



NEWSLETTER

1/2016

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1990 – 2015

25 years working for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and their families

In November, the European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA) has celebrated its XXV anniversary.

In 1990, associations of parents of hearing impaired children from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands and United Kingdom joined together to establish our European Federation in order to represent deaf and hard-of-hearing children and their families at European level.

Since then, FEPEDA has focused on promoting equal rights in Europe for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and young people and their families. Twenty five years of hard work have recently been commemorated, in Madrid (Spain). Some former members of FEPEDA Management Committee and

some former FEPEDA presidents participated in this event.



In the words of Sonia Zamora, current president, "*FEPEDA has come a long way, with a common goal: to improve the quality of life of deaf children and their families. This way could not have been possible without the active participation of all those who previously were part of FEPEDA. It is our obligation to continue with the commitment towards our children and their families in order to get their full inclusion*".

More pictures:





**FEPEDA CONTRIBUTION TO THE
CONCLUDING
OBSERVATIONS ON THE
INITIAL CRPD REPORT OF
THE EU**

For the first time in history, the EU was examined by a UN human rights treaty body, UN Committee on the Rights of People with disabilities, and received recommendations to strengthen their approach to the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe.

Concluding Observations have included some recommendations which were pointed out by FEPEDA, such as the recommendation of taking measures to promote support to the families with persons with disabilities.

In 2010, EU ratified UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities. In 2014, the review process on the implementation of the CRPD started. EU sent a report stating the measures they have adopted in order to implement CRPD.

In parallel, the European Disability Forum (EDF) drafted an alternative report, which included FEPEDA's contributions, mainly related to the rights of families of persons with disabilities, as well as to the right to information of persons with a hearing disability.

As FEPEDA highlighted, EU must adopt measures in order to ensure that also workers with family members with disabilities can enjoy their right to freedom of movement on an equal basis with others.

More information
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/226/55/PDF/G1522655.pdf?OpenElement>

The European Accessibility Act is finally published

Last December, the European Commission has published a proposal of European Accessibility Act. The Act will have a major influence on the accessibility of goods and services in the EU.

As Yannis Vardakastannis, EDF president, stated, *the Act can contribute to the empowerment of persons with disabilities to better enjoy the freedom of movement of persons, goods and services in the European Union. For many years, the Act has been a top priority for EDF and its members.*

FEPEDA will contribute to EDF comprehensive position on this proposal of Act.

More information: http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34390

**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION:
TAKE ACTION!**

Luxembourg Presidency of the European Union hosted the 4th Hearing organised by the European Agency for special needs and inclusive education.

Seventy-two young people, with and without disability, had the opportunity to discuss how their schools and communities ensure an inclusive education for them and what potential obstacles they are still facing in their education. Three Spanish deaf young students participated in the event.





Fédération Européenne des Parents d'Enfants Déficients Auditifs

European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children

Europäischer Verband der Eltern Hörgeschädigter Kinder

Federación Europea de Padres de Niños con Discapacidad Auditiva

OUR ASSOCIATIONS INFORM....

Bulgarian Association of Parents of hearing Impaired Children (APHIC)

APHIC made a project "City dialogues" which main activity was a photographic exhibition in the city centre. Twenty three participants were taught by a professional photographer how to take pictures. The project aimed at breaking public attitudes and prejudices against young people with hearing problems. In a provocative way through the current

street photography, participants were able to show their "perspective" in a professional manner.

The project was implemented with the financial support of The Agency for people with disabilities. The final result was shown in a city exhibition.

www.ardusbg.com



Lithuanian Association of Families with Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children (PAGAVA)

Lithuanian association PAGAVA seeks to bring Christmas mood and spirit to its member families. During Christmas time, two nice events are organized for deaf and hard of hearing children and youth.

On December 20, association PAGAVA invites children and their families from all Lithuania to celebrate Christmas together in Vilnius. Families will meet in the theatre to see a colorful performance with translation into Lithuanian sign language. After the performance, Santa Claus with gifts will come to greet the children.



Lietuvos šeimų, auginančių kurčius ir neprižiūročius vaikus, bendrija
PAGAVA
Lithuanian Association of Families with Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children

On December 27, Christmas carols concert will take place in one of the most famous Vilnius churches. Some of Christmas carols will be sign sung by a group of deaf youth. This event attracts members of deaf as well of hearing society; therefore it has become a nice Christmas tradition with deep social and emotional meaning.

www.pagava.lt





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Spanish Confederation of Families of Deaf People (FIAPAS)

On the occasion of the General Elections to the Spanish Parliament, FIAPAS has provided technical and human resources, in order to assure that deaf people have access to information in TV electoral debates.



During the main TV electoral debate, between the candidates of the party in the Government

and the main party in the opposition, FIAPAS provided subtitling produced by computerised stenotype.

In cooperation with the Spanish Academy of TV Arts and Sciences, the TV accessible signal was offered to the different media in order to broadcast it by TV or via internet and many of them used it.

Also in the frame of the General Elections, FIAPAS has provided an induction loop system in one of the polling stations where a deaf citizen, who uses hearing aids, had been called to serve as a substitute member of the electoral desk.

Since Spanish Ministry of Home Affairs only provides induction loops in the case of being nominated a permanent member and not a substitute member, FIAPAS decided to provide it by itself, at the same time that calls for a change of the legislation in order to assure that every deaf can fulfil its citizen's duty in equal conditions to the others.



www.fiapas.es

Upcoming events

February 2016:

FEPEDA Bureau meeting. (19th-20th) Paris

April 2016:

FEPEDA Management Committee meeting. (7th-8th) Venue tbc.

June 2016:

3rd International Conference on Family Centred Early Intervention for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. (15th-17th). Bad Ischl (Austria) <http://www.fcei.at/2016/en/>

More information 

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Pictures: FIAPAS and APHIC. FEPEDA. c/o FIAPAS; Pantoja, 5 – local; 28002 Madrid. www.fepeda.net

