

AGM 2013 - Country report for full members

2. Your association

On behalf of which national association of sign language interpreters are you reporting?

ABILS (Belgium)

Your name:

Dounya François

Your email address

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3. Country facts

What is the population in your country/region?

4 500 000

What is the number of Deaf sign language users in your country (or in the region of the country) you are representing?

200 000

How many sign language interpreters are officially registered in your country / region?

25

How many interpreter members does your association have?

15

If you have any comments on the above facts, please mention them here:

These numbers refer to the French speaking of Belgium and are approximative.

4. Events & goals

What are the most important events for your association in the past year?

ABILS were very active for the recognition of the status of Sign Language Interpreters in Belgium and put a lot of work in setting up the first University degree for SLI's in the French speaking part of Belgium (Brussels).

ABILS were as well involved in the "Plateforme": a think tank of various Deaf and SLI's associations in Belgium trying to professionalize SL interpreting.

ABILS tried to welcome and guide the young members as well as possible.

What are the most important events for the situation of sign language interpreters in your country/region (for example the recognition of the national Sign Language, of the profession, etc.)

Not an event, but a long process that began last year: the recognition of the status of SLI's in Belgium.

For the French speaking part : ministerial approval received in the spring of 2013 that will allow us to set up a University degree for SLI's embedded in an conference interpreting Master degree.

What are the goals of your association for the coming year?

The main goals are:

- the recognition of the status of SLI's in Belgium.
- an active participation in the preparation of the University degree for SLI's (opening in September 2014) and then in the coordination and improvement of this Master degree.
- to sign a convention with the national Deaf Association.
- to organize a training for the ABILS members (topic: "de-verbalisation")
- to strengthen the link with AIIIC Belgium