



EUROPEAN UNION
OF THE DEAF



Impact Report 2025

Acknowledgements

Based in Brussels, Belgium, EUD is a not-for-profit European Non-Governmental Organisation (ENGO) whose members comprise of National Associations of the Deaf (NADs).

CERV Work Programme

EUD would like to thank the European Commission for funding this 2025 Impact Report under the CERV Work Programme. Without their substantial financial contributions, the publication of this report would not have been possible.

The support of the EUD Board and President provides an accurate and up-to-date account of the activities in 2025.

Our member associations are at the heart of our work and we thank them for assisting and co-operating with us throughout the year.

The European Disability Forum (EDF), the European disability umbrella organisation, has been a great partner in all our work, informing us, consulting us, taking into account our demands in their advocacy work, and collaborating with our board and staff via email and in person, in and outside of Brussels.

In support of its daily work, EUD has been in contact with a large number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and other EU policymakers and aspires to continue this fruitful co-operation in the coming years.



2025.

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Foreword

Greetings to all members and supporters of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) as we look back on an important year for deaf rights in Europe and prepare for the work ahead.

In 2025, a key moment was the review of the European Union's second and third report by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) in Geneva. EUD was present and active throughout, ensuring that the Committee recognised the EU's responsibility for the official recognition and official status of its 29 national sign languages – a crucial step towards the full realisation of deaf people's human rights. At political level, our proposal for a European Day of Sign Languages gained visibility in the Council of the EU, reflecting growing recognition of sign languages as part of Europe's linguistic and cultural heritage.

This year also saw important advances in protecting digital rights. EUD published new materials on artificial intelligence and sign language, including an ethical framework and a model contract to guide the fair and

responsible use of sign language data. Another milestone was the launch of our book, 'From recognition to officialisation – A European evolution of sign language rights', alongside the first full year of EUD TV. Our 40th Anniversary celebration in the European Parliament, with European Commissioner Hadja Lahbib and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola taking part in the conference, was a powerful reminder of how far our movement has come.

Looking ahead, EUD enters 2026 on solid ground, with secured funding from the CERV programme for 2026–2028 and clear priorities for our policy and project work, including the continued pursuit of a European Day of Sign Languages. Our upcoming Board Elections in Cyprus will shape the next chapter of our organisation. I warmly thank all our members, partners, and supporters for their commitment. Together, we are building a more inclusive and accessible Europe in which national sign languages are fully recognised, respected, and promoted.



EUD President,
Sofia Isari



105th anniversary celebrations of the Latvian Association of the Deaf (LNS) - 6 - 9 June 2025 in Riga, Latvia.



Celebrating 135 Years of Heritage – BSL Conference 2025- 17–18 July 2025 in Leeds, United Kingdom



Global Disability Summit - 2-3 April 2025 in Berlin, Germany

Introduction

European Union of the Deaf

Based in Brussels, Belgium, EUD is a not for-profit European non-governmental organisation (ENGO) comprising national members that are the National Associations of the Deaf (NADs). It is the only supranational organisation representing deaf people at European level and is one of the few ENGOs representing associations from all of the 27 EU Member States, in addition to Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the UK. The EUD also has an Affiliated Member in Ukraine. National Associations of the Deaf in candidate countries, potential candidates, and acceding countries can choose to be affiliated members with the option of becoming full members as soon as their country becomes a Member State of the EU, or a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

EUD aims to establish and maintain EU-level dialogues with its relative

institutions and officials, in consultation and co-operation with its members. EUD is a full member of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and a Regional Co-operating Member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) to tackle issues of global importance. Moreover, it also has participatory status with the Council of Europe (CoE).

EUD also has signed memorandums of understanding with the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli), the European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY), the European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO), the European Deafblind Union (EDbU), European Deaf Students Union (EDSU) and the European Network of Sign Language Teachers (ENSLT).

Since 2017, it has held special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC).



Full Members

Austria – Österreichischer Gehörlosenbund (ÖGLB)

Belgium – Doof Vlaanderen & Fédération Francophone des Sourds de Belgique (FFSB)

Bulgaria – Съюз на глухите в България (СГБ / UDB)

Croatia - Hrvatski savez gluhih inagluhih (HSGN)

Cyprus – Ομοσπονδία Κωφών Κύπρου

Czech Republic – Svaz neslyšících a nedoslýchavých v ČR (SNNČR)

Denmark – Danske Døves Landsforbund (DDL)

Estonia – Eesti Kurtide Liit (EKL)

Finland – Kuurojen Liitto (FAD)

France – Fédération Nationale des Sourds de France (FNSF)

Germany – Deutscher Gehörlosen-Bund (DGB)

Greece – Ομοσπονδία Κωφών Ελλάδος (HFD)

Hungary – Siketek és Nagyothallók Országos Szövetsége (SINOSZ)

Iceland – Félag heyrnarlausra

Ireland – Irish Deaf Society (IDS)

Italy – Ente Nazionale Sordi (ENS)

Latvia – Latvijas Nedzirdīgo savienība (LNS)

Lithuania – Lietuvos kurčiųjų draugija (LKD)

Luxembourg – Solidarität mit Hörgeschädigten

Malta – Għaqda Persuni Neqsin mis-Smigħ

Netherlands – Dovenschap

Norway – Norges Døveforbund (NDF)

Poland – Polski Związek Głuchych (PZG)

Portugal – Federação Portuguesa das Associações de Surdos (FPAS)

Romania – Asociația Națională a Surzilor din România (ANSR)

Slovakia – Asociácia nepočujúcich Slovenska (ANEPS)

Slovenia – Zveza društev gluhih in naglušnih Slovenije (ZDGNS)

Spain – Confederación Estatal de Personas Sordas (CNSE)

Sweden – Sveriges Dövas Riksförbund (SDR)

Switzerland – Schweizerischen Gehörlosenbund, Fédération Suisse des Sourds,

Federazione Svizzera dei Sordi (SGB-FSS)

United Kingdom – British Deaf Association (BDA)

Affiliated member

Ukraine – Ukrainian Society of the Deaf (UTOG)

Board Members



Sofia Isari
EUD President
Greece



Ronit Laquerrière-Leven
EUD Vice President
France



David Buxton
EUD Board Member
United Kingdom



Paal Richard Peterson
EUD Board Member
Norway



Andy Van Hoorebeke
EUD Board Member
Belgium



Staff Members



Frankie Picron
Executive Director



Alexandre Bloxs
Policy Manager
Belgium



David Hay
Communications and
Media Manager
United Kingdom



Davy Van Landuyt
Project Manager
Belgium



Delphine le Maire
Policy Officer
Belgium



Gili Goldhorn
Operations Officer
Italy



Rehana Omardeen
Project Officer
Trinidad and Tobago



Mission Statement

It is the core mission of EUD to promote, advance and protect the rights of and opportunities for deaf people in the European Union, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to ensure they can become full citizens in their own right. These key values are also mirrored in the daily work of its Brussels headquarters.

To achieve equality in both public and private life for deaf people, EUD has laid out three main long-term objectives:

Recognition of the right to use a national sign language;

Empowerment through communication and information; and

Equality in education and employment.



Board Meetings



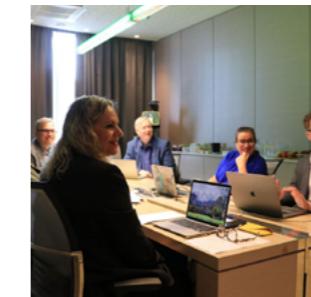
→ Munich

14 March
2025



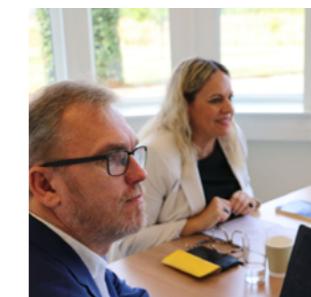
→ Warsaw

22 May
2025



→ Copenhagen

30 August
2025



→ Brussels

30 November
2025



→ Summary

In 2025, the four quarterly board meetings of EUD took place in Munich, Germany; Warsaw, Poland; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Brussels, Belgium. These strategic gatherings continued to strengthen European-wide cooperation among deaf communities and ensured that EUD's democratic decision-making and strategic direction remained firmly rooted in the needs and priorities of its members.





General Assembly 2025

Warsaw, Poland

Our EUD General Assembly, workshops, and seminar were held in Warsaw, Poland, from 22nd to 25th May 2025. This important annual gathering was made possible by the dedication and active participation of our delegates, who once again ensured that EUD's democratic structures remain strong and responsive to the needs of deaf people across Europe.

The workshops focused on three key themes: implementation of and contribution to the EU gender equality strategy within deaf communities, proposed amendments to EUD's Internal Rules and Statutes, and the strengthening of data collection to better inform our advocacy at national and European levels. Participants engaged in in-depth discussions, sharing expertise and exploring concrete solutions to advance deaf rights in these areas.

In partnership with our Polish member organisation, Polski Związek Głuchych (PZG), we organised a seminar highlighting the work and experiences of the Polish deaf community.



The seminar placed particular emphasis on the rights of deaf people in Poland, the role of PZG, and the broader European context of deaf rights and inclusion.

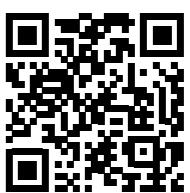
The General Assembly, chaired by Colin Allen AM, provided an essential platform for decision-making and debate. During the GA, our members approved the annual and financial reports and considered motions on a range of strategic topics, helping to shape EUD's future direction.

Our sincere thanks go to every delegate for their active participation and to Polski Związek Głuchych for their outstanding hospitality, support, and collaboration in hosting this year's event.

EUD TV

EUD TV is a new video-based dissemination platform launched by the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) and funded by the European Union under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme. Developed to mark EUD's 40th Anniversary in 2025, EUD TV replaces traditional webinars with high-quality, studio-based productions filmed

at the European Commission. Featuring interviews with policymakers, policy updates, community stories, and educational content by all fully produced in sign language and made accessible in written and spoken English – EUD TV aims to inform, empower, and engage the European deaf community with EU policies and advocacy efforts.



EU institutions

The EU institutions are central forums for political decision-making and governance at the European Union level. Together, they are responsible for proposing, adopting, implementing, and enforcing EU law, as well as ensuring that the Union functions

democratically, transparently, and in the interests of its citizens. Through their distinct and complementary roles, the EU institutions uphold the rule of law, protect fundamental rights, and ensure accountability across the European Union.

Petition (no.1056/2016) and European Day of Sign Languages

EUD continued its advocacy work within the European Parliament to strengthen the visibility and protection of deaf people's rights. We followed up on EUD's petition (No. 1056/2016) calling for the possibility to submit petitions in national sign languages, working with the PETI Committee and supportive MEPs to encourage concrete measures to improve the accessibility of parliamentary procedures for deaf citizens. This included a dedicated technical meeting with the PETI Secretariat, the AFCO Secretariat, and several European

Parliament Directorates-General to address follow-up actions on the petition and explore practical solutions to improve accessibility.

In parallel, EUD advanced its campaign for a European Day of Sign Languages (EDSL), engaging with MEPs and political groups to build support for the officialisation of national sign languages at EU level as part of the EU's commitment to equality, non-discrimination, and linguistic diversity.



CRPD

EUD aims to ensure that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is meaningfully implemented at the

EU and national levels for deaf persons in the EU.

UN CRPD – Concluding Observations on the European Union

In March 2025, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) publicly reviewed the European Union's second and third report in Geneva. EUD actively contributed throughout this process, submitting a comprehensive alternative report and taking part in the delegation of organisations of persons with disabilities. In its Concluding Observations published in April 2025, the Committee echoed several of EUD's long-standing priorities, placing the rights of deaf people and sign language users among the key areas for EU action.

The Committee issued a strong call for the recognition of the 29 EU national sign languages as official EU languages and urged EU institutions to amend their Rules of Procedure so that deaf people can participate in all EU-level processes directly in their national sign language. It also recommended that deaf culture be recognised as part of the EU's cultural and linguistic landscape, that sign language interpretation be systematically provided

for EU webstreams and audiovisual content, and that accessibility of the 112 emergency number in national sign languages be accelerated, including through Total Conversation and interoperable solutions across Member States.

The Concluding Observations further emphasised the need for disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, including by disability type and intersecting identities, and called for better portability of disability-related rights and benefits within the EU, notably through an expanded EU Disability Card. EUD will use these recommendations as a key advocacy lever in its work with the European Parliament, Commission and Council, as well as in the development and implementation of the next Action Plan of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



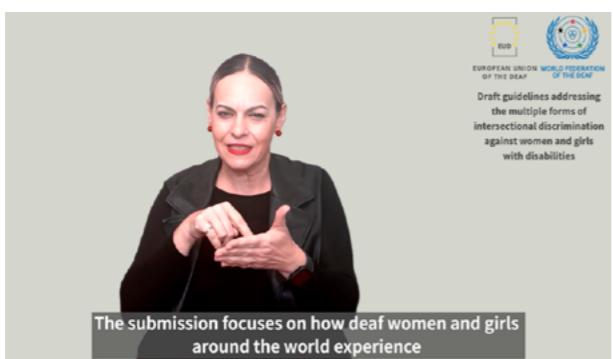
CRPD

UN CRPD – Joint EUD–WFD submission on intersectional discrimination

On 13 October 2025, the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) and the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) submitted a joint contribution to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its draft guidelines on addressing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, with a specific focus on deaf women and girls.

The submission highlights how deaf women and girls experience overlapping discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, the use of sign language, and their position as members of linguistic and cultural minorities. It calls on governments to recognise the use of national sign languages as an explicit ground of discrimination in law and policy, and to ensure that measures to combat gender-based violence and discrimination are fully accessible in national sign languages.

The joint submission also urges States to guarantee equal access for deaf women and girls to healthcare, education, justice, and participation in public life, all through national sign languages, so that their rights are effectively realised in practice.



CRPD

EUD – WFD joint submission to the CRPD Committee on the Right to Political and Public Participation

On 14 February 2025, the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) and the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) submitted a joint written contribution to the upcoming General Comment of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) on Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on participation in political and public life.

As a reminder, General Comments are doctrine and comments on the meaning of specific provisions of the CRPD, guiding State Parties and stakeholders on how to meaningfully implement these provisions. As part of this process of drafting the General Comment, the CRPD Committee held a day of general discussion on 20 March 2025 on Article 29 to which the EUD actively took part. The

CRPD Committee launched a call for written submissions to gather inputs and perspectives of various constituencies of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.

The joint contribution addresses the right of deaf people to have full and equal participation in political and public life through inclusive political and public environments in the national sign languages. This is realised through professional and accredited national sign language interpreters and/or through an environment provided with national sign language users.



EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021 – 2030

EUD supports the implementation of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021- 2030 (ESRPD) to ensure it is ambitiously implemented for deaf persons in the EU.

The European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021 – 2030 (ESRPD) was adopted in 2021. It contains a number of actions that the EU and its Member States must undertake to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons at the EU and national levels. EUD welcomed this important initiative in 2021 and has continued advocating for and supporting its ambitious implementation in 2025.

EUD & flagships initiatives of the EU Disability Rights Strategy



→
EU
Disability
Platform



In 2025, EUD continued to play an active role in the European Commission's Disability Platform, one of the flagship initiatives of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ESRPD). Through its participation, EUD ensured that the implementation of the ESRPD and national disability strategies took proper account of deaf people's rights, with particular attention to deaf women and girls and deaf persons with intersecting identities.

The Disability Platform met three times during the year, providing a key forum for exchange between the European Commission, national UN CRPD focal points and organisations of persons with disabilities. EUD used these meetings to highlight barriers faced by deaf sign language users in areas such as employment, access to information, digitalisation, and community-based services, and to promote good practices from its member organisations.

During the Platform discussions, EUD also underlined the necessity of constant accessibility within all EU institutions, both in International Sign and in national sign languages. A potential consensus was reached on promoting each EU national sign language on a rotating basis, aligned with the rotating EU Presidencies: the national sign language of the country holding the Presidency would

be highlighted and promoted during its term, alongside International Sign. EUD also congratulated the European Commission for its strengthened collaboration with us in safeguarding accessible venues and events for deaf people. At the third meeting of the Disability Platform, Alexandre Bloxs presented the priorities of the European deaf community for the second phase of implementation of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In parallel, EUD ensured the follow-up to the European Disability Card and the Disability Employment Package, advocating for their implementation to be inclusive of deaf people. EUD called for the Disability Card to reflect the specific situation of deaf sign language users across borders and for employment measures to integrate sign language access, reasonable accommodation, and robust safeguards against discrimination. Through its ongoing engagement in the Disability Platform, EUD ensured that the deaf perspective remained visible and influential in the implementation of the ESRPD throughout 2025.

Furthermore, in February 2025, the EUD published key recommendations for new initiatives related to deaf people and sign languages for the second action plan 2026-2030 of the ESRPD.

→
**AccessibleEU
Centre**

In July 2025, EUD took part in the AccessibleEU event in Brussels marking both the full application of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) and the second anniversary of AccessibleEU. During the event, Executive Director Frankie Picron intervened on behalf of deaf sign language users, drawing attention to persistent accessibility gaps and underlining the need for native real-time text (RTT), Total Conversation, and adequately trained emergency communication services (PSAPs).



→
**European
Disability
Card**

In 2025, EUD's work on the European Disability Card (EDC) and the European Disability Parking Card (EPC) focused on the implementation phase, in particular the development of delegated and implementing acts that will determine how the Cards function in practice.

On 8 May 2025, EUD met with the European Commission's Disability Unit, which presented the delegated act and implementing acts related to the European Disability Card and the European Disability Parking Card. The discussion centred on the practical implications of this secondary legislation and how the Cards will be applied across Member States. EUD used this meeting to raise concerns from a deaf perspective, including accessibility, recognition of communication needs, and the risk of uneven implementation at national level.

A further meeting took place on 8 October 2025 with the Disability Unit, specifically dedicated to the delegated act concerning the



physical versions of the European Disability Card and the European Disability Parking Card. During this exchange, EUD emphasised the importance of ensuring that the physical Cards are accessible, clear, and usable for deaf people, and reiterated the need for continued consultation with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities throughout the implementation process.

Despite progress on the delegated and implementing acts, delays linked to legal editing and translation into the EU's official languages continue to affect the overall timeline. The formal implementation period will only begin once the legislation is published. Member States will then have 30 months to transpose the Directive into national law and a total of 42 months to begin issuing the Cards. EUD continues to closely monitor these developments and to advocate for implementation that delivers real, practical benefits for deaf people across the EU.



Accessibility Legislation

EUD aims to ensure that all the EU's accessibility legislation is meaningfully implemented at the EU and national levels for deaf persons in the EU.

As the European Electronic Communications Code and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive entered their revision phase in 2025, and with the European Accessibility Act becoming fully applicable in June 2025, the EUD produced a series of implementation reports to assess their impact in practice. These reports provide a clear picture of how the legislation is being applied across EU Member States and EEA countries, drawing directly on input from National Associations of the Deaf through surveys and focus groups. They highlight both positive developments and persistent barriers faced by deaf people, particularly deaf sign language users, in accessing electronic communications, support services and audiovisual media services. Based on this evidence, the reports put forward targeted recommendations aimed at strengthening implementation and, where necessary, informing future legislative revisions. At the same time, the European

Commission launched public consultations on the revision of the EECC and the AVMSD. The EUD actively contributed to these consultations, based on its reports, ensuring that its submissions were firmly grounded in the findings of the implementation reports. On 19 May 2025, the EUD held a technical meeting with representatives of the European Commission DG Connect and Disability Unit to assess the implementation shortcomings from the EECC and the EAA. Moreover, on 3 December 2025, Delphine le Maire contributed to a panel discussion at the EENA Conference on the Future EU Legislation on Emergency Communications discussing on the accessibility of emergency communications, including through Total Conversation. Through this work, the EUD helped bring the lived experiences and expertise of deaf communities into EU policy-making, reinforcing the importance of evidence-based, inclusive accessibility legislation.



Human Rights

The goal of EUD is to achieve the fundamental human rights of all deaf people, irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, and any additional intersecting identities, to achieve equality in all spheres of life in the European Union. Therefore, EUD aims to meaningfully promote, protect, monitor, and raise awareness of the human rights of all deaf persons in the EU through its policy, capacity- building, and communications work.

In November 2025, EUD published the report *Beyond the data: Recognising the intersectional identities of European deaf communities in official statistics*, strengthening EUD's work on evidence-based advocacy and rights-based data collection.

The report's central contribution is to show how deaf people remain largely invisible in EU and national datasets, or are recorded only through a medical "hearing loss" lens. This approach fails to capture deaf people as national sign language users and as members of cultural and linguistic minorities, which in turn distorts policy design and weakens accountability for rights implementation.

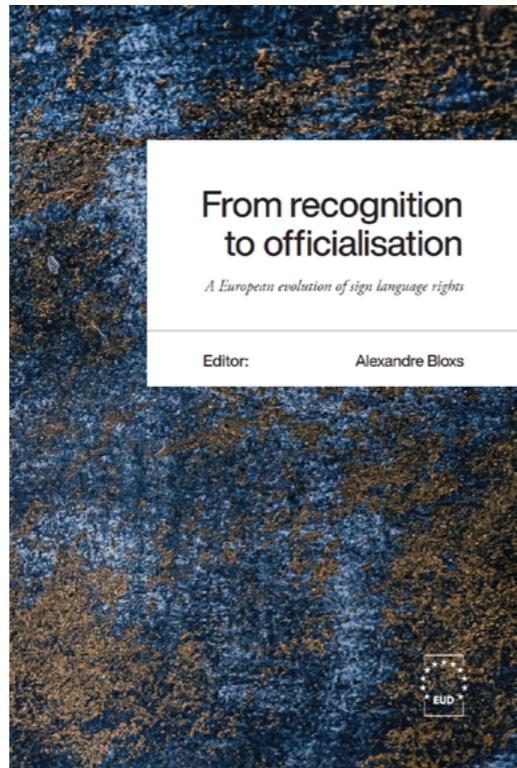
By setting out a clear call for accessible, sign-language-inclusive and intersectional data collection, the report provides practical direction for EU institutions, Member States and National Associations of the Deaf on how to improve official statistics so they reflect lived realities and support better decision-making. Crucially, it positions improved data as a foundation for advancing the officialisation of national sign languages, ensuring that advocacy and legal reforms are backed by robust evidence rather than assumptions or incomplete indicators.



Human Rights

From recognition to officialisation – A European evolution of sign language rights

This publication, edited by Alexandre Bloxs, represented a major policy and advocacy milestone for EUD, reframing sign language rights as a matter of officialisation rather than symbolic recognition. By combining multidisciplinary expert analysis with a detailed assessment of national legal frameworks, the book equips policymakers, legal professionals and national associations with both the conceptual clarity and practical tools needed to strengthen the legal status of national sign languages. Its impact lies in providing a clear roadmap for legal reform at national level while reinforcing EUD's strategic objective of advancing the officialisation of national sign languages within EU law, institutions and practice.



Human Rights

A Signing Europe: Celebrating 40 Years of Advocacy for Deaf Rights

On 2 December 2025, the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) celebrated its 40th anniversary with the A Signing Europe conference at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event marked four decades of advocacy for sign language rights and set out a renewed vision for the future, notably the officialisation of the 29 national sign languages (NSLs) across the European Union.

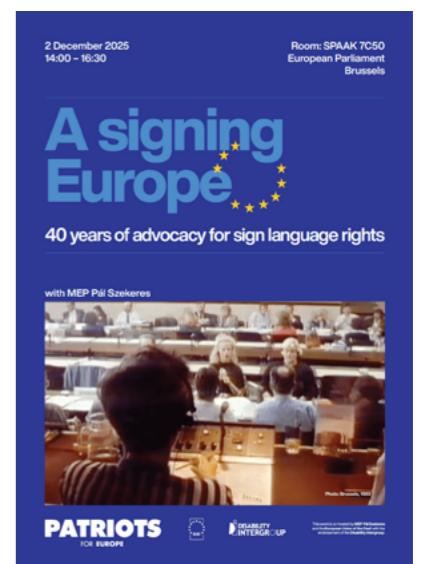
The conference opened with remarks from Sofia Isari, EUD President, who reflected on progress made over the past 40 years while underlining the continued need for strong advocacy to ensure the full inclusion of deaf people in European society. Contributions from Pál Szekeres, Member of the European Parliament, and Markku Jokinen, former EUD President, highlighted the evolution of deaf rights and the importance of sustained EU-level support.

A central moment of the event was the panel discussion on EUD's future, moderated by Paal Richard Peterson, EUD Board Member.



Panellists included Berglind Stefánsdóttir, Helga Stevens, Dr Humberto Insolera, Prof Dr Filipe Venade, Dr Joseph J. Murray, and Frankie Picron. Discussions focused on strengthening legislation, embedding national sign languages at EU level, recognising them as minority languages, and addressing both the opportunities and risks of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. A shared message emerged: deaf people must remain at the centre of all decisions shaping sign language policy.

The conference also marked the launch of EUD's publication *From recognition to officialisation – A European evolution of sign language rights*, presented by Alexandre Bloxs. The book argues that officialisation is the necessary next step following national recognition of sign languages.



Human Rights

A Signing Europe: Celebrating 40 Years of Advocacy for Deaf Rights

Another key highlight was the proposal for a European Day of Sign Languages to be celebrated every 17 June, presented by EUD Vice-President Ronit Laquerrière-Leven. The proposed day would celebrate Europe's linguistic diversity in sign languages, strengthen deaf people's linguistic human rights, and complement the International Day of Sign Languages on 23 September.

Support from EU institutions was reflected in messages from Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, who expressed her support for advancing sign language rights at European level, and from Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner for Equality. While not endorsing the proposal directly, Commissioner Lahbib encouraged EUD to actively contribute to the European



Roberta Metsola,
President of the European Parliament

Commission's forthcoming public consultation on the second action plan of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, highlighting this process as a key opportunity to advocate for the establishment of a European Day of Sign Languages within the EU policy framework.

The anniversary celebrations concluded with a gala evening, bringing together deaf leaders, allies, and current and former EUD representatives. It honoured past achievements and marked the beginning of a renewed phase of advocacy. Through A Signing Europe, EUD reinforced its vision of a truly signing Europe, where national sign languages are recognised, official, and fully integrated into European life.



Hadja Lahbib
European Commissioner for Equality



Working Groups

EUD has six Working Groups (WG). The purpose of the WGs is to gather diverse deaf experts from across Europe who meet once to twice a year to discuss and analyse current issues and policies relevant to the deaf community, providing a professional forum of exchange.

The members of the groups provide good practices from their home countries, as well as giving negative examples and formulating possible recommendations at both EU and Member State level. The WGs serve as a focal point to support the EUD staff in highly specialised matters. An EUD Board Member chairs each of the Working Groups.

Deaf Lawyers

- focuses on the legal provisions regarding sign language and human rights, using the UN CRPD as the guide for discussions.

Established in 2011.

Intersectionality

- focuses on intersectionality within the deaf community where members can explore how we can work collaboratively to ensure equality, equity, diversity, and non-discrimination.

Established in 2021.

ICT and Accessibility

- focuses on the physical and digital accessibility of information and communication for deaf persons which is predominantly through national sign languages.

Established in 2011.

BIPOC

- stands for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour and has the purpose to identify and discuss issues faced by BIPOC deaf persons in the EU.

Established in 2022.

Gender Equality

- focuses on issues of inequality facing deaf women and to discern important efforts to ensure the rights of deaf women are ensured, in line with the UN CRPD, at EU and Member State level.

Established in 2017.

ECRML

- stands for the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and has the purpose to discuss the ways in which EUD can effectively raise awareness about and advocate for the respect, recognition and promotion of national sign languages.

Established in 2022.

Co-operation

EUD has signed memorandums of understanding with several NGOs with which it has common goals.



European Disability Forum

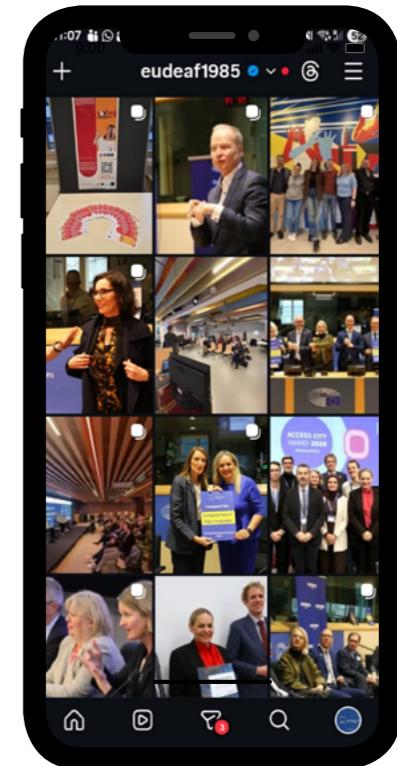


Dr Humberto Insolera
Executive Committee



Louise Lolo Danielsson
Women's Committee

Social Media



World Federation of the Deaf



European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters



European Union of the Deaf Youth



European Deaf Students' Union



European Deaf Sports Organisation



European Deafblind Union



European Network of Sign Language Teachers



European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness

Facebook

57 posts

5,646 likes

Reached Audience

+35k



Instagram

144 posts

2,750 followers

Reached Audience

+53k



LinkedIn

129 posts

1,780 followers

Reached Audience

+102k



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@European Union of the Deaf

Website

The European Union of the Deaf (EUD) and the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) have worked together to submit a joint submission to the Committee on the Draft Guidelines on Addressing multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities (CRPD). The guidelines address the multiple forms of intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities. The submission focuses on how deaf women and girls around the world experience multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination, not only because they are deaf, but also because they are women, but also because they use sign language and belong to linguistic and cultural minorities. Through this joint work, EUD and WFD highlight the urgent need for governments to recognise national sign languages as a priority for discrimination and to make sure that laws and policies fully protect deaf women and girls. The submission calls for better access to healthcare, education, justice, and public life, all in national sign languages.

Together, EUD and WFD are standing up for equality, visibility, and inclusion of deaf women and girls everywhere, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are respected at every level.

EUD's website (www.eud.eu) is one of the main sources to communicate and disseminate the information about EUD, it ensures all EUD's communication and information is available to the key audiences and the wider community. It is an open-access website and provides details on EUD's activities and progress, including the deliverables produced in each stage of the Work Plan, as well as meetings, events, and workshops. It communicates these details through video announcements, press releases, website articles, and links to articles and projects relevant to the EUD's lobbying



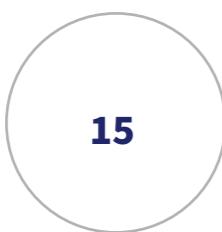
www.eud.eu



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Newsletters

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This December has been a landmark month for the European Union of the Deaf, bringing together past, present and future: 40 years of advocacy for sign language rights, strong representation at key EU disability events, and new initiatives to improve access to sign language learning across Europe.

Below you will find an overview of EUD's main activities and highlights.

A signing Europe – 40 Years for Sign Languages Rights

A signing Europe
40 years of advocacy for sign language rights

On 2 December, EUD and MEP Pál Szekeres hosted the conference "A signing Europe – 40 years of advocacy for sign language rights" at the European Parliament in Brussels, marking the official start of EUD's 40th anniversary celebrations.

The day began with a working lunch in the European Parliament. Participants from across Europe used this opportunity to network, share experiences and discuss key priorities for advancing the rights of deaf people. The lunch set a productive tone for the conference and for the anniversary year ahead.

During the main conference, Deaf leaders, allies and policymakers reflected on four decades of progress in securing sign language rights and considered what still needs to change so that deaf people can use their national sign languages in every area of life across the European Union. The discussions underlined that while many milestones have been reached, full enjoyment of linguistic and human rights for deaf people is still far from reality in many domains, including education, employment, political participation and access to information.

Newsletters enable EUD to raise awareness of its core values, objectives, lobbying activities, and expected achievements.

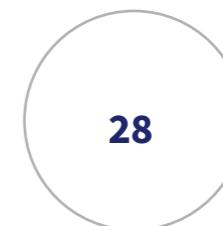
EUD produces both external and internal newsletters, disseminated via its website, social media channels, and direct distribution to subscribers, with content targeted to the interests of specific key audiences.



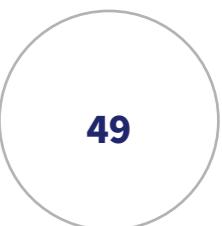
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Informative.



External Newsletters sent in 2025



Internal Newsletters sent in 2025

Projects

The European Union of the Deaf (EUD) carries out projects that promote the rights, participation, and inclusion of deaf people across Europe. These projects support advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-building, and cooperation with national deaf associations, civil society organisations, and

European-level partners.

The projects presented on this page are not funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV). They are supported through other funding sources or partnerships and reflect EUD's broader work beyond its CERV-funded activities.

Erasmus+



QSA4Disability
qsa4disability.eu



Deaf Entrepreneurs
for the Future
defproject.eu



DEIMAN4Finance
<https://dei-finance.eu>



Interpreter Mediated
Deaf Education
ide-project.eu



SWING CAMPUS
swing.infoproject.eu



SignPrep
signprep.eu

H2020



SkillAbility
skillability.eu



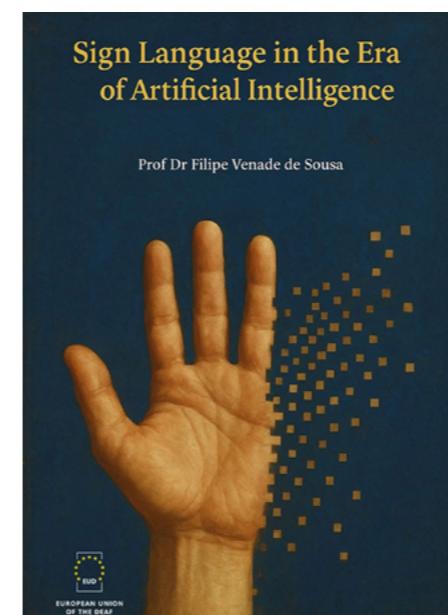
AccessS
euproject-access.eu

Additional outputs

EUD Publications on Artificial Intelligence and Sign Language

As part of EUD's work to safeguard the linguistic, cultural and digital rights of deaf signers in the era of artificial intelligence, we released three practical resources: a template contract to help deaf signers give informed consent and secure fair conditions when their sign language data is recorded; an ethical framework setting out 15 core principles for responsible sign language AI grounded in community co-creation, data protection and inclusive design; and a specialist publication by Prof. Dr Filipe Venade exploring how AI is

reshaping sign language accessibility through the concepts of Deaf Tech and Deaf Digital Law. Together, these outputs provide a clear roadmap for developers, researchers and policymakers to ensure AI supports inclusion rather than substituting sign languages, and they are made freely accessible under EUD's CERV-supported publications programme.



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