

EDbU and efsli Memorandum of Understanding

Prepared by:
EDbU and efsli

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

This agreement serves to outline ways to enhance, strengthen and cultivate a robust and enduring collaboration between the European Deafblind Union (EDbU) and the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli) for the express purpose of benefiting Deafblind people and the Deafblind interpreting profession in Europe.

II. EDbU Mission and Vision

To work for equality and full participation in society by people with deafblindness in all European countries.

To be the European representative of people with deafblindness in Europe.

To organise conferences, seminars, cultural exchanges, holidays and workshops where people with deafblindness can exchange experiences and views for the benefit of the people with deafblindness directly involved as well as for the EDBU.

To work for the social inclusion of persons with deafblindness.

To co-operate with international organisations which are active in the fields of deafblindness, deafness, blindness and cross-disability in pursuance of the abovementioned objectives and principles.

To promote activities and to act to benefit persons with deafblindness without discrimination on the basis of politics, religion, economy, sex or race.

To seek full recognition of people with deafblindness in all aspects of society in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

To raise awareness of deafblindness as a distinct disability.

To combat the problems of people with deafblindness concerning communication, information, interaction with the environment, and orientation and mobility.

To undertake any task necessary to achieve or further any of these objectives.

III. efsli Mission and Vision

To encourage and promote deliberation and mutual exchange of the profession of interpreting services within Europe.

To work to secure official recognition of the profession of Sign Language Interpreting.

To encourage and promote scientific and pedagogic initiatives to improve standards of Sign Language Interpreting and Interpreter training.

To provide advice and support to Sign Language Interpreters, Interpreter trainees, Interpreter trainers, and users and providers of Interpreting services.

To present the interests of the profession of Sign Language Interpreting to appropriate bodies.

IV. Joint Commitment

EDbU and efsli affirm the importance of a joint working relationship through the following efforts:

1. Work in cooperation and exchange information that is of common interest or that may have an effect on both organisations and its members.
2. Encourage collaborative agreements and activities between National Deafblind and Interpreting Associations.
3. Support and attend each organizations Conference.
4. Publicly support and recognise the importance of each organisations activities.
5. Recognises the primacy of EDbU to exchange knowledge and experience in the field of deafblindness and to increase European solidarity among organisations of people with deafblindness.
6. Recognise the primacy of efsli to advance the profession and rights of sign language interpreters, including standards, competency and qualifications of interpreters.

V. Objectives

1. To recognise each organisation through their respective websites.
2. To provide information on specific topics as required (to assist in the development of position papers, policies etc).
3. To co-write position papers on relevant topics for both organisations.
4. When applicable, refer requests for information to the most appropriate organisation (EDbU or efsli).
5. To participate or be present at each organisations Conference.
6. To identify potential projects and funding opportunities for both organisations to work together on.
7. To meet every two years to discuss current issues.
8. To design a strategic working document for EDbU and efsli to identify common topics to collaborate on.

VI. Geographic Reach

This agreement refers to EDbU and efsli Members.

VII. Principal Contacts

The principal contacts for this agreement are:

EDbU Contact

Sergey Sirotkin, President

Geir Jensen, Secretary

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efsli Contact

Maya de Wit, President

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VIII. Commencement/Expiration Date

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in effect from the date of signature for a period of 4 years or until either party decides to terminate it by providing the other with ninety days prior notice in writing.

This document may be amended if necessary. Any amendments must be discussed and approved by both EDbU and efsli.

European
Deafblind
Union

Sergey Sirotkin, President

DATE 21.05.2012



European Forum
of Sign Language
Interpreters

Maya de Wit, President

DATE
