), London, UK, The Deafness, Cognition and Language Centre (DCAL) and City University London
www.ucl.ac.uk/psychlangsci/cisldc2011

October 8-9 2011

5th International Free Linguistic Conference, University of Sydney, Australia
www.freelinguistics.org

October 21-23 2011

SIGN5, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey
www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/journalism_media_communication/islands/sign5.php

October 23 2011

2nd International Workshop on Sign Language Translation and Avatar Technology (SLTAT), University of Dundee, UK (in conjunction with ASSETS 2011, 24-26 October 2011)
<http://embots.dfki.de/SLTAT>, ASSETS 2011 Conference, <http://www.sigaccess.org/assets11/index.html>

November 14 & 15 2011

efsli working seminar "Building up a standard curriculum for sign language interpreters across Europe", the Netherlands
www.efsli.org

November 16-18 2011

Low Countries Conference: Translation and National Images, University of Leuven
www2.arts.kuleuven.be/literatuurwetenschap/nl/node/76

Newsletter June 2011