

AGM 2013 - Country report for full members

2. Your association

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

FILSE (Spain)

Your name:

Brendan Costello

Your email address

filse@filse.org

3. Country facts

What is the population in your country/region?

47,250,000

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

150,000

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

5,000

How many interpreter members does your association have?

500

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

We have no reliable estimates for the number of Deaf sign language users, and the figure given is an estimate given by the National Association of Deaf People.

The number of SL interpreters is an estimate of those who have obtained the official qualification, which is offered in around 50 different centres throughout Spain.

4. Events & goals

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

Support given to interpreters who had been unfairly dismissed from their jobs.
Meetings with the various bodies of the public administration to represent the profession.
Having to cancel a trainers workshop we were organizing due to lack of interest.

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.)

The ongoing economic crisis in Spain, which is affecting funding for interpreting services and making the work situation even more unstable.
The announcement that the official vocational training course to obtain the qualification of SL interpreter is to be terminated.

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

To improve working conditions and professional recognition for sign language interpreters and interpreter-guides for the Deafblind.
To collaborate closely with national Deaf people's and Deafblind people's associations.
To encourage the creation of SLI associations in the Spanish regions that currently do not have them.
To collaborate with countries to help them foster the creation of associations and to develop the profession.
To collaborate with spoken language interpreters.
To act as consultants to the public administration.
To participate in the activities of the National Sign Language Centre.
To ensure that there is a new basic training course to qualify as a SL interpreter. We are negotiating with universities at the moment to see if this is possible.

