Contact details
For more information, please visit the efsli website:
www.efsli.org
or send an email to:
Jolanda.Peverelli@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
publicity@efsli.org
Right in the middle of the preparations for the efsli AGM and Conference in Antwerp, we present you with the summer edition of our Newsletter. It has been a while, but we’re now up and running. And boy, are we running!

Just to give you a sneak peak into the preparations – again, the first time for us - everybody has written reports on the work of their departments, the proceedings of last year’s conference are being published, a surprise ‘gadget’ has been ordered to fit the “Mind Tricks” theme, gifts are being bought, and all the last little things are being done.

We are very excited to see this all coming together for the AGM and conference, and we’re looking forward to see you there!

We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and please take a good look at one of the advertisements; the ‘3-Day Performing Arts Seminar’ does still have some places left, so if you want to it even at this late stage, please contact the organizers.

We’ll be there with the efsli stand again so you can buy our publications, gadgets, conference momentos, etc. Our dedicated SAF volunteers will be selling raffle tickets again and you can always donate at the efsli stand. Please note that neither the efsli stand nor the raffle ticket sellers have portable electronic payment machines, so please bring plenty of small change in your pockets and purses.
efsli has been particularly busy over the past few months fulfilling its obligations to the Insign project. As has already been reported, we were involved in the first demonstration of the VRS/VRI ‘Total Conversation’ platform at the European Parliament at the beginning of April and at the ‘ambassadors’ demonstration during the EUD General Assembly in Athens in May.

efsli’s main roles in the project are to:

1. design training courses/packs for VRS/VRI interpreters
2. develop Professional Standards (guidelines for best practice) for interpreters providing VRS/VRI services
3. develop Quality Standards for providers of VRS/VRI interpreting services

For the April demonstration, the interpreter training was provided by and held at the London office of SignVideo, the longest established VRS/VRI provider in the UK. A total of six interpreters - from Hungary, the Netherlands and Spain - attended the training and then, together with the already trained interpreters from France and the UK, provided the interpreting for the demonstration at the European Parliament. The interpretation went well, with Deaf callers situated in their home countries being able to ‘speak’ directly to MEPs and representatives of the Parliament in Brussels. There was a slight problem with the ‘re-speaking’ service, which is designed to allow Deafened and Hard of Hearing people to talk to hearing receivers using their own voices and see a real-time text version of the receiver’s replies. On the day, some of the Deafened/HoH callers typed their enquiries, rather than using their voices, and this caused a little confusion amongst the re-speaker (captioners) who then had to speak to the receivers of the calls themselves. It was agreed that in future training courses, the re-speakers would be warned that this might happen and they will be trained in how to react and deal, as seamlessly as possible, with calls that don’t quite go as planned.

Both Lieve and I attended the training in London which was led by Helen Fuller, the coordinator of SignVideo’s interpreting service, and Alain Bacci, from Interprets in Toulouse, and also included contributions from Brigitte Francois and Jeff McWhinney, SignVideo’s founder. We then had several discussions with Helen, Brigitte and Jeff about how the training might need to be amended if delivered to the interpreters using Skype to facilitate a range of conversations between Deaf Board members of the Maltese Association and hearing people they wanted to contact by telephone.

The Malta training was successful and culminated in the interpreters using Skype to facilitate a range of conversations between Deaf Board members of the Maltese Association and hearing people they wanted to contact by telephone.

As an added bonus, whilst we were in Malta, the two Board members of the Maltese Association we had met in Athens, Steven Mulvaney (the President) and Alison Vere, arranged for us to meet Dr Marie Alexander, who is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Malta. Marie has been researching Maltese Sign Language for some years and she very kindly gave us a proof copy of the new Maltese Sign language Dictionary she has been developing with the Maltese Deaf Association. During the meeting we discussed the problems of providing formal training for the country’s interpreters, largely because of the small numbers involved, and agreed that efsli would work with her to develop some form of training that could be run at the University.

We were also invited to participate in a meeting that evening between the Board members of the Maltese Deaf Association and the Maltese Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity. The meeting, which was held at the Maltese Parliament in Valetta and also attended by a permanent Parliamentary Secretary, was to discuss the future of the Maltese interpreting service. The service had traditionally been coordinated by the Maltese Deaf Association but it was becoming increasing difficult for it to manage the contracts and payments because it didn’t have any full time staff and had to rely on volunteers. As President of efsli, I was asked for my opinion and I was able to stress the importance the European Union attached to working towards full citizenship for Deaf people, as evidenced by its funding of projects such as Insign and Justsigns. After a little political wrangling, the Minister closed the meeting by inviting all the Maltese interpreters to meet him at the Parliament the next morning.

By the time Lieve and I met the Interpreters at the training session the next day, it had been announced that the Government had agreed to coordinate the service, draw up contracts and take responsibility for paying the salaries of the interpreters itself.

At the EUD General Assembly in Athens in May, Lieve and I were able to talk to two Board members from the Maltese Deaf Association and, on learning that they don’t as yet have web-based interpreting service, we arranged to run a course for the Maltese interpreters at the end of June. With SignVideo’s permission, we were able to take much of its course content and adapt/amend it so that it would be suitable.

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[On a personal note, I was surprised to see a faded picture on the wall of the Deaf club in Valetta. It was a photograph of me talking to Deaf children at the (now closed) School for the Deaf in Malta in 1987. I was there on a Mobility International project to work with the Maltese Education Department to begin looking at Maltese Sign Language and help to establish an association of parents of Deaf children. The current Board members had no idea who it was in the photo, they just knew it had been there for as long as they could remember. When I told Alison and Steven the story I also mentioned that two particular parents had thrown a party for me at the end of my stay. All I remembered about them was that they had a tailoring business. Steven, the now President of the Maltese Association, ‘face-timed’ his parents to ask if they knew who it might be. It was them (!) and I was able to talk (sign) to them for the first time in 27 years!]

Since the course in Malta, Lieve and I have been developing the course still further and, with Lourdes, working on the Professional Standards and Service Quality Standards, both of which have to be ready before the end of November.

In preparation for the final Insign Demonstration at the European Commission on 25th September, we then set about arranging the training of the interpreters who will be taking part. The course was held over the weekend of 30th/31st August at Websourd, the Toulouse base of one of France’s major providers of VRS/VRI services. Again, it was attended by six interpreters, two from Hungary, two from Spain and two from the Netherlands.

Under the terms of the project, efsli led the training, but were very pleased to be supported by Helen, Brigitte and Jeff from SignVideo and Alain Bacci from Interpretis (who is based in Toulouse). We were all impressed by the interpreting skills of the participants and are confident that they will be ready to provide the interpreting for the September demonstration. This demonstration will be slightly different from the first in April; here, the Deaf participants will actually be with the officials of the European Commission and talking to them via remote interpreters (VRI).

We are indebted to Lourdes Calle for the sterling work she has done coordinating all of efsli’s input to the Insign project. We are also very grateful to Alison Vere (herself an interpreter) and Steven Mulvaney of the Maltese Deaf Association and the interpreters of Malta who so willingly and enthusiastically participated in the pilot training course.

We will, of course, keep you all updated on the Insign project with reports in ‘efsli in Brief’.

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It was a great pleasure for us Maltese Sign Language Interpreters to participate in the EFSLI training program funded through an EU Project called INSIGN. The aim of the project is to allow Deaf citizens around Europe to contact EU institutions via video links. In line with the project, the course focused on remote interpreting. It included both theory and some practical sessions that made us feel very comfortable interpreting when there were not actually any Deaf of hearing persons in front of us. In Malta we still lack official sign language interpreting training and any kind of training is highly appreciated and so much useful. Indeed it really supported us in our everyday interpreting practices. In fact, all the working interpreters made it a point to be present for this training. In Malta we have only 3 full time interpreters, 1 part timer and another 3 who work as freelancers mainly for media assignments. The trainer was Mr. Peter Llewellyn-Jones, President of EFSLI.

It was an honour for the Deaf Association and of course also for us interpreters, to greet him again in Malta after many years. Needless to say that Mr. Llewellyn-Jones delivered his lectures beautifully even though the weather was a bit too hot for an English gentleman. He was accompanied by Ms. Lieve Roodhooft who is EFSLI’s Vice President and Head of Training. She also shared her priceless knowledge with us. The training was very successful and fruitful. Although they stayed with us for a very short time, they both have managed to discuss pertaining issues about the importance of sign language interpreting as a profession in Malta with local authorities; the Minister and the permanent secretary for Disability in Malta and have also discussed future program ideas with the University of Malta about formal post-graduate training for the interpreters.

On behalf of all the interpreters, I would like to heartily thank Mr. Peter Llewellyn-Jones and Ms. Lieve Roodhooft for this wonderful experience and for the valuable insight they shared with us. We hope they have enjoyed the training as much as we did since we look forward for EFSLI training to be back soon in Malta as we all have grown professionally and learnt a lot.

EFSLI TRAINING IN MALTA: JUNE 2014
Rita Vella (at the Deaf Club (Deaf People Association Malta), Valletta)
In May 2014, Peter and Christian were invited to participate in the EUD General Assembly at the Titania Hotel in Athens.

The Day before the General Assembly, on May 15th, there was a Demonstration of the Insign Project, which is developing a VRS/VRI platform to enable Deaf people to contact their MEPs online. During the demo, EUD delegates were able to test the technology by making online calls themselves. As efsli is a partner in the project and responsible for training the interpreters, Lieve (efsli’s head of training), was also there at the demo with Peter and Christian. (See the Insign report which is also in this issue.)

At the AGM the day after, the Hellenic Deaf Association welcomed the EUD delegates, introduced their Association and gave presentations on the Rights for Deaf People in Greece, Greek law, and details of how they are campaigning for the legal recognition of Greek Sign Language. Peter and Christian were present throughout the presentations and found them fascinating.

Christian was able to stay for the whole two days of the EUD General Assembly and the highlight was the signing of the EUD - EUDY Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The memorandum formalises the relationship between EUD and EUDY and will act as a basis for their future cooperation. The formal MoU document was signed in front of the delegates by the EUD’s President, Markku Jokinen, and the Vice President of the EUDY, Benjamin Busch.

In the evenings the Hellenic Deaf Association and EUD organised a programme of activities, including a fascinating guided tour of the new Acropolis Museum and a Gala Evening at which pupils of the Athens Deaf School put on an excellent, modern show incorporating traditional Grecian figures.

The General Assembly in Athens underlined the importance of efsli’s partnership with the EUD and we look forward to cooperating with its members even more closely in the future.

Christian was also invited to represent efsli at the General Assembly of the EUDY, the European Deaf Youth Association, held in Burgas, Bulgaria, on the 11th and 12th of July 2014.

Before the General Assembly, the EUDY organised a Youth Camp at Primorsko, near Burgas. Young Deaf People from all over Europe joined the Camp and Christian was able to be there for their last day. It was obvious that camps such as these are very popular with young Deaf people and they are also a very good way of preparing young people for future roles in the leadership of Deaf Associations and organisations. The temperature soared during the camp but this didn’t deter the young people from attending the presentations and workshops.

The General Assembly itself was held at a large Hotel in Burgas, about an hour away from the camp at Primorsko. During the two days, the delegates discussed proposed changes to their Statutes, and developed and agreed a two-year strategy for the organisation. As part of this strategy, the EUDY plans to arrange more ‘camps’ and develop its cooperation with a range of organisations, including efsli. Even before the General Assembly, Christian had been corresponding with Dennis Hoogeveen, the EUD’s Executive Officer, and Benjamin Busch, the EUDY’s vice President, to discuss ways in which our two organisations could strengthen their relationship. At the General Assembly, with the approval of the efsli Board, Christian and Dennis signed a provisional partnership Agreement between the two organisations. One of the first goals of the new partnership is to co-write a position paper on the need to improve educational interpreting across Europe and how this might be achieved.

The provisional Partnership Agreement between efsli and the EUDY will be formalised at efsli’s AGM in September when it will be co-signed by efsli’s President and either Dennis Hoogeveen, the EO of EUDY, or its new President, Timothy Rowes. I can also report on two other new EUDY Partnership Agreements. The first is with the WFDYS and, at the end of this year, the EUDY will be signing a further agreement with ‘Frontrunners’, the Deaf Leadership Training for Young Deaf People organisation in Denmark.
At the General Assembly in Burgas, the EUDY also voted for a new Board. Three of the previous Board members are continuing to serve and one new member was elected. In the event, no President was elected so the new Board was given a mandate to search for and select a suitable candidate. One month later, we heard that Timothy Rowes has been appointed as the new EUDY President. We wish him and his Board every success with their future work.
Performing Arts Interpreting, 3-day seminar, 15-17 September 2014, Hamburg, Germany (venue to be announced)

“The Language of Art, therefore, has a non-conventional nature, but is however iconical in the sense that there is a strong relationship between expression and content.” (Mazzoni 2002)

Internationally renowned sign language interpreter and workshop trainer Zane Hema from Australia will introduce you to the world of Performing Arts Interpreting and help you take your skills to the next level. Let him show you how much fun interpreting can be and what possibilities there are to perform theatre, cabaret, musical, poetic, religious and other texts on stage.

During the seminar you will learn how to:
• distinguish between interpreting versus performing.
• improve your skills in preparation and analysis.
• work more effectively in the interpreting space.
• better design your interpretation for your target audience.
• find successful strategies to develop performance.

Participants will be sent a range of short texts ahead of the seminar and will be asked to analyse and prepare an interpretation that will be discussed and interpreted during the seminar.

This seminar has been designed for experienced interpreters.

Workshop trainer:
Zane Hema is an experienced and well-known sign language interpreter who after many years in London currently lives in Australia and has travelled the world interpreting and teaching. He first started working as a Performing Arts interpreter in 1999 and has considerable experience in interpreting theatre, cabaret, musicals, poetry festivals, comedy, Shakespeare and other assignments in the Performing Arts domain. He was the trainer for the successful efsli Performing Arts Schools that took place in Nitra, Slovakia and London, UK in 2011. This is a unique and rare chance to learn from this outstanding specialist at a workshop in Germany.

Seminar language:
The seminar will be held in English.

Seminar organisers:
semido is specialised in individual high-quality training courses for sign language interpreters and sign language interpreter students from Germany and other countries.
semido is based in Hamburg, Germany.

Social programme:
A social programme will be offered for those interested.

There are still a few places available! Still want to join? Please send an email to Ole Petersen at info@semido.de to provide you with the accurate last minute information such as costs, venue, etc.

Please do not book your accommodation or journey until your place on the course has been confirmed.

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SAF announcement

The efsli Special Attendance Fund (SAF) has again been very successful in the last year. SAF is very proud to be able to support seven interpreters this year, from Croatia, Poland and Serbia.

As many of you know, the raffle for the efsli Special Attendance Fund (SAF) has become a fun and very successful tradition at efsli conference. Following last year’s success, this year the raffle will be held again on the Saturday evening. Please bring some items to donate to the raffle. These can be traditional products from your country or items that are of special interest to the attendees at the AGM.

Tickets for the raffle will be sold during the AGM and the first day of the conference and, on the Saturday evening, we will raffle all the items that have been donated.

Summerschool 2014 Yvonne Jobse

A very interesting topic combined with one of my favourite countries, I was ready for a treat!

Coincidentally, it was also two days after the Dutch team had lost the semi-finals to Argentina, so I needed some cheering up.

We did not only talk about teamwork, but also about the profession in a wider context, how it came to be and how we came to be where we are now.

Over the course of two days she shared with us her vast experience as an interpreter by illustrating the theories with many hilarious stories.

Having first-hand experience, she gave us insights into the different ideas, perspectives and changes our profession has gone through, from the ‘helper’ model to the ‘conduit’ model and now we find ourselves somewhere in between. As things develop and we know things now that we did not some twenty or thirty years ago, we will probably look back on ourselves in another twenty years time and find fault in our practice today.

But that does not mean that we should give up trying and not strive to better ourselves. And to do so, in the area of team interpreting we should ask ourselves the question ‘what can I do to be a better co-worker for my team?’ ‘What would I like to see in my team?’

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Trainer: Sharon Neumann Solow

“Every day is a school day”

In the first weekend of the holidays, an international group of interpreters got together in Dublin to for this year’s Summer school, entitled “Working in teams”, organised by efsli and Bridge Interpreting.

On the afternoon of Friday the 11th of July I made my way to the offices of CDS, the Centre for Deaf Studies at Trinity College, ready to greet old friends and make new ones. There were 20 Participants from The Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Belgium (Flanders) and the UK (or in a month’s time we might have to say Scotland). Bridge Interpreting welcomed us with a wonderful lunch.
After talking about the benefits of teamwork (teamwork enhances both the process and the product), Ms. Solow defined four areas:

1. Selection
   Sometimes you are in the comfortable position to choose who you work with. What are the criteria when you do?
2. Preparation.
   Many areas are involved in preparation. This involves the actual content, but also the context of the job. Also, a part of preparation can be deciding on which areas you want your co-worker to give you feedback on.
3. During the task.
   What can you do to make the cooperation as smooth as possible? What would you like to happen? What is the difference between ‘hot seat’ – ‘cold seat’ vs. ‘hot seat’ - ‘warm seat’?
4. After the task.
   Debriefing and feedback.

We also talked about a fifth domain: Feedback.

We take our job very seriously and consequently are very critical of ourselves. It also means we are critical of our colleagues, and we assume that we know what others think of us: which is often not positive.

This is why one of the key ingredients of the workshop was ‘always assume positive intent’: you do not know what the reasoning is behind the decisions someone makes. So assume they make them with the best intentions. That is what we do ourselves, isn’t it? So why assume otherwise?

When giving and receiving feedback it is important to realise that both are difficult to do. It involves trust, collaboration, openness, clear motives and clear goals, which enable both parties to help each other improve and to be able to focus on these improvements.

Another remark Sharon made struck a chord with me: the fact that we have been explaining ourselves and have been answering the same questions for years, some of us more than thirty years, causes us to get frustrated (‘No, sign language is not universal!’). From time to time we may inadvertently project these frustrations onto someone new, who is just as ignorant as the first person and is not to blame for it, but we may not show them the same consideration as we did the first person.

The three days were over before we knew it. It was a wonderful group and a good mix of people, deaf and hearing, from different countries and with different experiences. We also had the opportunity to visit the Deaf Village and have a tour of the museum.

There is one more quote from this workshop which, if I had to sum up everything in one sentence, would be the quote Sharon started with:

“Be the team you wish you had.”
Advertisement: SLI Press

SLI Press is pleased to announce the publication of its new book:
**Redefining the Role of the Community Interpreter: The concept of role-space**

**Peter Llewellyn-Jones**
&
**Robert G. Lee**

*Foreword by Cynthia B. Roy*

"... a milestone in interpreting studies"
Lorraine Leeason

"... pushes the boundaries of thinking"
Jeremy Napier

"... a giant step forward"
Myren Vermeerbergen

"... a landmark piece of scholarship"
Cynthia Roy

"Redefining the Role of the Community Interpreter" is now available from Amazon.com
Calendar of Events

September
September 10 – 11
Deaf Interpreters’ Seminar, Antwerp

September 11
efsi Board meeting, Antwerp

September 12
efsi AGM - ditto

September 13 – 14
efsi Conference

September 15 – 16
efsi T, KU Leuven, Antwerp Campus

September 18
Training session for the Insign re-speakers

September 24
Insign partners meeting, Brussels

September 25
Insign demonstration at the European Commission

October
Date to be confirmed
Guest Lecture by PLJ to Mark 10th Anniversary of the Interpreter Training Programme, Bergen University

November
November 27
Final Insign partners meeting, Brussels

November 27 - 28
LIT Search partners meeting, Prague

November 29 - 30
efsi Winter School, Zagreb, Croatia

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.

efsi 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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DEADLINE, FORMATS, PAYMENTS
Payments can be made online via PayPal (no charges). Electronic documentation of the advert (doc, pdf, txt, rtf) should be forwarded to the editor at publicity@efsli.org using subject: ADVERTISEMENT-NWSL. The Board reserve the right for all material, which is received later than the following deadlines, to be published in the next issue.

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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