



Important Dates:

24th November

Final Insign partners meeting,
Brussels

27th - 28th November

LIT Search partners meeting,
Prague

28th - 29th November

efsli Training on Demand,
Zagreb, Croatia



Special edition



During the efsli conference in Antwerp I came up with the idea of producing a special edition of “efsli in brief” as a way of thanking BVGT and showing the organising committee how much we enjoyed the conference.

BVGT, we all had a great time - and we learned a lot! Thank you so very much!

Some of our members, and one of our VIP guests, have written about their experience for this Special edition.

After reading their contributions, if you didn't make it this year, you might want to start saving for next year's conference in Warsaw!

Jolanda

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A word from the organising committee

'Mindtricks' was the theme of the 2014 Efsli conference. And mindtricks is what we, as hosts of the AGM and conference, needed a lot of the past year. We were the hosts in the year that a completely new Efsli board was elected. The new board members, swamped with work immediately, had no experience organizing the Efsli conference themselves so they were not able to help us out a lot. It was also the year that no EU grant could be guaranteed. We struggled with budget sheets, negotiations with restaurants and hotels, technical specifications and whatnot. We had countless sleepless nights dreaming of catastrophes and excel sheets.

Miraculously, our nightmares didn't come true! Our laptop didn't crash during the presentations and we didn't accidentally pair a man and a woman to share a room.

We managed to listen to bits and pieces of the presentations on 'Mindtricks' and learned - among many other things - that knowing the processes going on in our brain while interpreting is imperative; that we should consider alternating between consecutive and simultaneous interpreting more and that there is a lot more than mere words to interpret.

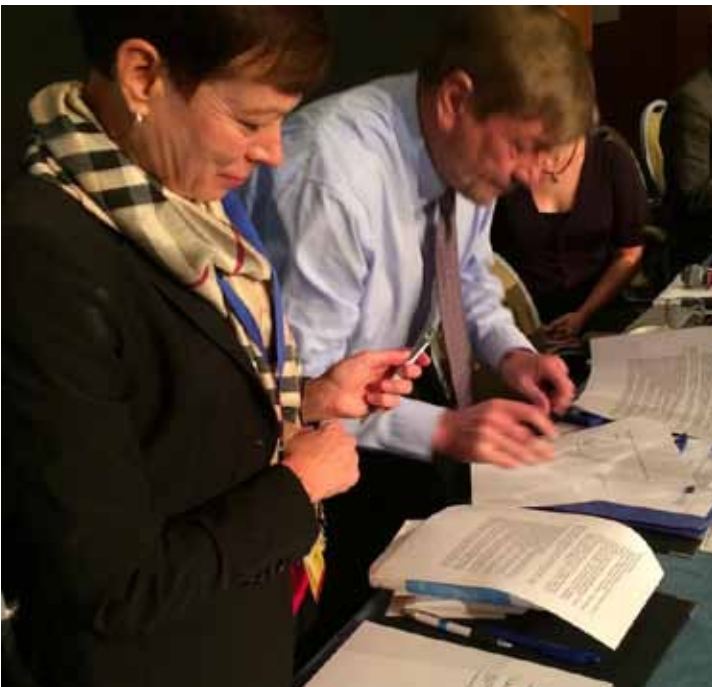
Looking back, Efsli 2014 was a rollercoaster, going up and down and even upside down: scary but fun! The most fun was to see you all, our European colleagues, enjoying yourselves. You are the most wonderful audience anyone could wish for!

Now, we are looking forward to meeting you all again in Warsaw next year and wish our Polish colleagues the best of luck with Efsli 2015!



Keynote speaker: Debra Russell

Thank you to this year's efsli's hosts! The Belgium Association of Sign Language Interpreters did such an amazing job of creating a wonderful learning opportunity for all of us, and I appreciated the chance to participate in efsli. As I reflect on the excellent presentations offered, I am struck by how cohesive the program was, and how similar the major themes were across all of the presentations. I am taking away many "mind tricks" from your conference, including the theme and evidence that good interpretation takes time to construct, no matter how solid our minds are in processing what we think people mean, which requires that we conceive of a continuum of modes of interpretation. If we are to understand intersubjectivity and the role it plays in human communication, it is clear that our training in discourse analysis, translation and consecutive and simultaneous interpreting must be of the highest standard in order to decide whether we should be using CI or SI in a given interaction. The usefulness of cognitive models (Gile, Cokely, Pointureir-Pourin, Russell, etc.) as teaching tools to examine discourse features and the functionality, as guides for our feedback sessions, and when reflecting on our own work, was certainly underscored across several presentations. By breaking the work down and really examining conventional language in use, we can hone our lens about the strategies employed by L1 users of signed and spoken languages and bring attention to the aspects that L2 learners must acquire for effective interpretation. It was also very interesting to see the number of researchers who have recently employed the Think Aloud Protocol, first introduced in our field by Dr. Christopher Stone. Understanding where interpreters put the focus, and understanding the types of comments that reflect their thinking can be instructive to both educators and interpreters.



"Debra Russell, the President of WASLI, and Peter Llewellyn-Jones, the President of efsli, sign a new Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the two organisation"

As I said at the closing, where attention goes, energy flows, and it is clear that the energy was flowing at efsli! The participants were so engaged with each other, exploring the ideas presented, sharing their own views, and topping that off with the odd beverage in one of the most beautiful cities – these are the images that will stay with me.

Thank you again for your warm and very generous hospitality, and I wish the efsli board of directors continued success!

A delegate attending the AGM and “Mindtricks” conference: Lorette

As a delegate representing the French part of Switzerland I would like first to thank the efsli board for all your work during this year and the organising committee for the efsli conference in Antwerp.

For the past three years, I've enjoyed participating in the AGM and meeting all my European colleagues. I think it's important to be here and keep my association (even if we're a very small one) informed of what's happening in Europe.

Of course, all country's working conditions are different and I can sometimes feel so far away, I mean.. so far behind..

But wherever you come from and whatever is your country's reality a place is available in efsli for everyone and a chance is given to go further on.

So thanks to ALL!!



**Also watch the movie of the
“Mindtricks” conference** *(click to watch)*

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A visitor to the “Mindtricks” conference only: Patricia

efsli 2014 was a wonderful experience which gave us new insights into the many aspects of interpreting; some of which confirmed what we had already suspected from our daily work. I really enjoyed the lectures and was mind-mapping most of them just to make sure I could take home as much as possible. And I really liked watching our deaf colleagues at work, which gave me a few ideas to take home as well :)

This was first efsli conference I had been to that consisted of lectures and papers rather than workshops where we could share ideas. I have to admit that I really missed the opportunity for that type of exchange. I have always found that a talk about a working issue followed by a workshop on the same topic has always been an enriching experience that I would very much appreciate that format again in the future. (Although having just one lecture going on at a time saved us the trouble of having to choose what to go to ;)

There were so many lectures on Saturday that it was quite demanding and I had to miss one in the afternoon, just because I was unable to concentrate any longer.

And there is one point I have to add: I had expected other kinds of lectures under the heading "MIND TRICKS". Not that I did not enjoy what we were presented with - I really was delighted - but with some of the lectures I did not see any connection to the topic of the conference.

As usual, meeting old friends and new colleagues from other countries was wonderful (I have been infected by the 'efsli bug', as Ramon called it in 2012 ;).

Antwerp was a wonderful backdrop for the conference and the weather was perfect; it could not have been better.

All in all, I was happy to be there and I am looking forward to next year's conferences :)

Hugs, Patricia

Dear participants of the efsli AGM and conference 2014,

On behalf of the saf committee, I would like to say thank you for the overwhelming support you gave to the special attendance fund in Antwerp. Through untiringly buying saffle tickets, fearlessly bidding at the auction (you remember



- a really nice bottle of raki was given away at a very reasonable price by our famous and eloquent auctioneer) and time and again feeding the cute red piggy bank at the efsli stand, you all contributed to an incredible € 1,707.60 for the special attendance fund!

We are delighted and very grateful for your solidarity with the colleagues who will apply for and receive a saf funding in 2015.

Warm greetings

Julia Cramer, coordinator of the SAF committee

SAF/DI seminar/AGM & Conference participant: Renata

I will remember efsli 2014 for the rest of my life.

It was my *second* AGM and conference organised by efsli and also my second Seminar for Deaf Interpreters ... BUT ... for the *first* time we had had two whole days to talk about the challenges, problems and ideas connected with different work settings for Deaf Interpreters; for the *first* time we have an official committee – efsliDI – and it was the *first* time that I felt a real part of efsli and that I can now do some really important things for the organisation.

Why? Because, surprisingly, I became the Chairperson of efsliDI. For me this means new challenges and an ‘open door’ to new experiences. So I hope you made the right choice :)

And I was in Belgium for the first time! :)

The conference was very important for two reasons. First, the Association of Polish Sign Language Interpreters will host the next conference in Warsaw and I’m a member of the organising team. Secondly, I was interested in the theme of “Mind tricks”. I’m a person who always wants to know more so I wanted to know more about mind tricks. I’m happy because I could watch the conference presenters sharing their knowledge, research and experience with us.

The most important presentation for me was the one by **Karen Bontempo (AU), Tobias Haug (CH), Lorraine Leeson (IE), Jemina Napier (UK), Brenda Nicodemus (US), Beppie van den Bogaerde (NL) and Myriam Vermeerbergen (BE)**; “Not Quite Utopia: Insights on Interpreting from Deaf Leaders on Three Continents”.

I was a little shocked by it. I already knew that Deaf people are sometimes afraid to say the truth and give honest feedback to their interpreters. This presentation, though, opened my eyes and I realised that I also never give full feedback to my interpreters (when I’m given the chance, of course). How can interpreters improve their skills if we are not honest with them? I think this is a big, difficult but important issue.

After the conference I gave my feedback to a colleague interpreter and she was very grateful. I decided that I will continue to do this.

I can’t write about, and do justice to everything that happened, in only in 200-300 words; you have to experience it yourself, so ...

will we see each other in Poland next year? Feel invited!

11th September - 13th September 2015

efsli conference, Warszawa (Warsaw), Poland!



EFSLI 2015

To say or not to say

- challenges of interpreting from sign language to spoken language



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We will keep you informed!