**efsli Board elections**

As mentioned in our last edition, due to the resignation of two Board members (Jolanda Peverelli and Peter Llewellyn-Jones), an extra general meeting has been called. The purpose of this EGM is to elect a new Board: this will be the only item on the EGM's agenda. Thus, efsli invites nominations for the following Board positions: President and four Board members. The deadline for nominations is 19th June. The result of the elections will be made public on 3rd August. If you are interested in standing for election, please contact your NASLI for further information on how to apply. Nominations must be submitted by email to secretariat@efsli.org by 19th June 2015.

**efsli Autumn 2015**

The efsli diary for Autumn 2015 is filled with activities, so make sure you keep a weekend free to attend (at least!) one of the events we are organising for you. In addition to the Deaf interpreters' seminar (9-10 September) and the efsli AGM and conference in Warsaw (11-13 September), efsli schools on interpretation with the Deafblind (end of September), interpreting in educational settings (October) and an event on interpreting with victims of sexual assault (November 2015) will be held.

Efsli is also planning to strengthen ties with its partner organisations and some meetings are being planned so the new efsli Board to be elected in August can meet the representatives of EUD, EDBU and EUDY. This year is EUD's 30th anniversary and efsli will be present at the celebratory event our EUD friends are organising in Brussels. So, keep an eye on us because this efsli Autumn will be unforgettable.

**Signs2Cross: Making International Sign accessible**

Signs2Cross was a two-year deaf-led EU project
(2013-14) that created an online course with the goal of supporting the learning of International Sign (IS).

Partners from the UK, Italy, Norway, Iceland, and Germany worked together to provide the learning tool freely available at www.signs2cross.eu (for Information on the project see http://www.acm5.com/signs2cross/).

Signs2Cross built upon an earlier project that established a ‘sign language only’ online course for learning British Sign Language (www.signs2go.eu). Signs2Cross offers an environment for exploring commonalities and differences between IS and five different European sign languages; British Sign Language (BSL), Italian Sign Language (LIS), Norwegian Sign Language (NTS), Icelandic Sign Language (ITM) and German Sign Language (DGS). All Deaf project members have close ties to national and international Deaf communities. Taking a broad view, the project defined IS as a fairly diverse set of communicative practices commonly employed when Deaf people of different national backgrounds meet.

Signs2Cross aims at contributing to the visibility of Deaf people and their unique language forms. It enables Deaf people of diverse backgrounds to expand and reflect upon their abilities to communicate across linguistic barriers, thus promoting linguistic awareness, self-esteem, and mobility among Deaf people in Europe. Hearing sign language users may also use the Signs2Cross course to gain access to the transnational communication of the Deaf.

For more information about the project, contact Jens Hessmann jens.hessmann@hs-magdeburg.de

saf committee members sought (Special Attendance Fund). Message from Julia Cramer, saf coordinator:

Dear efsli members
I would like to inform you about important changes in the saf committee that will take effect after the efsli conference in September.

Julia Cramer, am going to step down from the post as the saf coordinator after three very exciting and successful years to have more time for other honorary posts.

At the same time, Yvonne Jobse will leave the committee after many active years, and so will Sofia Tsereli to help organize efsli 2016 in her home country, Greece.

For this reason, we are looking for volunteers who feel they would fit the committee well and are motivated to become either a member or even the coordinator of the whole team. So if you are looking for a new challenge, eager to work in a multi-cultural team, happy to spend some of your free time on volunteer work, and good at organizing or at fundraising...

We are looking for you! The remaining saf members –

Androniki Xanthopoulou, Bibi DaLacey-Mould, Britta Meinicke and Jetske Tinnevelt – are looking forward to offering a warm welcome to new team members. If you want to find out more about
What do you know about efsi2015 programme?
Maybe you have already registered for efsi2015 in Warsaw, or maybe you have not yet. What are you waiting for? Have you already read the programme? Do you know that internationally renowned researchers such as Anna-Lena Nilsson, Jemina Napier, Brenda Nicodemus and Sharon Neumann Solow will be delivering presentations in Warsaw? Do you know that six different workshops will be organised to facilitate some practical learning? This year’s theme, “To say or not to say. Challenges of interpreting from sign language into spoken language”, is one of the issues that is perceived by many interpreters as a very tough task. If you want to further understand where our problems come from and how we can deal with them, register for the efsi conference now!

Regular deadline for registrations: 15th June. www.efsli.org/2015

Justisigns
efsli is looking forward to being in Zurich for the next Justisigns Project Partner Consortium meeting on 8-9 June. The project is focused on creating learning materials for key stakeholders in legal settings, with a particular focus on police settings. More information can be found at: http://www.justisigns.com/ Don’t forget to follow us on Twitter @Justisigns

ProSign project – the 4-years project is almost coming to an end...
Message from the ProSign team:
In 2012 the ProSign expert team (Lorraine Leeson, Tobias Haug, Christian Rathmann, and Beppie van den Bogaerde) began its work. Almost four years later we can look back and say that a lot has been achieved: Later this year we will launch an IS and English version of the Common European Framework of Reference for Sign Languages as well as tools that support the assessment of sign languages. We believe that our ProSign work has also served as a tool to support general awareness raising of European sign languages within European institutions. This was only possible because of the support and work of the ECML (European Centre of Modern Languages) and our Deaf and hearing colleagues across Europe who actively participated in the many different ProSign events, including our conferences, workshops and network meetings in Graz (2013, 2015) and Hamburg (2014). We want to thank everyone who was involved in this project – our Associate Partners – which includes efsli and EUD and the many individuals who helped shape the project outputs which will be made available online at the ECML’s website in fall 2015.

European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters
You can find more information here: http://www.ecml.at/F5/tabid/867/Default.aspx

#efsli2016 is on its way...

Lourdes Calle, efsli project coordinator, met Evlambia Angelou and Sofia Tsereli, members of the Greek organising committee that will organise next efsli AGM and conference in 2016 in Thessaloniki (Greece). The organising committee is already working hard in taking the first steps towards this wonderful event, making sure sign language interpreters from across Europe enjoy the well known Greek hospitality. During the meeting in this exciting Mediterranean city, a range of issues were explored, including the topic of the conference, venue, date, etc. However, all this information will be top secret until we all meet in Warsaw in September!! efsli can promise that our Greek representatives will deliver an unforgettable efsli conference. In addition, as it happens every even-numbered year, efsliT will take place right after the efsli conference in this lively city…

30th EUD General Meeting in Riga

Renata Swiderska, Coordinator of the efsli Deaf Interpreters’ Network, attended the General Assembly of the European Union of Deaf (EUD) held this year in Riga, Latvia. The event marked the 30th edition of the EUD General Meeting, making the event a particularly special one. In celebration of this important anniversary, Johan Wesemann (the Netherlands), who originally served as the first President of the EUD, chaired the event. Around 100 delegates from across Europe were in attendance. Special guests included: the President of the World Federation of the Deaf Collin Allen, the President of the European Union of Deaf Youth Timothy Rowies and two Deaf members of the European Parliament Adám Kósa and Helga Stevens.

During the Meeting, the EUD Board described the work completed in the previous year, including those projects in which the EUD has spearheaded, such as the EUD Election Manifesto, Insign (a project in which efsli is also a partner) or SignTeach. During this time, Renata met with representatives from different countries and collected information regarding interpreting services throughout Europe. Concurrently, the hosting association, the Latvian Association of Deaf (LNS), celebrated its 95th anniversary. The programme was full of very interesting performances, signed songs and presentations about the last 95 years of their association. In November EUD will organise a 30th anniversary celebration in Brussels and efsli will be there again to celebrate with them. Congratulations EUD!