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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 publicity@efsli.org

Deadlines for submission:
Spring Edition: February 15th
Summer Edition: May 15th
Winter Edition: October 15th

Virtual Learning and Interpreter Training,
AIIC training for trainers, Paris > page 4

efsli Deaf Interpreters Working Seminar > page 5 - 6

efsliT 2014 seminar: Exploring, Sharing and Teaching mind tricks > page 7 - 8

Oratory Speech of Beppie van den Bogaerde > page 9

Interview with Julia Cramer, SAF > page 10

Insign Project: one step closer to having accessible EU institutions > page 12

4º Congresso Nacional de Pesquisas em Tradução e Interpretação de Libras e Língua Portuguesa em Brasil > page 13 - 14

efsli 2015 conference, Warsaw, Poland
Call for abstracts > page 15 - 16
Official Announcement > page 17
Call for sponsors > page 18

Calendar of events > page 19
Advertising policy > page 19
2014 has been a very busy year for all of the board members and staff of efsli. Over and above a full programme of activities and events we have been heavily involved in Insign, the one-year DG Justice-funded project to develop and pilot a Europe-wide remote interpreting service so that Deaf and hard of hearing people from all the member states can access the European institutions as easily and as effectively as their ‘hearing’ counterparts. If the EU accepts the outcomes and findings of the project and formally establishes the service, this will be a major step forward in the long running campaign for full ‘European citizenship’ for Deaf and hard of hearing people. As a full partner in the project, efsli’s main role was to ensure and safeguard the quality and professionalism of the service and we did this by writing the quality standards for service providers and designing the training and professional standards for the interpreters and respeakers who will be the interface between the Deaf/HoH citizens and the European Institutions. We are very grateful to all of the efsli full and individual members who gave their time and expertise by responding to our surveys, undergoing the pilot training courses and interpreting/ respeaking at the demonstrations held at the European Parliament and Commission. We must also thank our Insign partner organisations and the specialist service providers and individual experts who so readily shared their knowledge and experience.

We can also look back on three very successful Europe-wide seminars and conferences. The efsli Deaf Interpreters Seminar was held over two days in September and made good progress in agreeing and establishing the roles and importance of Deaf interpreters in the work that we do. The efsli Conference, very ably hosted by our Belgian colleagues BVTG, saw a very high standard of presentations from all across Europe and we were particularly pleased to welcome Debra Russell, the President of WASLI, as the keynote speaker. And, as if that wasn’t enough, this was immediately followed efsliT, the two-day trainers’ seminar hosted by Myriam Vermeerbergen and the KU Leuven Faculty of Arts in Antwerp. Again, the quality of the presentations was excellent and there can be no doubt that the European signed-language interpreting field is at the forefront of the development of interpreter training and service provision.

Somehow we managed to squeeze the Annual General Meeting of efsli into those hectic few days in Antwerp and we were particularly pleased to welcome Ms. Alba Prieto González, Project Adviser - Erasmus Networks, from the European Commission’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) as an observer. Those of you who were present may remember that I announced that we were embarking on a one-year period of consultation to reconsider the structure of efsli and develop a five year plan to be put to the membership at the 2015 AGM in Warsaw. The (near overwhelming) amount of work we have all undertaken this year underlines the need for efsli to find more efficient and effective ways of working so that we can have even more of an impact on quality interpreting services in the future. With that in mind we co-opted two additional people to the Board whose task it is to lead the consultation and draw up proposals for change. We are very grateful to Prof. Lorraine Leeson, of Trinity College Dublin and Chair of the efsli Committee of Experts, and Prof. Tobias Haug, from the University of Applied Sciences in Zurich, for agreeing to take on this role. We look forward to working with them.

Sadly, during the conference ‘season’, we heard that Josefina Kalousova, our member from the Czech Republic, had decided to stand down from the Board. We are certainly missing her youthful enthusiasm and hope that, sometime in the not too distant future, we will have the opportunity to work closely with her again. In the meantime, thank you Josefina for the year you spent working with us and we wish you well.

Finally, as we stop for a well-earned few days with our families over Christmas, my personal thanks go to Lieve, Jolanda and Chris for everything they have done for efsli over the past twelve months. They’ve had a very tough time of it trying to balance the efsli workload with their family commitments and full-time jobs. And it would be very remiss of me not to thank Minke for keeping efsli’s secretariat working smoothly and Lourdes for coordinating the huge amount of work we have all had, not to mention the hours she has spent writing funding applications and official reports.

Wishing you all a very happy and successful 2015.

Peter
Earlier this year, efsli had the opportunity to join the AIIC Training for Trainers course ‘Virtual Learning and Interpreter Training’ in Paris.

Virtual learning officially only refers to what happens in a live ‘virtual’ classroom. ‘E-learning’ or ‘online learning’ are umbrella terms that refer to all types of training, education and instruction that occur via a digital medium, like a computer or mobile phone, and usually comprises web-based materials. A range of questions were addressed during the course, for example ‘what is effective interpreter training?’ and ‘what should the ideal (online) classroom for interpreters look like?’ Of course, to be effective, training should be practical (using real-life materials), interactive (between the teacher/master and the student/apprentice; and it should allow the students to interact with each other), personalised (it should match the student’s learning needs, language pairs and levels), positive (it should create a safe learning environment where students can make mistakes) and objective (there should be clear, attainable targets). But how can we do this online and what are the best ways to organise online training?

The classical, traditional learning format is to have the teacher at the front of the class, lecturing the students and giving them homework. But online we can have several levels of interaction, e.g. students who are interacting with each other and with their teacher. As a teacher you should focus on participation. Students have to become part of the learning process; they should not be receiving materials passively. Interpreter training is already optimised for online delivery but the most crucial part is that a teacher needs to be behind the online programme. Several things are important for successful online learning, e.g. contact with and feedback from the trainer, clear objectives and a clear structure. Giving good feedback and reporting to the students is time consuming but you may get even closer to students online because communication happens differently and is more concentrated. But students do need to have the feeling that a teacher is available to them. Also important is the communication students have without the teacher. These days a lot of students do this spontaneously via, for example, facebook or google.

Online teaching forces us to take a more structured approach to training. The practical part of the training is important but theory should also be part of the classes. Students want and need to understand what is going on in their heads when they are interpreting.

During the AIIC course many of the participants shared their own experiences of online training. One example given was the Masters in Conference Interpreting course based in Toronto (http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/interpretation/). The first year of the Masters is online but the second year has a blended learning format where there are online classes from teachers combined with weekly practice sessions with the teachers present. Another very good example is EUMASLI, the European Masters in Sign Language Interpreting (http://www.eumasli.eu), which uses blended learning with its students throughout the whole Europe.

There are several challenges associated with virtual learning, for example the gap in technical skills in both trainers and students and initially, at least, it increases the workload for trainers. Teachers may also need to adapt their teaching methods to ensure student engagement.

On the other hand, virtual learning can provide more opportunities by increasing the pool of potential trainers and increasing the pool of potential students. It facilitates access to training for working professionals and allows students to choose courses based on factors other than location.
The Deaf Interpreter working seminar was held at the Madosa Deaf Club on 9th and 10th September 2014 prior to the efsli conference and AGM in Antwerp with almost 30 participants from 8 countries.

In order to understand the Deaf interpreter’s work in more depth, it was important to find out from the participants how they worked as DIs, so efsli would be able to have a deeper understanding of DIs work. Participants were asked to work in groups focusing on different settings, for example in legal settings, settings at the doctor’s office, in hospitals, conferences and in TV. Participants were asked to outline the various aspects of an interpreter’s work, including preparation, client language and register, how they would work in teams with hearing interpreters and other aspects.

Participants were able to share their experiences with others in the group and discussed other questions, for example what roles the interpreters have in teams, who will handle implicit and explicit information from both sides, etc. It was generally felt that, like hearing interpreters, DIs should know how to match the client’s needs across different situations.

There were a number of presentations from Deaf interpreters around Europe. On 9th September, Teresa Lynch and Kathleen Vercryusse presented on aspects of Deaf interpreter work in Ireland and in Flanders.

In Ireland there is a qualification system for DIs which is obtained by a government-funded testing process. Interpreter agencies do not necessarily follow the qualifications regime. This presentation raised the question of how qualifications are aligned with the contracting process for DIs and hearing interpreters.

In Flanders, on the other hand, DIs are used on television in news and children’s programmes. There has been a process of piloting and trying out different ways of working on TV. Language planning has been invaluable in enabling this process, because some of the work on the recognition of VGT has supported the lobbying for VGT to be used on TV. There needed to be discussion about which signs would be used (language standardisation) especially as the media has a standardising effect on any language. In the Q & A session different ways of interpreting from spoken to sign language (autocue or sign language feeder) were discussed.

In Germany there are trained and certified Deaf Interpreters who work in legal and police settings to name a few, and translate from governmental websites related to DIN EN 15038 and, on 10th September, Knut Weinmeister presented on how a sign language translation service operates, using his company Gebaerdenwerk as an example of how Deaf people can work as sign language translators in a variety of settings, including parliaments.

Mark Zaurov presented on working as a Deaf interpreter and recounted some experiences of working alone as a DI without a hearing interpreter present (using German text on a laptop). Bernard Lach presented on working as a Deaf interpreter in Poland, and how Deaf people are involved with STPJM, the sign language interpreters association in Poland. These different experiences of working stimulated much discussion and encouraged participants to see the potential in working as a Deaf interpreter and translator in a variety of settings.

Notes from the seminar were recorded and presented to the efsli board with recommendations for dissemination to all efsli members. These recommendations are set out as follows:

1. Education
   There is a need to define the work of DIs in Deaf education.
   1.1 In mainstream settings DIs can be used in the school classroom – research into the work by DIs in schools and find out where it is happening, school settings including Erasmus placements is very needed
   1.2 Deaf children have right to good interpreters – and this includes DIs
   1.3 A workshop could be organised on educational interpreting for both Deaf and hearing children

2. Conferences
   2.1 efsli should organise spring summer or winter school for DIs
   2.2 efsli should investigate training systems around Europe and make suggestions for appropriate DI training
   2.3 efi and the University of Hamburg should work together to provide information and possible training for DIs, different countries can use this to establish training
   2.4 efsli should enable countries that prevent DIs from being involved to become members
   2.5 efsli should have more IS information on the website
   2.6 East Europeans find attending conferences challenging where there is no sign language interpreters association, DIs should work with the national association of Deaf people; SAF should be used for Eastern European, more events in Eastern Europe

>> continue on page 6
3. Medical situations
3.1 training should be provided in how to work in teams, confidentiality, life-important medical events, ethics
3.2 more information should be made available for DIs from efsli, more information about DI training available; what happens if parents and children (all Deaf) have different SL needs (ie parents are immigrants)
3.3 training should be provided in how DIs and hearing interpreters work together
3.4 a language policy in efsli events on using sign language
3.5 more information should be available on membership of the efsli DI committee

4. Parliament
4.1 efsli should pass on information to EUD for NADs to have better idea of DIs; sign language associations should receive more information about DIs
4.2 DIs should be used in the European Parliament, maybe other European Parliaments will follow suit
4.3 efsli should influence SLIAs on who can contact universities for interpreter training

5. TV
5.1 efsli can collect data on how many countries have DIs, in what settings, which media/TV network, how often, whether they have DIs on TV
5.2 efsli should lobby TV stations to include DIs in access provision
5.3 efsli should encourage the development of guidelines on what kind of training, how the Deaf community can be involved, and set up training on DI and hearing interpreters working together;

6. Hospital
6.1 some VRI settings should use DIs (e.g. diagnosis of cancer, HIV etc)
6.2 procedure for booking interpreters in situations e.g. death should include DIs
6.3 efsli should provide training for DIs in what neutrality mean for DIs – integrity with a aim of good communication
6.4 training and awareness for hospitals in the use of DIs
6.5 easy access of names of DIs, mobility of DIs, can Deaf people request DIs

It was a very fulfilling two-day seminar and Deaf interpreters from around Europe resolved to work together, work with sign language interpreters associations and Deaf associations to improve the status and work opportunities for Deaf interpreters around Europe.
September is traditionally an exciting month for signed language interpreters with the organization of the efsli AGM, the efsli conference and the efsli trainers’ seminar.

This year Antwerp was the place to be. Following the successful efsli conference on Mind Tricks, organised by the BVGT (Association of Flemish Sign Language Interpreters), the KU Leuven Arts Faculty - campus Antwerp - hosted the efsli trainers’ seminar. The local organising committee happily welcomed a very enthusiastic group of researchers, teachers and practitioners.

The topic of the seminar was in line with the preceding efsli conference; Teaching mind tricks? From consecutive to simultaneous interpreting… and back. However, since efsliT is aimed at teachers and trainers, the focus was on the pedagogical aspects of training signed language interpreters.

The organising committee wanted the efsliT 2014 seminar to be an opportunity for attendees to gather and exchange information. The participants were a wonderful mix of more experienced teachers and people who are still at the threshold of setting up a training programme. During the two-day seminar they attended presentations and workshops allowing them to share their knowledge.

On the first day, the seminar hosted four papers and two workshops. Geert Brône – co-coordinator of the Master in Interpreting at the KU Leuven campus Antwerp - welcomed the international group of participants and gave a short overview of how the (signed language) interpreter training at the university is organised.

One of the main questions addressed at the conference was which mode of interpreting we should teach interpreting students; consecutive or simultaneous; and why, when and how. Debra Russell – the president of WASLI (World Association of Sign Language Interpreters) – was the keynote speaker. She challenged our traditional views on consecutive and simultaneous interpreting and questioned whether the accepted mode for signed language interpreting – simultaneous – is also always the most effective. The participants agreed with Dr. Russel that interpreters should be trained so that they can decide when and where to use the consecutive or simultaneous mode.

Next, Jemina Napier greeted us remotely through a video message and wished us an interesting workshop on working between consecutive and simultaneous modes led by her colleague Lorraine Leeson. She racked the participants’ brains with some in-group assignments. Again the idea of having signed language interpreters work along a continuum of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting surfaced. Participants tapped into their own experience during this interactive session, sharing how and why they did or did not provide training in consecutive interpreting.

After lunch Peter Llewellyn-Jones tested the participants’ short-term memory and demonstrated that working memory is actually what interpreters continuously use. He introduced us to the concept of “audience design” and the fact that in mediated conversation the audience depends on a redesigned message.

The next presenter, Christian Rathmann, stressed the importance of feedback strategies in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting training. He proposed the learner-centred feedback model that is currently applied in the Deaf Interpreter programme at Hamburg University.

Whereas most presenters had been talking about what happens in the brain of the (student) interpreter and how trainers can enhance these processes, Christopher Stone took us into the black box. A longitudinal study on how students learn British Sign Language and interpreting supports the idea that moving from consecutive to simultaneous interpreting training might be the best way to prepare the students for the profession.
Shakespearean tradition – asked whether “to consecutive or not”. She provided the attendees with very practical tips and ways of guiding students along the path from consecutive to simultaneous interpreting.

The following day five more presenters shared their insights. Terry Janzen talked about strategies interpreters can use in order to deal with the challenge of double contextualizing and how educators can pass these on to students. Next, Pénélope Houwenaghel presented a new approach to studying and teaching interpreter skills. She suggests an action-oriented approach to determine which skills interpreters display and how these can be integrated in a training program.

In her paper at the efsli conference, Anna-Lena Nilsson had already explained how body movements are used to structure discourse in Swedish Sign Language. At the trainers’ seminar she explored whether and how this could be taught to interpreter students who are L2 learners.

Annieck van den Broeck, Willem Terpstra and Beppie van den Bogaerde also discussed the notion of L2 learners of signed languages. They presented us with CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) based criteria for signed texts suited to teach translation and interpreting skills.

This neatly linked up with the last workshop of the seminar on the implications of the CEFR for signed language interpreting teaching. The PROsign expert team shared their hands-on experience on working with the framework. In a true efsi/efsiT tradition this group presentation showed the results of collaboration. The two days were eloquently wrapped up by Dr. Stone.

The main topic was why, how and when consecutive and simultaneous interpreting should be introduced to signed language interpreting students. The seminar provided many answers and examples of good practice for each of the participants to take home.

Although the seminar had filled the attendees with information, there still seemed to be some room left for the Belgian chocolates kindly provided by the BVGT.
On the 9th of October I held my oratory speech in acceptance of the (part time) Chair Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT), at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), for an audience of more than 400 people. There was a large representation of the Deaf community, which made me so very proud! I am sure that one of the reasons was that I held my speech in NGT, which was a first in the history of orations at universities in the Netherlands, and which generated a lot of attention from the press both for sign language and for the Deaf Community.

The title of my oration was Sign Language of the Netherlands: Theory and Practice. I wanted to provide an overview of what we know at this point in time about the linguistics of NGT and what knowledge we need for the practice of NGT use, in particular for those people who learn NGT as a first language (L1) and as a foreign language (L2). This way I could forge a link between my work at the UvA (linguistic research) and the practice research that we do at the Hogeschool Utrecht UAS (HU) about NGT teaching and interpreting.

For those of you who are interested, the presentation can be viewed as a web lecture on internet: I sign in NGT and the sheets of the presentation can be viewed simultaneously; these are in Dutch though, and there is captioning in written Dutch at the bottom of the sheets. The reference list can be found on my UvA homepage.

So – I summarized the phonological and morpho-syntactic NGT knowledge that we have today. I was pleasantly surprised after gathering all the sources, about what we already know about the phonology of NGT, the major body of research which is done by Onno Crasborn, Els van de Kooij and colleagues at Radboud University Nijmegen, but also in the past by Harry van de Hulst (Leiden University) and Trude Schermer (Dutch Sign Center). The body of morpho-syntactic NGT knowledge is slowly growing, but there is still a lot of work to do. Roland Pfau, who is our star researcher at UvA, is doing tremendous work on NGT and other sign languages, and we owe much of our knowledge to his studies. Recently Vadim Kimmelman defended his doctoral thesis on Information Structures in NGT and Russian Sign Language; so steady on more detailed knowledge is becoming available on NGT, also of course by other researchers in the Netherlands.

Not only are these results interesting linguistically from a scientific perspective, we also need more knowledge about NGT in order to adequately support NGT acquisition by L1 and L2 learners.

There is only little research on NGT as L1, unfortunately, some done by me and Prof. Anne Baker, but new research is also being done in other universities now (e.g. Nijmegen), and we are very much looking forward to the results. NGT as L2 (or NGT2 as we name it) has hardly been done so far, but at the HU we are slowly starting to get some results in, so some progress is being made there. Some of these results have been presented at efsl and efslit seminars, often in relation to the CEFR for signed languages (see e.g. project Pro-Sign and reference list).

Other fields of research, like typological studies (Pfau), pragmatics (Crasborn, Boers, Van den Broek), semantics are also slowly emerging in the Netherlands.

I ended my speech on an optimistic note: even though there are threats to the Deaf community (decreasing deaf population, no or little contact with Deaf community by deaf children with CI etc.), so less use of NGT (?) I also see many opportunities: sign languages are more visible (social media), there are better facilities for deaf people to participate in society, and they have better educational prospects. All our efforts are of course in support of the use of sign language: not only because the Deaf want that, but also because sign language are beautiful languages, and a demonstration of the robust capacity of men to deal with diversity – and I am all in favour of that, and try to support the recognition of NGT’s value through my research and other work.

Link to oratory lecture: http://webcolleges.uva.nl/Mediasite/Play/ b68c3f186d9f4f2a0b9de33740a8491d

Link to reference list of oratory speech on Beppie’s homepage: http://dare.uva.nl/document/2/151775
Julia, can you tell us briefly who you are and what your connection to efsli is (interpreter/teacher/linguist/etc)?

Sure! My name is Julia Cramer and I am from Hamburg in Germany. I got my degree in sign language interpreting in 2003 and have been working as a free-lance interpreter since then. I also started to train in continuing education. Since I took up interpreting, I have been actively involved in the work of the professional sign language interpreters’ associations in Germany on regional and national level, for example being the chairwoman of the northern German association. My first contact with efsli was when I attended the “English for Interpreters” school in Prague in 2006. Meanwhile, I have been to two more efsli schools. Since my first efsli AGM and Conference in 2009 in Estonia I have attended every single one and have been delegate of the German national sign language interpreters’ association BGSD at the AGM for the last few years. In 2012, I was asked to join the saf committee, which I delightedly did, and shortly after became the coordinator of the committee.

You are the coordinator of SAF, Special Attendance Fund. Can you tell us what it is that SAF does?

saf - The Special Attendance Fund - is a working group at efsli. It provides financial support in order to create opportunities to attend the efsli AGM and Conference. The saf committee procures financial means and selects the persons to be funded from the incoming applications. My part is mainly to initiate, monitor and coordinate the different activities within the group.

When was the SAF fund created and are the goals still the same as they where back then?
Saf basically strives to make the efsli AGM and Conference equally accessible for the interpreting communities in all European countries. It is intended to give colleagues from low GDP countries the opportunity to attend, thus getting an impression of what efsli is, what developments are taking place in the field and which new scientific insights have been gained lately. Attending the AGM and conference gives an opportunity to share good practice and expertise and gain insights which might help foster the development of the profession. We hope that the saf participants can furthermore act as multipliers from which others who could not attend personally have the chance to benefit from.

You could say that by bringing colleagues from low GDP countries to the efsli conference, saf is also working towards the general aims and objectives of efsli like bringing forward the profession and its official recognition, improving the standards in sign language interpreting and interpreter training and so on.

Who were the members the first SAF committee?

After a corresponding resolution had been passed at the AGM in 2003, the saf committee was physically established in 2004. So we are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year! The first three committee members were Maya de Wit from the Netherlands and Lorella Galvani from Italy as well as Zane Hema from the efsli board (and at that time from the UK of course).

Who is currently on the SAF committee?

Right now, with seven members, the committee has grown a bit bigger. On our a multi-cultural team we have Androniki Xanthopoulou and Sofia Tsereli from Greece, Jetske Tinnevelt and Yvonne Jobse from the Netherlands, Bibi DaLacey-Mould from the UK and finally Britta Meinicke and me from Germany. As Sofia will have to leave the committee soon in order to concentrate on preparing efsli 2016 in Greece, we are currently looking for a replacement for her. So if you happen to be interested in fundraising, preferably bring along some experience in it and are interested to join the saf committee, you are very welcome to contact us!
Some people have never attended an efsli Conference, others keep you fromtheraffleduringtheefsi conferences, „the SAFFLE“. Is that the only way you collect funds? Could you describe the different ways SAF collects money? Well, of course the notorious SAFFLE is our best known way of fundraising and also involves a lot of fun. Every year at the efsli conference, people contribute generously. People take a lot of effort to carefully chose and bring along tempting gifts to be raffled off. And then everybody competes in buying huge numbers of raffle tickets. This year we gained an overwhelming 1,472.40 € from the SAFFLE alone!

In many years, we also have an auction after the raffle where a special prize is given away. For example, in one year, it was a poster with the signatures of everybody attending the conference, making it tangible that we sing language interpreters in Europe form a big community.

Another big part of the saf funding originates from donations. Every year, individuals as well as institutions make very generous donations. There are several among them who have been very supportive throughout the time and make an effort to give at least a little bit every year. You can really see there that every Euro counts.

And of course people sometimes have very creative ideas to support saf and come up with special fundraising activities or events.

Is there a fundraising event in particular you want to mention?
What really impressed me was an initiative of some British colleagues in 2013. They organised and promoted a fundraising event in London after the British TV programme “Would I lie to you?” where several interpreters stepped up to tell stories and the audience had to guess who was telling the true and who wasn’t. All the proceeds from this event went to the Special Attendance Fund.

Another thing from last year I very well remember was how Daan Heimans from the Netherlands sold 35 litres of pumpkin soup made from his home-grown giant pumpkin wearing an original cook’s apron and chef’s hat at his working place.

How can people apply for support from the SAF fund? Can anybody apply?
Basically, saf is meant to provide financial support to interpreters from European countries with a GDP per capita of € 15,000 or lower. Applicants must not have any prior convictions nor work at the conference in question as an interpreter.

The application period starts in January, and all applications that reach us by 31 March can be considered. There is an application form you have to fill in. You can find it on the efsli website on the saf pages. We ask for basic personal data of course, but also try to investigate what the applicant’s motives are for their application. If the country the applicant comes from has a national association of sign language interpreters, they are also asked to answer some questions, and we ask for a letter of support from them to be handed in with the application. Everything is explained in depth in the Guide to Application also available on the website, and of course you can ask us at any time if you are in doubt.

Can one apply if he/she is not from a county with a low GDP, but where the general income is low?
If resources allow, applications from countries with a higher GDP can also be taken into account. We all know that even in countries with a quite high GDP the financial situation of interpreters and their associations can be tense. So of course applications from other countries are welcome as well.

How do you select the interpreters that can get SAF funding to attend the AGM and conference?
In order to assure a just selection process, we use a scoring system. In addition to looking at personal factors we survey the candidate’s motives for wanting to attend, what he or she hopes to gain from the conference, and we consider if their attendance is likely to be beneficial to the interpreters in their home country in general.

What can people do to support SAF?
We are very happy about every type of contribution to saf! It needn’t be a monetary one but can also be a personal effort. For instance, if you cannot afford to make a donation to the fund at the moment, you still might organise a collection among your colleagues or set up a piggy bank at your association’s meeting. Maybe you can bake a cake and give the earnings to saf or organise an entertaining fundraising event? Just let your creativity flow! If you feel you might want to organise a fundraiser in your home country, please do not hesitate to contact us for ideas and support.

If you are in a position to make a donation, you can simply use the efsli PayPal account or transfer a certain amount to the efsli bank account. You can find all necessary information on the saf pages on the efsli website. Please make sure to state that the amount is meant as a donation to saf in any case.

Another area where we rely on help is when we translate documents like the saf promotional flyer to International Sign. If you feel you might help there, please let us know.

So there is a huge variety of ways to support saf. I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to saf in the ten years since it was established – please help us make the Special Attendance Fund a success in the next ten years and beyond as well!
Time passes very quickly and it seems incredible that the Insign pilot project is already over. The 2014 one-year project has involved a series of challenges from which efsli has learnt a great deal. We have spent the year working with a wonderful multidisciplinary team, comprising an educational institution - Heriot-Watt University (UK); a video remote interpreting service provider - SignVideo (UK); a strategic design firm - Designit (Spain); a total conversation technology developer - IVèS (France); and our colleagues from the EUD (European Union of the Deaf).

During the year we have been keeping the efsli members informed of the steps being taken and some of the milestones achieved (see previous efsli Newsletters and efsli in Briefs). This article intends to provide a general overview of the developments during the year, present the main deliverables produced by the project, and outline the possible future development of the service.

The Insign project has taken the first steps towards making EU institutions accessible for Deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens throughout Europe. To achieve this, the concept of total conversation has been adopted so different channels or modes of communication can be used by different citizens according to their needs. The Insign platform provides Deaf sign language users a video remote sign language interpretation service in different sign languages. As for hard-of-hearing citizens, a respeaking service is also offered. Respeaking is a rather new form of speech to text service provision which, until now, has mainly been used for captioning live TV programmes. Some of the deliverables related to the respeakers’ component of the service have proved to be a challenge for the consortium. Research conducted by Heriot-Watt University has shown that respeakers have only been trained to relay telephone calls in the UK and France and, so far, there has been little research into the field. Respeakers need to be trained to work not only in monological but also in dialogical contexts and, to achieve this, efsli collaborated with Pablo Romero Fresco (an expert in live captioning and respeaking at Roehampton University), Helen Fuller (SignVideo) and Rob Skinner (Heriot Watt University) to train the French and English respeakers involved in the Insign platform demonstrations at the European Parliament and the European Commission. In addition, efsli has developed a training pack for interpreters working with the platform. The pack covers topics such as the role of the VRS interpreter, specific issues in VRS and VRI interpreting. Insign Professional Standards, and self-evaluation and monitoring tools, etc. For interpreters from those countries where no formal training is yet available, there is also a pre-course optional module on dialogue interpreting.

Efsli has also designed a set of “Professional and Service standards” aimed at service providers that might potentially host and manage the Insign service if the Commission decides to continue with the development. Efsli has also collaborated with Designit, SignVideo and IVèS in the conceptualisation of the Insign booking system, which will be available for VRI calls. In addition, in order to facilitate the practical use of the platform, a series of quick guides has been designed for interpretation service users and EU institution staff, in which basic information about the service is provided in an accessible way. Efsli also presented a report with the results of the survey it conducted last spring among service providers across Europe. The questions mainly related to their business models and professional standards and the information collected served as a basis for the development of the other project deliverables.

In addition to the deliverables submitted by efsli, the project partners worked on a range of other tasks. Heriot-Watt University conducted desk research into remote interpreting and evaluated the success of the two demonstrations. IVèS concentrated on the technological development of the platform and the provision of the software for the two demonstrations. Designit, in addition to the coordination of the project, was also responsible for coordinating the development of the business model that has been proposed to ensure the sustainability of the Insign service.

Insign Project: one step closer to having accessible EU institutions
Lourdes Calle-Alberdi
The 4th Conference on Translation and Interpreting in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras/LSB) was held from 12th to 14th November 2014 at the Universidade de Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Florianópolis, Brazil.

Even on those hot summer days there were over 700 participants from across the country and approximately 250 of them were Deaf. The organisers of the conference were the UFSC, the Brazilian Sign Language Translator and Interpreter Association (FEBRAPILS), the federal state of Santa Catarina (acatils) and volunteers from all over Brazil who funded themselves to support the conference. Almost every speaker presented in LSB/Libras and all the questions were signed. The whole atmosphere was Deaf-centred, with all the participants respecting each other’s languages.

During the two days before the conference there were mini-courses provided by a range of specialists in interpreter training or professionals who were themselves translators or interpreters. These included Dennis Cokely, Ronice Müller de Quadros, Christian Rathmann, Ueslei Paterno, Silvana Aguiar dos Santos and Fernanda de Araujo Machado. These mini-courses were aimed at hearing interpreters, Deaf interpreters or both, depending on the topic.

The interpreters in Brazil are particularly interested in academic research and, during the three-day conference, there were three keynote speakers, twenty four presentations and fifty poster sessions.

The first day of the conference began with an interesting keynote presentation by Dennis Cokely called Reflection on interpreting: Learned lessons. His presentation was fascinating because he talked about the development of interpreting in the USA over the past fifty years. His point of view was that, during that period, the focus shifted away from the sociological model and, rather than being Deaf-centred, interpreting became interpreter-centred, i.e. about quantity versus quality; in other words, it became driven by money. The Deaf community lost control and variation within ASL became greater because of the interpreters’ lessening contact with the Deaf community. Consequently, the standardisation of ASL has moved even further away. The most important point of his presentation was that interpreters and Deaf people need to work together to restore the Deaf-centric focus of the field. Interpreters should remember the first Deaf person they met, how well they could communicate, and re-evaluate the attitudes they now have.

In the afternoon Dr. Christian Rathmann and I presented a paper called The European Translation Norm: How the European Translation Norm is Adapted and Used by German Deaf Translators during which we ‘transported the participants to Europe’ to see how German Deaf translators work alongside hearing interpreters for checking purposes - the ‘four eyes principle’ - to adapt the DIN EN 15038 process to their work.

Rachel Sutton-Spence presented the keynote paper on the second day of the conference. Entitled “The Cat of the Devil has Penalty”, the paper examined the problems of interpreting sign language poetry performances. Her main point was that the interpreter should not steal the show but, instead, direct the attention of the viewer to the visual aesthetic of the poem, perhaps by interpreting it into words and/or explaining the contents before the performance so that the audience can watch and appreciate the signed poem itself. Her paper explained that a spoken interpretation during the performance actually spoiled the visual impact of the performance.

In the next presentation, Marcos Luchi argued that it is better to interpret/translate the poem into pictures or caricatures because both share the same modality and iconicity can be used to describe the poem. There is only one difference, and that is that the signed Poem is in four dimensions and the drawn pictures can only show a maximum of three dimensions.

There was one other presentation on the second day that was particularly fascinating. The theme was Tactile communication for Deafblind people: how to support this with haptic communication. The paper explained that for this to be effective, two interpreters were needed; one to explain the contents of the source text through tactile communication, and the other to explain the spatial descriptions, facial expressions and emotional information by standing behind the Deafblind person and producing the haptic communication on their back or upper arms. We were shown some demonstrations that were both fascinating and creative; one example being a video clip about the football world championships in Brazil: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK2AgzBBvKw

The presentation showed that interpreters need to be creative to solve the issues and accommodate the needs of Deafblind people.
The third day began with a fascinating presentation from Ronice Müller de Quadros about Interpreting/Translation of Libras/Portuguese with audience involvement. Each of the points she made were applauded by the conference audience. She told about the trust the Deaf audience must have in the interpreter. Often sign language interpreters are too ‘disengaged’ compared to spoken language interpreters because the spoken language interpreters are usually L1 in the audience’s language and, consequently, have more awareness of the audience’s culture and language. They work with their hearts as well as their heads. To gain the trust of the audience, it is important to connect with the Deaf community and the Deaf audience trusts the interpreter more if it knows that the interpreter socialises and identifies with deaf people.

The interpreter also gains this trust if they always sign when in the company of Deaf people because this demonstrates the extent of their bilingualism and also demonstrates a lack of audism on their part. An interpreter who only speaks in front of Deaf people will be seen as contributing to the oppression of the other language users. We are all human ad that means that we should all work together. The interpreter should make time either before or after the interpretation to socialise with the Deaf people there, otherwise they are not going to gain the trust of the Deaf community. Ronice’s concluding point was that attitude is more important than competence.

Christian Rathmann gave the final keynote speech on Sight interpreting and sight translation - A Continuum. In his paper he described text interpreting and text translation as being on a continuum and talked about when it was more appropriate for a text to be interpreted or translated by referring to Gile’s effort model. The most important point was that a well translated text would have far fewer mistakes and the target text would be much more easily understood by the target audience.

So the conference closed. We had been fortunate to have had so many excellent presentations, fascinating conversations and truly constructive discussions.

In my role as head of liaison for efsli, I met Cyntia and Tiago, two members of the board of FEBRAPILS, the Brazilian Sign Language Translator and Interpreter Association (which was founded in 2008), and Diego, the President of the acatils, for a conversation about the state of interpreting in Brazil and where we are and what we are doing in Europe. Both organisations work very closely with the Brazilian Deaf Association to raise political awareness in the country.

What we learned from or visit to Brazil: Sign language teachers’ salaries are higher than the sign language interpreters’ salaries; they vary across different states and also across the different interpreting settings. In the whole of Brazil there are 450 certified sign language interpreters and translators: the number of sign language teacher is much higher. Most of the interpreters are employed by federal institutions and departments.

The roles of ‘hearing’ and Deaf sign language interpreters are defined in Brazilian law, as are the settings in which they work.

In Brazil, Deaf Interpreters have been recognised since 1875 when they were employed as ‘Deaf Repeaters’ at the School for the Deaf in Rio de Janeiro to lip-read the teachers and translate their spoken words into signs.
Call for Abstracts

The Association of Polish Sign Language Interpreters (STPJM) is proud to host next year’s AGM and conference of the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli) in Warsaw (Poland). The event will take place from 11th to 13th September 2015 under the title:

To say or not to say - challenges of interpreting from sign language to spoken language

Deadline for submission: 8 February 2015

Following the conference theme, we will search for answers to questions that arise in connection with the difficulties interpreters experience when interpreting from sign language to spoken language (speech and writing). Why interpreting in this direction perceived as such a tough task for many interpreters? Where do the problems come from and how can we make our voice-over a success? How to teach it effectively? And finally, how to make sure that our Deaf customers can trust us with what they want to say?

We would like to reflect on academic and practical solutions that could remedy our anxieties from various perspectives.

Thus, we invite Deaf and hearing interpreters, interpreter trainers, researchers, students and customers of interpreting services to join in the professional discussions related to:

• techniques and strategies of interpreting into a spoken language
• methods of teaching interpreting into a spoken language
• ethics of interpreting into a spoken language
• Deaf interpreters and interpreting into a spoken language
• writing sign language down
• interpreter’s responsibility for the image of his/her Deaf customer
• team interpreting and co-working in sign to voice interpreting and whatever you consider interesting and relevant in this area of interpreting.

Presentations may be either:

• Plenary lecture-style presentations of 40 minutes (30 minute presentation, 10 minutes for questions)
• Practical workshops of 120 minutes (including an introduction note of 20 minutes, the moderation of the workshop and the preparation of a summary to be presented on Sunday)
• Poster presentations (A1 format) (an exclusive time slot will be provided)

Proposals should be submitted by 8 February 2015 and should include:

1. Name of presenter(s)
2. Short biography of each presenter (max. 100 words to be published online and in the programme booklet)
3. Contact details for correspondence
4. Title of presentation
5. Language of presentation

>> continue on page 16
6. Abstract (max. 300 written words/ video of two minutes max.)
7. The type of presentation (presentation, workshop, poster)

Proposals should be submitted in English in a Word document. Deaf participants may also submit their abstract in International Sign. The video format should be .mov or .flv. All proposals should be sent to abstracts2015@efsli.org (videos can be sent via http://www.sendspace.com or similar tools for sending big files).

The selection criteria will be based on relevance, significance, quality, originality, clarity, and overall presentation. All abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee (listed in alphabetical order):

- Robert Adam (Great Britain)
- Klimis Antzakas (Greece)
- Isabelle Heyerick (Belgium)
- Aleksandra Kalata-Zawłocka (Poland) (Chair)
- Peter Llewellyn-Jones (Great Britain)
- Maya de Wit (Netherlands)
- Christopher Stone (Great Britain)

Official notification of acceptance or rejection of proposals will be made by 31st March 2015.

Selected presenters will be required to register by 15th April 2015.

Full papers/PowerPoint presentations must be submitted no later than 31st July 2015.

Following the conference selected presenters are expected to submit their papers for the efsli 2015 conference proceedings.

Conference languages will be English, Russian, Polish, International Sign and Polish Sign Language. All presenters who wish to use a different spoken or signed language are advised to supply their own interpreters.
Next year's efsli AGM & conference in Warsaw!

11-13 September 2015

„To say or not to say – challenges of interpreting from sign language to spoken language”.

Interpreters often hear that they are the voice of the Deaf, that they speak on behalf of the Deaf, in their name or in their stead. When interpreting goes smoothly it results in applause, but when something goes wrong... Well, then everybody knows... Next year’s conference “To say or not to say – challenges of interpreting from sign language to spoken language” is about difficulties interpreters experience when interpreting from sign language to spoken language (speech and writing). Where do they come from and how can they be dealt with? How to teach and master voice over effectively? And finally, how to make sure that our Deaf customers can trust us with what they want to say?

The conference will take place in the Novotel Centrum Hotel situated in the very heart of our beautiful capital – Warsaw. It will provide you with unforgettable taste of Polish hospitality, sense of elegance, modernity and comfort and serve as a great starting point for excursions to the Palace of Culture and the fabulous Old Town.

Do come to Warsaw on 11-13 September 2015 and learn everything you always wanted to know about voice-over but were afraid to ask!

www.efsli.org/2015

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- ethics of interpreting into a spoken language
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- interpreter’s responsibility for the image of his/her Deaf customer
- team interpreting and co-working in sign to voice interpreting

and whatever you consider interesting and relevant in this area of interpreting.

Zapraszamy !!!
Become a Sponsor of the next year’s efsli
AGM & Conference:
11-13 September 2015
Warsaw, Poland

Sign language interpreters form a unique group of people serving as bridges between the worlds of the hearing and the Deaf. On a daily basis they provide communication in the languages of sounds and visual-manual signs. They are highly-skilled specialists that contribute to realisation of human rights in such crucial spheres of life as education, health, law, employment or religion. In order to acquire the expertise vital for the provision of interpreting services of highest quality, sign language interpreters need constant professional development.

The annual conferences of the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efslI) offer an important opportunity for sharing professional experience and academic knowledge to sign language interpreters from all over Europe. They provide an excellent platform for exchange of information and achievements as well as an international network of professional support.

For over 20 years efsli has been working as a non-profit organisation for the professionalisation and recognition of the work of sign language interpreters in Europe, and therefore has always been working for the rights of Deaf people.

The development of a profession that works towards social inclusion and equal access of Deaf people needs your support! You can express it by becoming a sponsor of the next year’s efsli conference that will take place in the very heart of Europe – Warsaw (Poland).

efslI 2015 offers a wonderful opportunity for the promotion of your sponsorship. The conference is expected to attract around 300 participants from all over Poland and Europe: sign language interpreters, educators, researchers, students and other participants from the fields of linguistics, social and diversity studies and politics.

You can support efsli 2015 by becoming a Gold, Silver or Bronze Sponsor. Each type of sponsorship offers special benefits and privileges.

If you become our Gold Sponsor (3000 €)
• Your flag or sign will be presented at the entrance of the conference
• Your flag or sign will be presented in the conference room
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• Your information material will be included in the conference folder
• Link to your company/organisation will be published on the conference website
• Your logo will be displayed on the screen in the conference room at the opening and during breaks

If you become our Silver Sponsor (2000 €)
• Your logo will be placed on all flyers and posters
• Mention in the programme booklet
• Your information material will be included in the conference folder
• Link to your company/organisation will be published on the conference website

If you become our Bronze Sponsor (1000 €)
• You will be mentioned in the programme booklet
• Your information material will be included in the conference folder
• Link to your company/organisation will be published on the conference website

We will be also more than happy if you can support us in any other way, for example by sponsoring conference materials, such as key cords, pens or notebooks etc.

STPJM’s bank details:
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03-294 Warszawa
IBAN: PL86103000190109853000455930
SWIFT: CITIPLPX

Please contact us here for more details:
efsli2015@efsli.org
Calendar of Events

2015

January
January 24 - 25
Live Board Meeting and meeting
the organising crew from STPJM,
Warsaw, Poland

February
January/February 30 - 1
efsli Winter School
Bergen, Norway

September
September 11 - 13
efsli AGM and Conference
Warsaw, Poland

See www.efsli.org for a full calendar and more information.

Advertising policy

All efsli related material will be advertised free of charge. Documentation can be forwarded directly to the newsletter editor at publicity@efsli.org. All other material, for example: courses, businesses, individual freelancers, trainers, agencies, universities and/or training centres, and equipment, depending on the membership category will be published at the rates stated. Materials should be forwarded to the publicity and promotion department at publicity@efsli.org see below how to do that.

efsli welcomes 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.

The prices of the advertisement refer to one published advert in one edition of the newsletter.

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The deadlines for contributions are:
15 February for March edition
15 May for June edition
15 October for November edition

If you have any questions please contact Jolanda Peverelli at publicity@efsli.org.

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