Contact details
For more information, please visit the efsli website:
www.efsli.org
or send an email to:
secretary@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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As a member of the new efsli Board I had the opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the European network of sign language interpreters. Or maybe the word community would be more fitting. I could really see for myself that no matter the linguistic and cultural differences among individual European countries, SLIs do have a bond and a kind of mutual understanding, which could be contributed to their shared goals and experiences. Whenever I experienced a bigger gathering of SLIs, there was instant connection and desire to communicate and share. It has been very enriching and motivating for me. I believe that every sign language interpreter should be able to experience this to know, that we are not alone and we have a whole community of colleagues to turn to when we need them. I believe efsli plays a significant role in creating and promoting this working community and wish it will continue to do so lead by the new Board.

In this issue of our newsletter, we would like to introduce the new Board to you, so that you know who is who, and also to give you some ideas about topics of conversation with them when you next meet them. And we hope it will be very soon!

There have been several exciting events since the last issue of efsli Newsletter and their participants prepared detailed reports to inform you of everything that has been going on. And we have not forgotten about upcoming events either.

On behalf of efsli Board and all contributors, I wish you pleasant moments spent reading our Newsletter!
A well-known personality among sign language interpreters, Peter Llewellyn-Jones has taken on a new role as efsli President. Many of you might already know him, but in this interview we will introduce him and his views in a new context.

Why/how did you become a sign language interpreter?

I originally trained as a social worker with Deaf people or, as it was called in those days, a ‘Welfare Officer for the Deaf’. The ‘Deaf Welfare Examination Board’ was established in 1928 and its Diploma was still recognised as a social work qualification in the UK until the early 1970s. Looking back, what was extraordinary was that to pass the Diploma, as well as passing the social work elements, you also had to pass an interpreting assessment. This means that although the Register of Interpreters in the UK wasn’t established until the early 1980s, there had been a formal sign language interpreting qualification since the late 1920s.

In those days it wasn’t a full-time college course. Instead we worked under supervision in our local Deaf associations for three years; going to a polytechnic college in London every few months for a one-week residential block of theoretical lectures and seminars. There were no formal sign language classes in those days so, as I didn’t know sign language (I was one of only two students during my time who didn’t have Deaf parents) I had to attend all the Deaf clubs in the area which meant I was taking part in Deaf community activities every day of the week.

By the end of my training I had realised that I liked interpreting far more than the social work part of the job so I started to specialise in interpreting for meetings, conferences, short courses; in fact, anywhere interpreters were needed. As soon as I qualified I went to work as a ‘national officer’ for the British Deaf Association and I was then interpreting for events and courses all over the country.

What do you value most about the profession?

Looking back, I couldn’t have chosen a more satisfying career. On the one hand I’ve had the opportunity to meet and work with people from all walks of life and, on the other, I quickly realised that interpreting is far more complex than simply being able to use two languages. From 1979 to 1981 I was fortunate enough to spend three years at Bristol University researching interpreting cognitive processes and, although I’ve been involved with researching and thinking about a range of difference facets since then, that original interest had never waned. That is one of the reasons I am so pleased the Belgian Association of Sign Language Interpreters has chosen ‘Mind Tricks’ as the topic for the 2014 efsli conference.

Interpreting is always a source of fascination, whether because of the range of settings or the complexity of the processes.

What are your duties and responsibilities as efsli president?

As President I am ultimately responsible for the governance of the organisation; that is ensuring that we work within the constitution and meet the legal requirements of a formally registered, democratic, non-profit international association. I also have to ensure that any activity or campaign we embark on is within the spirit of the organisation, i.e. that it meets the aims of furthering the interests of its members and contributes in a positive and constructive way to the lives of the people who use interpreting services, both from the Deaf and hearing communities.

On a day-to-day level I’m responsible for the ‘international department’ of efsli, which entails developing and strengthening its working relationships with other European organisations that share our goals or complement our work, e.g. the EUD and EULITA. Most recently I have been representing signed language interpreters at the first meetings of the new European Public Service Interpreters and Translators Network (which is due to become a formally constituted European organisation at a meeting in Alcaca, Spain, later in March) and holding discussions with Deb Russell, the President of WASLI, about formalising a ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ with WASLI (see the most recent ‘efsli in Brief’).

I also, of course, chair the efsli Board meetings. Although each board member has her or his own areas of responsibility, there is so much to do that we work, as much as possible, as a team.

What is the biggest challenge for you as efsli president?

The main challenge over the last five months has been learning how efsli works. It has so many procedures and hosts so many events that I have had to rely on the knowledge and advice of previous board members and a host of individuals who have been working with efsli over the years.
The other challenge has been finding the time to keep on top of the efsli work whilst giving enough time to my own work as an interpreter trainer in the UK. Luckily I run my own company so my time is flexible but it is still a challenge.

What is your vision for efsli for the future?

This is something that we, as a board, are only now beginning to think about. All of us have been busy getting up to speed and it has taken us this long to really understand the complexity of the organisation and the diversity of its activities. What is obvious is that efsli’s structure, procedures and resources will need to be strengthened if it is to continue to grow as an active and influential European organisation. I will be proposing that we embark on a consultation exercise, involving full members, existing committees and long-term individual supporters, to develop a realistic yet visionary five-year plan. Only by taking a step back and looking objectively at how efsli currently operates will able to see how we can gear ourselves up for the challenges of the future whilst retaining the spirit, openness, supportiveness and friendliness that makes efsli such a special organisation.

Introducing efsli Board

Josefina Kalousova, Editor

September 2013 meant a big change for efsli, as the AGM selected not only a new President but also a whole new Board, which now has five members with different backgrounds, working experiences and interests. Let us introduce them to you!

Christian Peters
Hamburg, Germany

1. What is your education, area of expertise, work experience?
I am a federal certified Interpreter for International Sign; I received my degree at University Darmstadt. I have several different jobs, all are connected to sign language interpreting or teaching. Currently I work as a media interpreter/translator at Gebärdenwerk, adjunct lecturer at University of Hamburg, co-teacher at the LOGO! interpreter training program in Salzburg and lecturer at IBAF, the school for child care workers in Rendsburg.

2. What do you think is the role of efsli as an organization?
efsli is important as a network of European NASLIs and a platform for discussion about standards in different fields of interpreting in Europe. efsli also works closely with the EUD which represents the European Deaf community and can advise us on the requirements and wishes of Deaf users of sign language interpreting services. Efsli is also involved in developing the use of interpreting teams, whether between spoken and signed languages or between different sign languages.

3. What do you like about efsli?
One of the core aims of efsli is to promote the professionalization of SLIs. I like networking with SLIs from all over Europe and to find out about the role of SLIs in other European countries and what their relationship to the Deaf communities looks like. That is why I love efsli :-)

4. What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy traveling, scuba diving, photography and meeting people.
1. What is your education, area of expertise, work experience?
I studied to be a Dutch Sign Language Interpreter at the Hogeschool Utrecht. I don’t have a specific area of expertise. The places I work in most of the time, and love working in, are hospitals and other settings to do with health (physiotherapy, dentists, etc.) I also work at (elementary) schools, business meetings and so on. It varies from day to day. As you can see I don’t have experience of working in courts, police and mental health. This kind of work has too much of an effect. I have great respect for my colleagues who do like to work in these settings. I do have experience in working in situations where Deaf-Blind clients need me to interpret for them and act as a guide.

2. What is your role on the board? What are your responsibilities?
I am head of Publicity and Promotion. It means that I am responsible for the publications that are sent out by efsli as well as official emails, Facebook messages, tweets, etc. If you order something in the efsli shop, I make sure it gets delivered to your address. I keep the stocks of the books, pens and other efsli merchandise so if one of the board members needs specific things for an event, I make sure that they are available.

3. What motivated you to join the efsli board?
I was infected by the „efslibug” during the AGM and Conference in Glasgow a few years ago. I have been an individual member since that. I am interested in what goes on in Europe regarding sign language teaching, research and the status of different sign languages in individual countries. I realized I wanted to take part in efsli (even if it’s a small one) and not just be on the sidelines watching everything. I like to work with my colleagues from other countries and learn from them how they handle the hurdles and bumps in our profession.

4. What do you think is the role of efsli as an organization?
I think the most important role of efsli is to support research and spread the knowledge the research provides. This means to learn about sign languages, education and research projects in different countries and share this information with countries that can benefit from it.

5. What do you like about efsli?
I like being where the information flows, where the contacts are being made between fellow (Deaf and hearing) interpreters, researchers, teachers and other people that are otherwise involved.

6. What has your experience as an efsli board member been like so far?
You have to be a centipede with human brains to do everything you’d like to do as a board member. Don’t get me wrong: it’s lovely! I like my fellow board members and I’m glad we are with the five of us. For there are sooooooo many things to do! And all at the same time. ;-) 

7. What do you like to do in your free time?
I love scuba diving on the weekends or on vacation. I am still an „open water diver” but I’m hoping to progress to Advanced and Master” within the next few years. I like to dance with my biodanza group. I also like to bake my own bread, cookies, cakes, cupcakes, muffins etc.
2. **What is your role on the board? What are your responsibilities?**

I am responsible for communicating with efsli members and committees (eRF, SAF, eCE). I am also editing this issue of efsli newsletter :-) 

3. **What motivated you to join the efsli board?**

I wanted to become more involved in efsli because I believe in the goals and mission of efsli. I also like cooperating with colleagues from different countries, I enjoy the variety. Joining the efsli board has opened new sources of information and important experiences or me. It is a wonderful opportunity to work alongside experienced professionals.

4. **What do you think is the role of efsli as an organization?**

In my opinion the most important role of efsli is creating connections among SLIs in Europe, networking and sharing information and knowledge. Also representing the profession on different levels and trying to make sure it is recognized. The result of cooperation of efsli members should be standards for SLIs as well as those using their services.

5. **What has your experience as an efsli board member been like so far?**

It has been enriching and altogether pleasant. I feel that our board together with efsli employees (Minke Salome – secretary, Lourdes Calle – project coordinator) is a team of very competent people who are ready to support and help each other.

6. **What do you like to do in your free time?**

When there is time I like to go hiking and generally spend time outdoors, I like traveling to new places. If I have just a short time to relax, I like to read a good book.

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**Josefina Kalousova**  
Praha, Czech Republic

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2. **What is your role on the board? What are your responsibilities?**

I am Treasurer, Head of the Training Department and Vice President, which means that I stand in for Peter when he has to be in two places at the same time.

3. **What motivated you to join the efsli board?**

From the moment I graduated as an interpreter I was interested in efsli. It is so important that interpreters can share good practice and expertise. Every time I went to an efsli event it was great meeting people from other countries. At the moment in Flanders we are lobbying for a higher status for our profession and this motivated me to join efsli. For me it is important to have a forum where interpreters from different countries can come together and discuss issues in regards to their profession, because this gives you the energy and inspiration to go back to your own country and continue to campaign for the professionalization of our work.

4. **What has your experience as efsli board member been like so far?**

Efsli has become a real challenge for me. To be honest, I didn’t know what efsli would bring me when I became a board member. Every day has been challenging and working with a board of skilled and experienced professionals means it is a real learning curve.

5. **What do you like to do in your free time?**

If there is ever any free time :) , I like to meet up with friends and try to do some sporting; but my family is my number one hobby!
efsli launch at the European Parliament: presenting the Learning Outcomes proposal
Lourdes Calle Alberdi, efsli project coordinator

Hosted by Ádám Kösa and Werner Kuhn
Members of the European Parliament

Launch of the publications
• Learning Outcomes for Graduates of a Sign Language Interpreting Training Programme
• Assessment Guidelines for Sign Language Interpreting Training Programmes

17th December 2013, 10:00-11:50
Jössel Antall Building, room 691
European Parliament, Brussels

SPEAKERS
• Sigga Gissiðóttir, Director General of ISL Interpreters and Conferences, Iceland
• Monica Bresadola, Director General of ISL-Interpretation, European Commission
• Rytis Martikonis, Director General of ISL Translations, European Commission
• Peter Llewellyn-Jones, President of the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI)
• Olga Cosmidou, Chair of the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI)
• Mark Wheatley, OBE, President of the EUD (2013-2015)
• Carlotta Besozzi, Director of the European Association for Sign Language (EASL)

THE AUDIENCE AT THE EFSLI LAUNCH

Mark Wheatley (EUD) and Carlotta Besozzi (EDF)

PETER LLEWELLYN-JONES AND MEP ÁDÁM KÓSA

LAST THREE EFSLI PRESIDENTS: MAYA DE WIT, PETER LLEWELLYN-JONES AND MARINELLA SALAMI

LORRAINE LEESON (ECE) AND PETER LLEWELLYN-JONES

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Last 17th December 2013 a major event took place. For the very first time, efsli organised a launch at the European Parliament in order to present the result of almost three years of work: the Learning Outcomes and the Assessment Guidelines publications. The event, hosted by MEPs (members of the European Parliament) Ádám Kósa and Werner Kuhn was a major success, and representatives from EU institutions and European NGO’s delivered presentations on the importance of having fully trained sign language working interpreters.

A two years process in which efsli has organised three international working seminars (Utrecht 2011, Hamburg 2012, Dublin 2013), written one comprehensive report on SLI educational programmes in Europe, set up an online platform, involved the ten members of the efsli committee of experts (eCE), involved three efsli presidents... And finally efsli achieved the intended goal: the publication of the Learning Outcomes for Graduates of a Three Year Interpreting Training Programme and the Assessment Guidelines for Sign Language Interpreting Training Programmes. In order to have a greater impact, efsli launched both publications at the European Parliament, accompanied by the representatives of the EU institutions in charge of interpreting and translating issues in an event called “Fully trained sign language interpreters = full access”.

In close collaboration with MEPs Ádám Kósa and Werner Kuhn, and just a few days after the famous South African fake interpreter issue at Mandela’s memorial that made evident at a world level the need of having qualified sign language interpreters, efsli arranged an event with representatives of several EU Directorate Generals. Ádám Kósa, only deaf MEP, opened the session, mentioning the Mandela’s memorial issue and, referring to the Learning Outcomes publication, he stated that “This is a useful document to ensure that governments can make sure interpreters are provided of an appropriate quality. And I know that members of the European Parliament will be able to use this document fruitfully to have discussions with their member state governments”. Following Mr. Kósa, Peter Llewellyn-Jones, efsli president, took the floor. After briefly introducing the work of efsli, Peter talked about the publications and efsli’s determination to continue with this project, for example looking at training of trainers. Because, as Peter said “(...) the sole purpose is to develop access to deaf people, so that they begin to have full citizenship throughout Europe”.

After these welcoming addresses it was the turn for the first round of invitees, the Director Generals of the three EU institutions responsible for interpreting and translating issues. All of them pointed out at the multilingualism of the EU and the lack of official recognition of signed languages as EU official languages. She also commented of the importance of having fully trained interpreters, both on spoken and signed languages. Olga Cosmidou, Director-General of Directorate-General for Interpretation and Conferences European Parliament (DGIC), affirmed that “(...) European Parliament and in fact, the whole of the Union of the European Union, cannot afford to exclude some parts of their citizens. They have to find ways and means to include them. And there is not a democratic society if they don’t provide for solutions for all their members. It is not me who says that. It is the EU program for employment and social solidarity, the EU as a legal entity. The EU as a whole ratified the United Nations convention [of the Rights of People with Disabilities] in January 2011 (…) they state: language includes spoken and signed languages”.

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Mrs. Cosmidou also claimed that “(...) this battle shouldn’t be confined in sign interpretation. But, it should be a bigger one, the democratic accessibility, and the right of the citizens to have a fair trial, to have access to public services. And only in countries where this is foreseen, the functioning, the democratic functioning is taking place”

Brian Fox, Director of Provision of Interpretation (Directorate General Interpretation European Commission, SCIC), spoke on behalf of Marco Benedetti, Director-General of SCIC. He started congratulating efsli, affirming that “It is a very impressive step that you have finalized this 3 year training scheme with the brochures we received here. You have definitely made the right choice in terms of strategy, approaching the training angle from a thorough, complete and professional angle”. Likewise, Rytis Martikonis, Director-General Directorate General Translation (DGT) addressed the issue of a multilingual Europe, remarking “EU citizenship would become abstract to people, to citizens, who are not able to address institutions in their own languages.”

Preceded by 10 minutes of questions from the audience, Lorraine Leeson, chair of the efsli Committee of Experts (eCE) presented the publications delivering a beautiful speech, making reference to the importance of the day for the history of the deaf and the interpreters. She affirmed that the right to communicate in your own language is a human right, as well as ensuring that everybody has high quality interpreting provision, regardless of the modality of the language each person uses. She also mentioned the way these publications have been driven by consensus, which is the hallmark of efsli’s work. Lorraine commented that the learning outcomes presented are not in any way setting to enforce in standards that we are setting out. Instead, it is a set of guidelines a framework of reference to work with respect to. She also emphasized that these documents are not an end result but a starting point. She finished with a quote from Mandela and a few comments on it. “It always seems impossible until it is done. And I think that that is so true. Thank goodness the ambition of trained competent sign language interpreters is efsli’s goal. Efsli shows that when we are together, what seems impossible can be achieved”

Then it was the turn of Mark Wheatley, EUD director (European Union of the Deaf). He also referred to the UNCRPD and commented on the survey EUD had conducted among its full members across Europe on the implementation of the convention. He highlighted some of the results, such as the fact that about half of the sign language interpreters are perceived as not being qualified enough. He affirmed “(...) this project of efsli is a huge step towards quality interpreters being providers. There are many other things that need to happen to make full accessibility for sign language users”. He also mentioned the fact that too often deaf sign language user’s complaints are ignored, and that is something that has to come to an end.

Lastly, Carlotta Besozzi, director of EDF (European Disability Forum), also mentioned the UNCRPD, and how EDF is very involved in the monitoring of the implementation and the importance of accessibility through signed languages for deaf citizens. She also referred to the European Accessibility Act, expected to be presented next spring, which is going to look at access to goods and services in internal market.

The launch was closed by Ádám Kósa and a standing lunch was offered to participants. In efsli we wish this is just another step in a fruitful collaboration with EU institutions and other organisations towards enhancing the quality standards of sign language interpreters training and performance.
INSIGN PROJECT: making EU institutions accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing people across Europe

Lourdes Calle Alberdi, efsli project coordinator

The EU institutions are closer to become more accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing people thanks to the Insign project, funded by the European Commission. Efsli is working in this regards as a member of a consortium that aims to build up a pilot platform that will allow citizens to communicate with their EU representatives in signed languages and also with written text (real time captioning). The consortium will be working towards this aim throughout 2014.

Step by step and as a result of the efforts of mainly Deaf, interpreters and disabilities associations, the EU institutions are becoming more aware of the importance of making institutions accessible for all the citizens. In this regards, last October 2013 the European Commission agreed to fund the Insign project. Insign is a twelve- month pilot project, commissioned by the Directorate General for Justice of the European Commission to develop a platform to allow Deaf and hard of hearing people immediate access to the EU institutions. Efsli is not alone in this exciting enterprise, but part of a consortium of six partners with a diversity of backgrounds, each one providing expertise in its specialization area of knowledge. The team consist of two European umbrella organisations (EUD and efsli), one university (Heriot-Watt University, Scotland) and three private companies (SignVideo-England, IVÉS-France and Designit-Spain).

The project involves creating a web based platform based on the concept of Total Conversation, which will deliver a comprehensive communication experience: sign language, voice, video and real time text, using for that purpose the professional service of sign language interpreters and respeakers/captioners. In the case of sign language interpreters, two kind of services will be provided: VRS (video relay services; each one of the participants of the communication process is in a different location –Deaf customer, interpreter and hearing customer-) and VRI (video remote interpreting, in which both Deaf and hearing customers are in the same place and the interpreter is in a remote location). For this pilot project five signed languages were chosen: Dutch Sign Language (NGT), Hungarian Sign Language (MJNY), Spanish Sign Language (LSE), British Sign Language (BSL) and French Sign Language (LSF). In addition, International Sign will be provided. Concerning respeakers/captions for hard of hearing, English and French are the spoken language provided. At least two demonstrations of the platform will be held along the year, in April and probably September, in which Deaf and hard of hearing citizens will have the possibility to contact their representatives at the European Parliament.

The main role of efsli in this project is to describe the sign language interpretation and the respeaking component of the platform. For that purpose, along 2014 efsli will carry out several tasks. In collaboration with other partners, efsli is conducting qualitative research amongst its full members to capture relevant information about the existing remote interpreting services and providers. In addition, captioner´s registers and organisations will be addressed. The issues covered in this first research will include, among others, minimum qualifications and experience required, professionalism, working conditions and settings/types of interaction that can be handled appropriately by remote/relay interpreting/re-speaking services. By autumn, efsli will have ready a standards proposal on VRS/VRI and respeaking/captioning.

Efsli will also develop training courses for sign language interpreters and respeakers/captioners. In April the first course will take place at the SigVideo premises in London. SignVideo, with a very long experience in the field, will provide the trainers and efsli representatives will observe the training. Two sign language interpreters and respeakers/captioners for each one of the selected languages will attend the training. With the outcomes of the training, efsli will develop two different trainings (one for countries with SLI formal training and one for countries without) that will be piloted in two countries during the summer. In September, before the second demonstration a new training will take place, this time lead by efsli. In addition, training packages for other platform users will be developed (EU institutions, Deaf users, etc.). Tools for performance evaluation will be developed in collaboration with Heriot-Watt University, and an analysis of booking, billing systems and business models will be done with SignVideo.

This is going to be a very exciting adventure that will require an extra effort from the efsli board and staff. This is an excellent opportunity to have a strong impact on EU institutions, making it possible to make them accessible to all their citizens regardless their hearing status. We will keep you updated of oncoming news in the future efsli in Briefs and efsli Newsletters.
In 2012 the Sign Language Interpreting-programmes of Zwickau, Germany, decided it was time to start to become more internationally involved with other sign language interpreting students and organised the first ESOSLI. There were many students from many European countries who participated in lectures, workshops and other activities led by professionals in the field. They were offered an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences with other students from all over Europe, something that isn’t available in most course curricula.

This year, three enthusiastic Dutch participants from the first ESOSLI conference took on the responsibility of organising the second conference from May 30th until June 1st in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The theme of this year’s ESOSLI will be “working together”. Students will be offered lectures, workshops and other training activities that will give them more knowledge and skills to help with their interpreting studies and future work as professional Sign Language Interpreters.

The Keynote Speakers will be Maya de Wit and Irma Sluis, who will speak about their research into the quality of sign language interpreters in the Netherlands from a deaf user’s perspective. Other lectures and interactive workshops will be about Ethics, working together with other interpreters, with Deaf and hearing interpreter-users, and much more.

If you would like to be updated about how the conference plans are progressing, please check out the ESOSLI website at http://esosli2014.wix.com/esosli2014. If you have a question or a suggestion for the conference organisers, or if you are able to help with material or financial support, please send an email to esosli2014@gmail.com.
**SAF report**  Jetske Tinnevelt

Dear all,

In 2014, the efsli Special Attendance Fund celebrates its 10th anniversary. From the start in 2004, SAF has been giving financial support to interpreters who cannot afford going to the annual conference. It would be absolutely wonderful if we could support (at least) ten interpreters this year and enable them to come to the September conference in Antwerp. To succeed, we need your help.

We have made a little list of ideas to increase the number of applications we can fund in this special celebration year. For example, you could set up a piggy bank at your national association’s activities or hold an auction or raffle at your AGM, or perhaps you find a chance to organize a charity event for SAF? Associations might wish to consider making an annual donation to the fund. You can host special events in your countries and as part of that raise money for the fund. Think of organizing sponsored walks or activities, a show or perhaps an exhibition. A well-known presenter might give a lecture for free and the entree fees could be donated to SAF. Do you need advice? Contact the committee at saf@efsli.org.

Please also consider making a personal donation as a birthday gift to SAF - any amount will contribute to helping a fellow interpreter attend the conference!

**Follow this link to find the Paypal donation button:**
www.efsli.org/info-block/saf

And if you are looking for an opportunity to spend a great night out and at the same time support saf, this might be what you have been waiting for:

**Are you close to the London area? Have you ever wondered about an interpreter’s past? Want to know what secrets they’re hiding? Join Stuart Anderson to find out what efsli members are hiding. Thursday 15th of May, The Savoy Tup, London, £5.**

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/would-we-lie-to-you-tickets-7392365765

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**SAF fundraiser**  Daan Heimans

Every summer I have several vegetables in my garden. This summer I went for pumpkins, which turned out to be a great choice.

In October it is time for the harvest. So I did. But my pumpkins were so huge that I didn’t know what to do. I decided to donate one pumpkin to SAF.

As I am working for The Gelderhorst, a care house for elderly deaf people, I asked our cook and my chef permission to make soup out of the pumpkin and sell it.

I am thankful to them for their help. They gave me the opportunity to raise €175 for SAF. €175 out of one pumpkin? Yes! We made 35 liters of pumpkin soup, which could be bought by employees and residents.
New member of the efsli Committee of Experts

Committee of experts is an important part of efsli, which provides indispensable support to various projects and activities. We are very happy that this committee has a new member who agreed to introduce herself.

Hi, my name is Beppie van den Bogaerde, and I am honored to become a part of the efsli Committee of Experts.

I have been involved in interpreting education since 1997, when we started a bachelor interpreter program at the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. But before that (way back in 1973) I studied to be an English-Dutch translator/interpreter, although I never really worked as one. Later I studied General Linguistics (psycholinguistics and sign linguistics) at the University of Amsterdam, with prof. Bernard Tervoort and Anne Baker. I also did my PhD there and graduated in 2000, my thesis was titled Input and Interaction in Deaf Families.

Meanwhile we were also starting to develop master degrees in Deaf Studies and Teacher of NGT, which were established in 2005. In 2007 I was installed as professor of Deaf Studies at UUAS, and in 2013 I succeeded Anne Baker as (part time) Professor of NGT at the University of Amsterdam. I have been collaborating with the Dutch Sign Language Interpreters Association (NBTG) as well as with efsli and efsliT all these years, and am very proud to become more involved with efsli, that has done so much for the profession of SL interpreting in Europe and in fact, the world, and thus also for the Deaf community. I am very much looking forward to work with my eminent colleagues in the efsli Committee of experts!
When in 2011 efsli accepted application of STPJM for Training on Demand in Poland and proposed the year 2013 as the date of the event, we felt a bit disappointed – it seemed such an awfully long time. But the training took place before we even noticed! On 26-27th October, twelve interpreter trainees met with a trainer, Clare Canton and her interpreter, Rebecca Goodall from Scotland to develop their teamwork skills. The participants, six Deaf and six hearing, were mostly STPJM members.

The idea of interpreting in a Deaf-hearing team is not entirely new in Poland, but our experience in this respect is rather low. We think that everyone learnt a lot of new information related to good practices in terms of cooperation between a hearing and a Deaf interpreter. The trainees had a chance to gain this knowledge not only on the basis of theoretical presentations, but also in the course of practical activities. Together they were to carry out assignments, reach compromises and provide solutions.

The trainer took care so that the participants spent enough time discussing the main rules of working with a partner, as well as practically experienced situations of interpreting in various language combinations (EN>IS>PJM and IS>PJM>EN). During the training interpreters acquainted themselves with the aspects of teamwork they knew nothing about before. Some of them were surprised by the obstacles they met, others were glad to hear suggestions as to potential way-outs of problematic situations experienced in everyday life. Most importantly though, they all learnt a lot about themselves, both as interpreters and partners in relations with other interpreters. We are also sure that the training unified the group, made them feel a big Deaf-hearing team. But see what impressions the participants of the training themselves have to share:

It was one of the best trainings in which I participated ever. I tried to make maximum use of my presence there. I really liked the attitude of the Deaf trainer to the participants – both Deaf and hearing. It was a great experience to me!

Magdalena Bielak

I am glad I took part in this training. Thanks to it I know what I should work on in the future, pay more attention to and avoid during interpreting. I had a chance to experience co-working with a hearing and a Deaf partner. It turned out that working with a hearing partner is not as easy as I initially thought. Also, interpreting from IS into PJM is not an easy thing – I have a lot to practice in this respect. Summing up, the training was a very interesting experience.

Natalia Pietrzak

To me participation in the efsli Training on Demand that took place on 26-27th October 2013 was an extremely valuable experience. Although I was familiar with the topic of the training it made a great impression on me anyway. It made me reflect on many things and allowed me to analyse my experience and abilities as a Deaf interpreter.

>> continue on page 16
The two days of training run by Clare and her interpreter Rebecca were very intensive and enlightening. Thanks to listening to one another and making efforts to understand each other’s perspective, we were able to build a relationship within the teams of Deaf and hearing interpreters. The dynamics of the group work thought us how to cooperate effectively in a Deaf-hearing team. We became familiar with the division of roles and responsibilities as partners and learnt step by step the process and functioning of the interpreter team.

The training included various practical activities: each interpreter and each group could present their interpreting strategies. The activities made us aware of possible styles of interpreting. In my opinion, what is most important about cooperation between interpreters is flexibility and good preparation.

The training was a powerful boost of critical thinking about one’s own interpreting skills and a good occasion for further analysis of one’s own professional activity. Clare, with passion and involvement, tried to make the training clear for everyone and adjusted it to our needs. Working with her was a true pleasure and allowed us to become acquainted with this specialised area of interpreting. The only thing I missed during the training was feedback for both the group and individual participants.

I hope for similar trainings in the company of other STPJ members, so that we could develop our interpreting skills and hit the market. I would like to show the power of professionalism and the latest trends in Deaf-hearing interpreting!

Michal Lach
It was with a lot of anticipation the participants met at Linz, Austria at the venue the 3rd weekend in November 2013. We were going to attend a 2 day efsli Training on demand on the topic of “Interpreting from/to English as a Third Language” and were not sure whether our command of English would suffice to survive the seminar. The group was composed of 16 participants from Austria, Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands who had registered in pairs to be able to practice and work together without language problems. Our very experienced and professional trainer, Maya de Wit, had prepared a soft start and easily triggered the transformation of a group of pairs to a kind of team that had lively exchanges during the group tasks and the breaks. There was a lot of useful input from Maya on Dean and Pollard’s Demand Control scheme, issues of team working, typical stress factors, typical meeting procedures and their vocabulary, useful sentence connectors, business vocabulary, the most popular idioms, typical structure of a presentation, useful resources for preparation and perfection of our English. We were taken into practice and were introduced to very efficient methods to prepare for assignments. We did some, but not enough exercises for my taste although I would not have liked to miss out on any of the very helpful inputs and tools we were provided with. In short: the seminar should have been longer and the participants did not feel time passing. What I would have appreciated is some feedback on our production during the practice sessions which was of course impossible as so many sign languages were used. I also really enjoyed the evening program that introduced us to the local cuisine on the first evening and to the new cuisine the Linz style on the second. We made new friends and had the wonderful efsli-family feeling of not being alone, although our work can be a very lonely sometimes.

The seminar has given us the feeling that interpreting into English is feasible, if you are well prepared and are attuned to your co-interpreter. It showed us where we need improving and what we could do better. One of the most important finding I took home was that my perfectionism (you have to relay all the information!!!) can be a barrier to a good interpretation. All in all a very rewarding experience I would not have liked to miss! I’ll come again. ;)

efsli Training on Demand - “Interpreting from/to English as a Third Language”  Patricia Brück
The "Learning Outcomes" are intended to be relevant to all signed language interpreters, regardless of hearing status. All of the learning outcomes are designed as descriptors of the minimal level of competence for entry to the profession and are predicated on the following notional conditions: that students are following a course of study that is of three years duration and that the majority of students have no or little signed language competence at entry. It is important to note that this is intended merely as a reference framework which represents the minimal threshold competencies that interpreter trainers and practitioners from across Europe believe is required for practice.

The purpose of “Assessment Guidelines” is to present a set of possible types of assessment which are in use throughout Europe when assessing learning outcomes within educational programmes.

The efsli “Learning Outcomes for Graduates of a Three Year Sign Language Interpreting Programme” served as a basis for the discussion in the Dublin workshops and provided the point of reference for the present guidelines. However, while these guidelines are pitched at a three-year undergraduate course, it is our hope that this document will also function as a point of reference and resource to those who may be working outside of that framework. This document is divided into two parts; general recommendations and specific assessment tools. A glossary of terms has also been included to provide definitions of core terminology used.

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Calendar of Events

April
April 11 – 14
efsli Spring School Interpreting Research, Belgrade, Serbia

May
May 16
EUD General Assembly, Athens, Greece
May 29 – June 1
ESOSLI Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands

July
July 11 – 13
efsli Summer School, Team Interpreting, Dublin, Ireland

August
August 4 – 6
20th FIT (International Federation of Translators) Conference, Berlin, Germany

September
September 10 – 11
efsli Deaf Interpreters Seminar, Antwerp, Belgium
September 12
efsli AGM, Antwerp, Belgium
September 13 – 14
efsli Conference Mind tricks: Our brain is the limit. Cognitive processes in sign language interpreting, Antwerp, Belgium
September 15 – 16
efsli Trainers Seminar Teaching Mind Tricks? From Consecutive to Simultaneous Interpreting … and Back, Antwerp, Belgium

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

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Please be informed that we welcome advertisements with relevance to the members and 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.

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

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