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# DEAF INTERPRETERS IN EUROPE

- a comprehensive European survey of the situation of  
Deaf Interpreters today



## **DEAF INTERPRETERS IN EUROPE**

Danish Deaf Association. 2016

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The survey was undertaken as part of the Erasmus+ project:  
Developing Deaf Interpreting.

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# PREFACE

The following survey report is the first comprehensive survey of deaf interpreters in Europe. The survey was conducted during the Spring of 2016, and the report finalised in December 2016.

The profession of deaf interpreting is still a new field in most European countries. However in recent years, many European countries are moving from a situation where deaf interpreting has been an informal profession that is not recognised, carried out by deaf individuals without any formal interpreter training, to a situation where the profession has become more formalised. In some countries interpreter training courses for deaf interpreters are provided. In others formal interpreter education has been established, and some countries have formally recognised deaf interpreters as a professional group. More and more national associations of sign language interpreters as well as deaf associations are advocating for the establishment of deaf interpreting as a professional field.

The survey shows that the situation of deaf interpreters in many countries is obviously in a transitional phase, which naturally influences the understanding of the concept behind deaf interpreters. The definition and concept of deaf interpreters differs from country to country. In some countries the group of deaf interpreters is divided into subgroups, with different tasks and training. The fact that it is such a diverse field has also had an impact on the survey, since it has not been possible to obtain precise responses from all countries. Thus the findings should be treated with some caution.

The preliminary findings and a draft report were presented and discussed at the first seminar concerning the Erasmus+ project "Developing deaf interpreting in Europe" which was held in Copenhagen on the 31st of October 2016. 72 participants from 16 European countries were present. Based on that discussion, the data was updated and the survey report finalised.

Finally, we would like to thank all the persons from all over Europe who provided us with information regarding the situation of deaf interpreters: By replying to the questionnaire, by coming to the seminar and joining the discussion, and by emailing and skyping with us afterwards to clarify the situation of deaf interpreters in their respective countries.

*Copenhagen, December 2016*

# INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the current situation of the deaf interpreter profession in Europe – especially with regards to:

- The number of deaf interpreters in each country
- Training opportunities for deaf interpreters in each country
- The work carried out by deaf interpreters
- Deaf interpreters' access to national sign language interpreter associations
- Recognition of the profession of deaf interpreters

The information is based on a questionnaire survey (see appendix 5) where questionnaires were sent to four sources in each of the 43 countries in Europe:

- The national and regional<sup>1</sup> deaf associations (NAD)
- The national and regional associations of sign language interpreters<sup>2</sup> (NASLI)
- The educational institutions of sign language interpreter training
- Deaf interpreters in Europe

Questionnaires were sent out in the spring of 2016, and respons-

1 In Belgium and Switzerland there are no national associations, but rather regional associations because of the different language regions. However, in the UK there are both a national association and regional associations. In the following, they are referred to as "national" associations unless it is relevant to note something specific about the regional associations.

2 Like with the national deaf associations, we will refer to them as "national" associations in the following.



es were received from 30 countries<sup>3</sup>. Not all four sources from each of these countries replied, but we received information from altogether 149 respondents, among which were 17 national and regional deaf associations, 22 national and regional associations of sign language interpreters, 21 educational institutions, and 88 deaf interpreters from 23 different countries (for more detailed information about the respondents see appendix 2).

Through the EUD and EFSLI we compiled a list of, in total, 43 deaf associations and 33 sign language interpreter associations. From the survey “A Comprehensive Guide to Sign Language Interpreting in Europe” (Maya de Wit 2012) we used a list of 30 educational training institutions in Europe that train sign language interpreters. We used the EFSLI-DI<sup>4</sup> network to contact the group of deaf interpreters and received in total 88 individual responses from deaf interpreters.

From some countries, all four sources replied, from other countries only 1, 2, or 3 of the sources replied. Information about the sources from each country is provided in each of the country specific sections of this report.

The information about deaf interpreters received through the survey questionnaire may not be 100 % accurate: Different sources from the same country sometimes provided differing numbers and information in their responses, which may be related to each respondent’s own definition of deaf interpreters, or the respondent’s knowledge of deaf interpreters’ situation. It is clear from the responses we received, that not many people have a complete overview of the situation of deaf interpreters in their own country, and this has of course influenced the survey. However, this survey is the first attempt to get an overview of the situation of deaf interpreters in Europe, and it must be regarded as such. It does not give a complete overview and it does not provide information about all European countries. Hopefully more surveys will follow in the coming years, which will put more countries on the map and enhance the information available.

3 From some countries, such as Belgium, Switzerland and the UK, we received replies from several of the regions within the countries.

4 EFSLI-DI is the name of the deaf interpreters’ own network

# ABOUT DEAF INTERPRETERS

## DEFINING DEAF INTERPRETERS IN EUROPE

The term deaf interpreting covers sign language interpreting performed by deaf individuals. The need for deaf interpreters (DI hereafter) has arisen due to the fact that hearing interpreters (HI hereafter), or interpreters who are not native signers can lack the skills or qualifications needed to interpret in demanding situations. The literature on deaf interpreting shows that it is generally a profession covering a variety of settings and a range of language forms, including written language, tactile and even lip-reading (Stone, Adam and Carty 2008). In the USA, for example, DIs are certified and there is a clear definition of what it is: “A Deaf Interpreter is a specialist who provides interpreting, translation, and transliteration services in American Sign Language and other visual and tactual communication forms used by individuals who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and Deaf-Blind”.<sup>5</sup>

During the collection of information for this survey report, it became clear that the profession “deaf interpreting” seems to be defined differently from country to country within Europe, and that many countries in Europe do not yet have a definition describing the profession.

In this survey we did not want to use a limited definition of the profession, but rather to include all forms of deaf interpreting which the countries themselves reported. It confirms what Brück and Elke Schaumberger (2014) have described in their article; that there that there are still various understandings of the pro-

5 “What is a Deaf interpreter” at <http://www.diinstitute.org/what-is-the-deaf-interpreter/>

fession of deaf interpreters in the European countries. For instance before the profession was established in Finland, through formalised educational training, the DIs were called “habilitation workers” or “support workers”.<sup>6</sup>

## THE MAIN CATEGORIES OF THE SURVEY

Apart from the country specific section, where detailed information about each country will be presented, we will initially go over some of the overall findings within the following six categories:

### **The number of DIs**

We anticipated that it was unlikely that respondents would know the accurate number of DIs in their own country, and the survey has no ambition of establishing the exact number of DIs in Europe. Instead, we asked respondents to indicate the approximate number of DIs in each of their own countries, by ticking one box among a series of boxes with intervals of five (0, 1-5, 6-10 etc.).

### **Interpreter training**

The questions about interpreter training for deaf people aimed at establishing whether any interpreter training for DIs exists, and if so what is the level of the training; and whether the training is separate from or combined with the training of hearing interpreters.

### **The work of DIs**

The survey also looked into the working conditions of DIs in each country/region: How long have they worked as DIs? Are they working full-time or part-time? Are they working as volunteers or are they getting paid for their work? Where are they employed? – If employed at all? We also asked in which settings or areas they work.

### **Funding**

In the section about funding, the survey posed questions about who funds the service of DIs and we have divided the responses into two main categories: Public funding (by the government/municipalities etc.) or private funding (e.g. private companies, NGOs,

6 Brück and Elke Schaumberger (2014): “Deaf interpreters in Europe: A Glimpse into the cradle of an emerging profession”, [https://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/bitstream/10077/10651/1/Bru%CC%88ck-Schaumberger\\_19.pdf](https://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/bitstream/10077/10651/1/Bru%CC%88ck-Schaumberger_19.pdf)

deaf associations or churches).

### **Organisation**

This part of the questionnaire looked into how DIs are organised within Europe. In 2012, de Wit noted that DIs could become members of the national associations of sign language interpreters in only eight countries <sup>7</sup>. This survey investigated how many national associations of hearing sign language interpreters allow DIs to become members, and in how many countries/regions DIs have their own organisation.

### **Recognition**

This part of the survey focuses upon whether there is any form of recognition of DIs from the governments of the European countries.

Recognition of the profession can take many shapes and forms. Therefore we gave several response options in the questionnaire. We also allowed the respondents the option of writing freely if they felt other forms of recognition were given to the profession in their respective country.

7 Croatia, the Czech Republic, the UK, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Russia and Portugal.

# SOME OVERALL RESULTS

## THE NUMBER OF DIS

In 28 of the 30 European countries that participated in the survey there are a total of 190-310<sup>8</sup> working (eller 'active') DIs. In the remaining two countries (Georgia and Malta) there are no DIs.

Not surprisingly, the three large countries in Western Europe<sup>9</sup> (Germany, France and the UK) have the highest number of DIs, with more than 16 DIs. There are 8 countries that have more than 10 DIs. The majority of the European countries have between 1 and 10.

In the five Nordic countries<sup>10</sup>, it seems that there has been an expansion in the number of DIs, because of recent projects focusing on the training of DIs in Denmark (until 2015) and Sweden (until 2017). Iceland will soon have its first trained DI, and in Norway deaf individuals have started interpreter training at BA level.

Some Eastern European countries<sup>11</sup> have more than 5 DIs: Croatia (11-15), the Czech Republic (6-10), Lithuania (11-15) and Romania (6-10). In Estonia and Lithuania the DIs recently gained access to the formal interpreter training.

In the Southern European countries<sup>12</sup> such as Greece, Malta and

8 The numbers are found by adding up the minimum and maximum numbers respectively from each country. The minimum number of DIs in Europe is therefore 190 and the maximum number is 310.

9 Western Europe: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK.

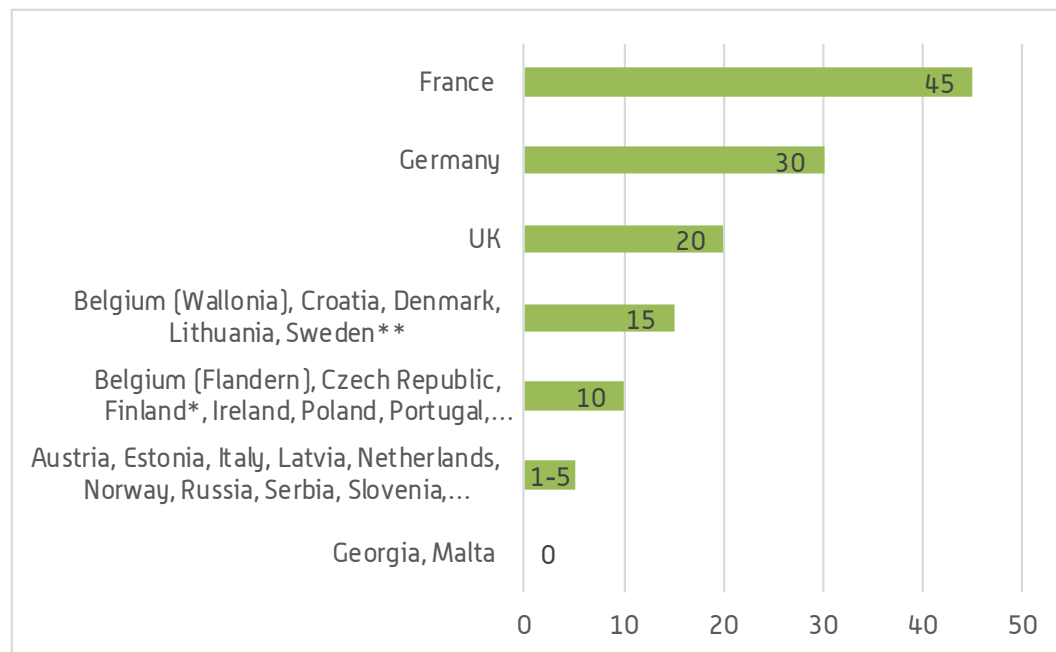
10 Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

11 Eastern European countries: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia.

12 Southern Europe: Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain.

Spain, they seem to have the most difficult conditions for DIs: no training, low numbers of DIs (in proportion to the population), and general challenges in the field of sign language interpretation, both for HIs and DIs. Portugal is the only country in Southern Europe with trained DIs and training opportunities for DIs.

**Figure 1. Number of DIs in each country.**



\* In Finland there are over 30 DIs in total. These can be divided into two groups. In one group, there are between 5-10 DIs who are educated and certified equally to the HIs. In the other group the remaining 20 DIs have no formal education or certification.

\*\* In Sweden 21 deaf individuals have enrolled in the project "Training Programme as Deaf Interpreters and Translators", but according to the information we received from Sweden, only 11 of them are DIs. The remaining 10 are translators.

### Number of DIs per 1,000 deaf sign language users

However, when we look at the number of DIs in relation to the number of Deaf sign language users in the various countries in Europe<sup>13</sup>, the picture changes. The following table shows the ratio between the number of DIs per 1,000 deaf sign language users. It turns out that the countries with the highest number of DIs, the UK, France and Germany are actually the countries with the lowest number of DIs per deaf sign language user.

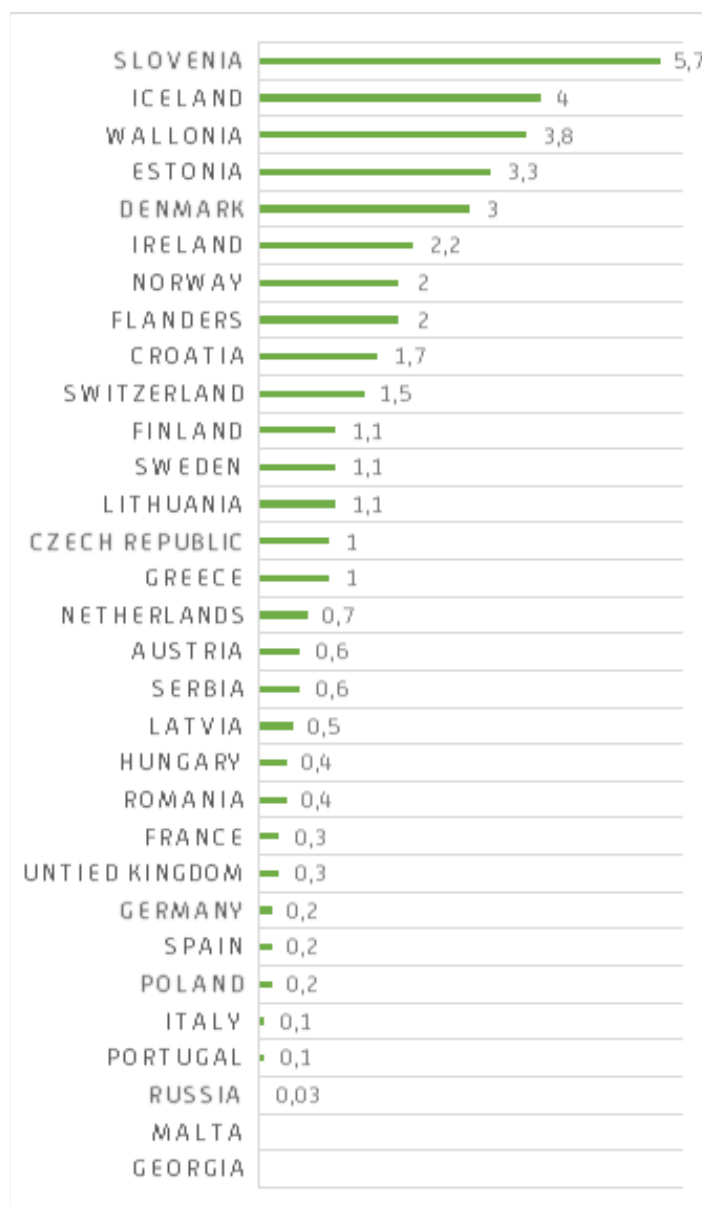
France and the UK have 0.3 DI per 1,000 deaf sign language users, and Germany has 0.2 DI per 1,000 deaf sign language users. Surprisingly, the country with the highest number of DIs per 1,000 deaf sign language user is Slovenia. Also in the upper part of the

<sup>13</sup> The deaf population numbers are, unless there are other notifications, taken from Wheatley & Pabsch 2012 and through eud.eu. The numbers may not be 100 percent accurate, due to the differing registration systems throughout Europe.

list is Estonia, ranked no. 4, just below Iceland (no. 2) and Belgium (no. 3).

That these countries have the highest number of DIs per deaf sign language user, does not necessarily mean that they are the best countries in Europe for DI consumers – since it obviously also depends on many other factors: How many hours the interpreters work, whether they have adequate training, and whether or not the interpreting is funded by the government. These are factors that we will explore in the following sections.

**Figure 2. Number of DIs per 1,000 deaf sign language users.**



### **Different understandings of DIs**

The use of different sources from the same country did some-

times result in different responses to the same question. This was the case when respondents were asked to indicate the number of DIs, especially for the following 4 countries: Finland, Romania, Spain and Sweden.

**Figure 3. The following national associations for deaf people (NAD) and sign language interpreters (NASLI) give conflicting answers to how many DIs they have.**

	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	>30
Finland			NASLI					NAD
Romania	NAD		NASLI					
Spain		NAD		NASLI				
Sweden		NAD					NASLI	

There were 5 associations from Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Romania, who replied that they had no DIs, even when other sources in the same countries confirmed that they did have DIs.

As mentioned earlier, deaf interpreting is a relatively new professional field in Europe, thus the field is in transition and things are changing very quickly. So there are some explanations of the different views, or lack of knowledge, on DIs amongst some of the NADs and NASLIs. In Sweden they were starting an interpreter training project at the same time as this survey was undertaken, in which more than 20 students were enrolled.

In Iceland and Norway, it seems that the responses from associations saying that there are no DIs, are related to whether or not the DIs have received training. Iceland's NASLI replies that the first DI will be educated in spring 2016, and in Norway there are some deaf students enrolled in the formal sign language interpreting education.

Another explanation for the differences in the number of DIs is, as mentioned in the introduction, that there are different categories of DIs in some countries. In Finland for instance, there has been a group deaf individuals working as interpreters for deafblind people, but by some respondents they were not perceived as DIs. They were trained as deafblind interpreters in the period from 1978



to the 1990s, while the newer group of around 6 DIs, have been trained as sign language interpreters at BA level along with HIs.

In France they also have different categories of DIs (DIs who interpret in international signs, DIs who work for people with special linguistic needs, and DIs who translate from written text to French Sign Language).

In some countries, there is a consensus on the definition of DIs, especially when there is or has been interpreter training for DIs, and where the interpreters are employed and certified or listed as officially approved interpreters.

### INTERPRETER TRAINING FOR DIS

In 17 countries<sup>14</sup>, DIs and deaf students have or have had<sup>15</sup> the opportunity to access interpreter training programmes, at various levels.<sup>16</sup> Some countries, such as Serbia, two regions of Switzerland, and Greece, do not even have an official interpreter training for HIs.<sup>17</sup>

In 9 countries DIs were, or are being, trained alongside hearing interpreter students. 8 countries have, or have had, separate deaf interpreter training (see appendix 3).

Among the 8 countries where DIs are being trained separately from HIs, only Germany and France have a permanent training programme. Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Russia and the Czech Republic only have, or have had, time limited training on a project-basis. In Ireland, the sign language interpreter training is open to deaf individuals, but no deaf students have applied. Therefore, Ireland has established a training project for DIs only.

14 Including both regions of Belgium.

15 In Italy, Denmark and Russia, it seems that there is no longer any interpreter training accessible for DIs. In Lithuania, Norway and Flanders (Belgium) the DIs gained access to interpreter training during the autumn of 2016, for the first time.

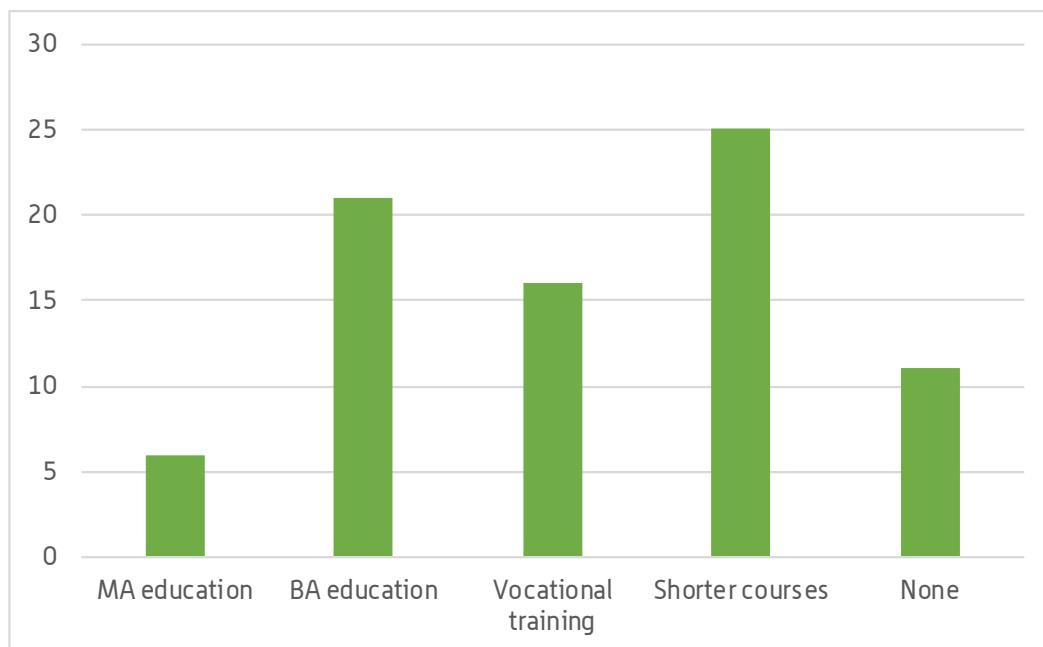
16 In some countries there are only shorter courses, while in other countries there are projects or established programmes.

17 In de Wit (2012), the following countries had no officially established permanent interpreter training programme: Albania, Belgium (Wallonia), Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Serbia, Switzerland (French- and Italian-speaking regions) and the Ukraine.

Out of the 79 deaf individuals<sup>18</sup> who replied to the questions about interpreter training, most of the DIs have received some sort of interpreter training. However, 11 of the deaf individuals have not received any interpreter training at all.

25 DIs report to have received “shorter courses”, 21 DIs received (or are currently studying) BA level programmes (including the 2 year programme at University of Hamburg), 16 DIs have received training at a vocational level, and 6 DIs have received training at MA level. Many of the DIs have received training, or are currently studying, and this shows that the area is developing so that the period when most DIs had no training, seems to be over.

**Figure 4. Interpreter training level for DIs.**



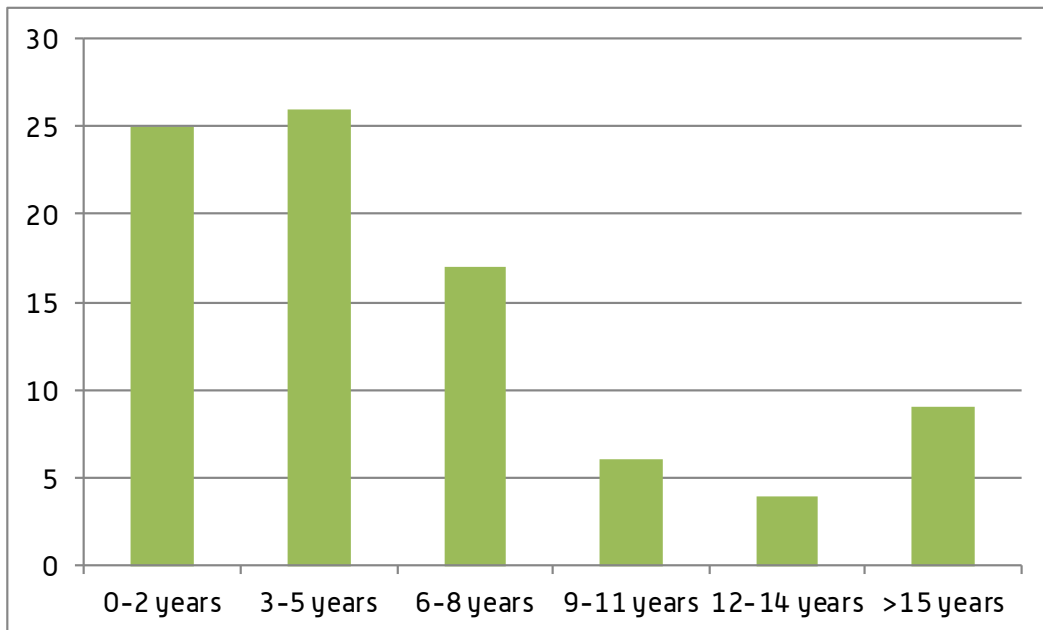
### THE WORK OF DIS

Among the responses from the 88 deaf individuals, 73 of them work part-time and 15 work full-time.

Most of the deaf individuals have worked as DIs for 0-5 years (51), and only 19 have more than 8 years of working experience. This shows how new the profession still is, and how much the field has grown in recent years.

<sup>18</sup> In total we received 88 responses from DIs, but not all respondents replied to all of the questions.

**Figure 5. Number of years working as a DI.**



To the question about where they are employed, 77 deaf individuals responded. They could choose more than one answer option; for instance if they are employed at an interpreting company, but also work as freelancers. Among the 77 respondents, 52 replied that they work as freelancers. 29 DI are employed at an interpreting company. Some of them are employed by the national deaf association (10) and some by the government (9). While it is obvious that many of the DIs in Europe are still struggling for work – and especially for full-time work and employment – it does not necessarily mean that all freelancers have difficulties in getting employment. In some countries, such as Germany, interpreters normally work, or even prefer to work as freelancers. See figure 6.

**Figure 6. Employment conditions.**

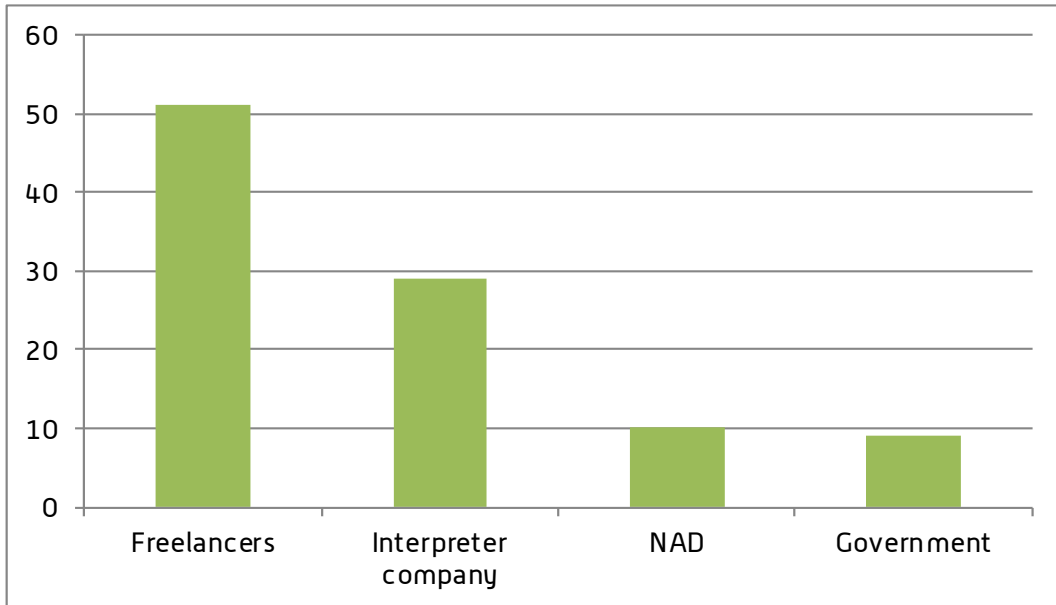


Figure 7 shows that DIs cover a wide range of working situations and settings: international conferences, social settings, the health care system, court/police, work, education etc.<sup>19</sup>

**Figure 7. Working conditions and interpreting situations.**

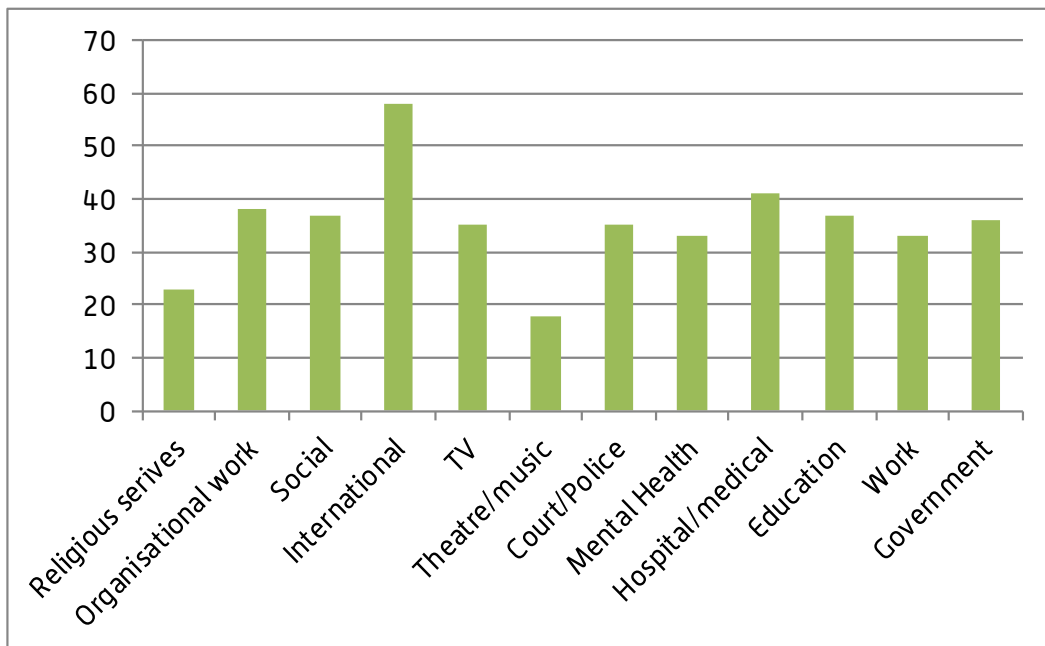
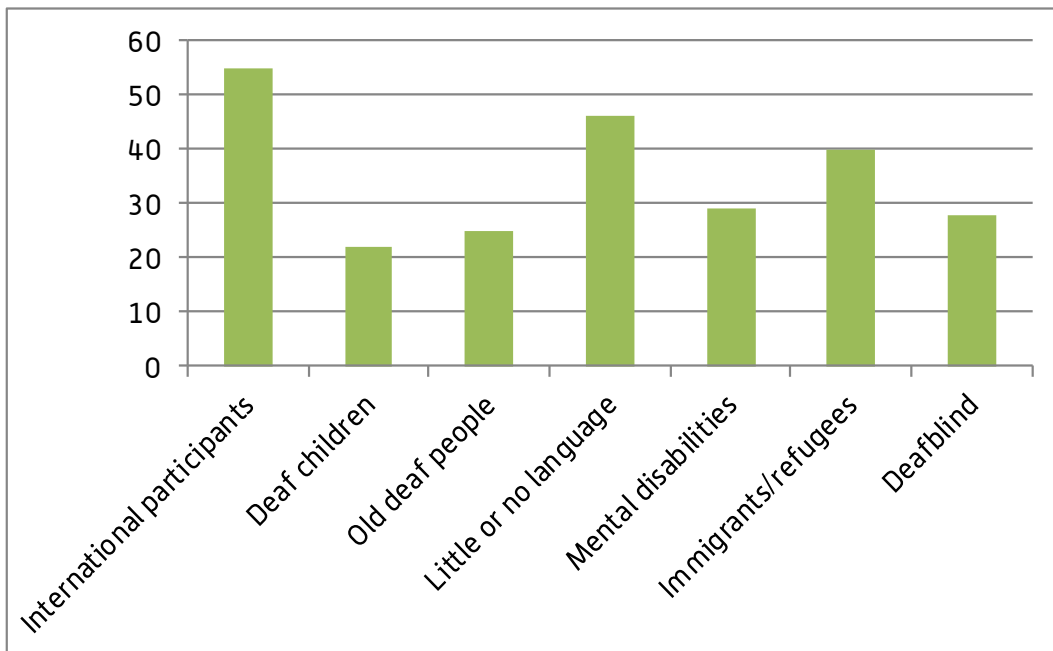


Figure 8 shows for whom they interpret. 81 of the deaf individuals responded to this question, which also had more than one answer option. The figure highlights that the DIs interpret for different target groups.

<sup>19</sup> 82 deaf individuals responded, and they could choose more than one answer option.

**Figure 8. Interpreting target groups.**



Although “international participants” is the single biggest target group for DIs, interpreting for various vulnerable groups is by far the main occupation for DIs and represents 77 % of all interpreting, according to the replies received.

### **FUNDING FOR DEAF INTERPRETING**

15 countries have DIs who always receive salary for their work, but 8 of these countries also have DI’s who sometimes do not receive salaries. 5 countries/regions have DIs who seldom receive salaries. There are 5 countries where DIs according to the information we have received do not receive any salary at all. See the figure below for a detailed description of the salary conditions.

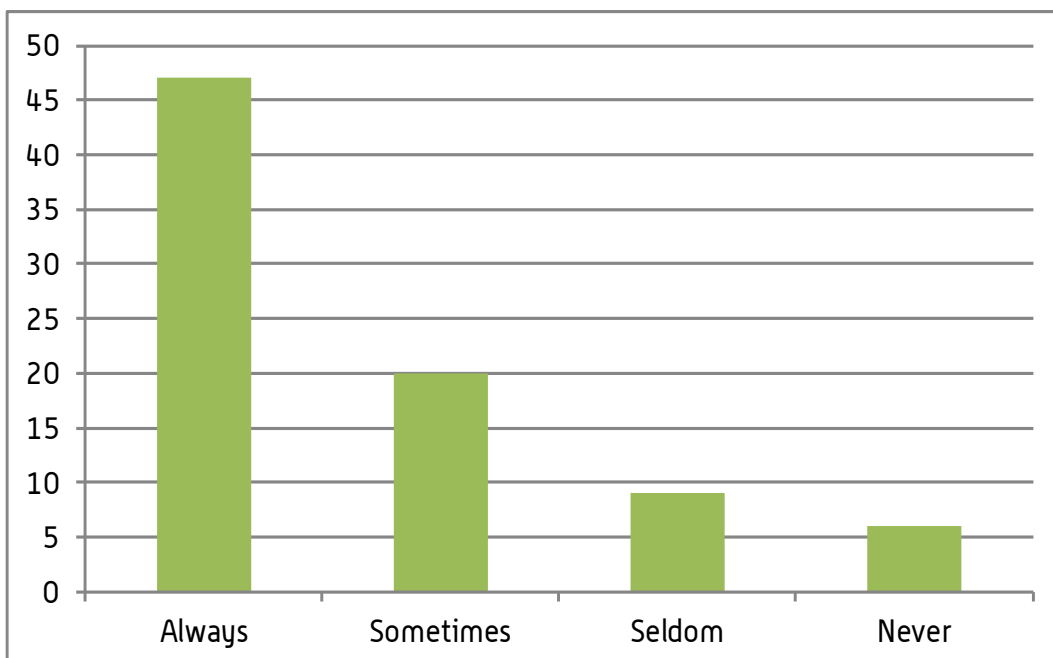
**Figure 9. Salary conditions for DIs.**

Never paid	Seldom paid	Variable payments	Always paid
Croatia Greece Hungary Latvia Serbia	Netherlands Poland Slovenia Switzerland (the Italian-speaking region)	Austria Belgium France Germany Ireland Portugal Sweden United Kingdom	Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland Iceland Lithuania Norway

\*Italy and the French-speaking region of Switzerland have not informed whether the DIs receive salaries.

Among the 82 deaf individuals who responded to the question, 47 always receive salaries for their work as interpreters, 20 sometimes receive salaries, 9 seldom and 6 never. Figure 10 shows the DIs' replies regarding salary.

**Figure 10. DIs responses concerning salaries.**



The information supports the picture of deaf interpreting being in a transition phase, from a time where deaf interpreting was unpaid, to a time where DIs more often receive payment for their work. However when only 47 DIs always receive salaries for their work, there is still much to be done.

## ORGANISATION FOR DEAF INTERPRETERS

De Wit (2012) wrote that only 8 National Associations of Sign Language Interpreters had DIs as members in 2012. This survey does not investigate whether DIs are members of the NASLIs, but rather whether the NASLIs allow DIs to become members.

16 countries clearly state that DIs can become members. When we sent out the questionnaire, 4 countries - Denmark<sup>20</sup>, the Netherlands, Slovenia, the 3 regions of Switzerland - replied that the DIs could not become members of their NASLI. In some countries it is not known, whether the DIs can indeed become members: Croatia, the two Belgian regions, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia and Russia.

Only a few countries, including France and Germany<sup>21</sup>, have a separate association of DIs.

It is encouraging that many countries replied that DIs can become members, as it indicates a growing awareness and acceptance of DIs among HIs.

## RECOGNITION OF DIS

Most of the countries have one or more forms of recognition of DIs. Recognition varies from country to country, and the following three measures seem to have a strong impact on the level of recognition and awareness of deaf interpreting as a profession:

- a formal, publicly funded interpreter education for deaf students
- a public system of registration or authorisation of DIs (not applicable in all countries)
- public funding of deaf interpreting<sup>22</sup>

Six countries have all three measures in place (Austria, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, and the UK), but there is clearly some beginning or partial recognition of the profession in many other countries throughout Europe. Publicly funded projects, for the training of DIs and for example organisations that include DIs, are

20 At the time when the survey was conducted, it was not possible for deaf interpreters to become members of the NASLI. However this was changed shortly after.

21 The German source can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nd99id-vbqQI>

22 Initially we thought that legislation would have been a strong measure, but the survey revealed that in the (few) countries where deaf interpreting was mentioned in the legislation, it did not have a strong impact on the level of recognition.

also indicators of recognition. In some countries, deaf individuals are now enrolled in the formal sign language interpreting education, which traditionally only has been possible for hearing students.

The following figure shows to what extent recognition has been achieved in each country. For more details about recognition see appendix 4.

**Figure 11. Level of recognition as a profession.**

<b>No recognition</b>	<b>Low degree of recognition</b>	<b>Recognition to some extent</b>	<b>High degree of recognition</b>
[No/little funding allocated for deaf interpreting, no training, no registration]	[Countries in this category have some funding allocated for deaf interpreting and/or registry of DIs]	[Countries in this category have: public funding of deaf interpreting, have/had training opportunities for DIs, and/or registry of DIs]	[Countries in this category have both public funding of deaf interpreting, established training opportunities for DI and registry of Dis]
Greece Hungary Italy Croatia Latvia? Russia? Malta Georgia	Serbia Belgium Netherlands Czech Republic Poland* Romania Spain** Slovenia Switzerland	Denmark Norway France Iceland Sweden Ireland Portugal	Austria Finland Germany UK Lithuania Estonia

\* Poland has been placed in this category with low degree of recognition, even though the respondents replied that there are no form of recognition in Poland. This is due to the fact that replies to other questions indicate that there are training opportunities for deaf interpreters at university level, and a registry of DIs at the NASLI.

\*\* Spain was placed in this category contrary to the reply received at the questionnaire. This was because other information received indicated that there are some public funding allocated for deaf interpreting.

In total, public funding of deaf interpreting (in certain situations) seems to be the most widespread form of recognition: 21 countries replied that they have some degree of recognition, through the funding from the government for interpreting in certain situations.

9 countries<sup>23</sup> have a formal DI education as part of the official ed-

23 Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, UK



educational system in their country. This is certainly a way of recognizing the profession. Other countries have upcoming interpreter training with deaf students (Flanders in Belgium, Lithuania and Norway), while others have publicly funded projects developing DI training programmes: the Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland and Russia. That also can be regarded as a sign that the profession is moving towards recognition in those countries too.

Recognition in terms of certification/registration or other 'listed authorisation', which approve DIs as qualified interpreters, can be found in 7 countries. In Europe, not all countries have an official registry for sign language interpreters. De Wit (2012) reported that only 15 of the 42 countries have a formal registry for interpreters<sup>24</sup>, so we would certainly not expect all countries in this survey to register DIs. However, 7 countries reported that they have either certification, a registration system, or other 'listed authorisation' for DIs: Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Lithuania, Serbia and the UK (including Scotland and Northern Ireland).

According to the information received, 3 of the 30 countries do not have any recognition of deaf interpreting (Greece, Hungary and Italy), and we do not know whether Russia, Croatia or Latvia has any form of recognition either. Since Georgia and Malta both replied that they do not have any DIs at all, we anticipate that they do not have any kind of recognition either.

24 Austria, Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia), Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the UK, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia and Switzerland's Italian-speaking Region.

# INFORMATION FROM 30 COUNTRIES

## AUSTRIA

Sources: The NASLI, the sign language interpreter training programme for deaf students, Logo!, and individual responses from 4 DIs.

Number of sign language users: 8-10,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are 5 DIs who are officially registered through membership of the Austrian Sign Language Interpreter Association, ÖGSDV,<sup>25</sup> although at least 9 deaf individuals from Austria have completed interpreter training either at University of Hamburg or at Logo!. 2 of the 5 registered DIs received interpreter training at University of Hamburg, and 3 at Logo!.<sup>26</sup>

### **Employment and working conditions**

According to the individual responses from a total of 4 DIs in Austria, they work as freelancers,<sup>27</sup> and some of them are additionally employed by the government or interpreting agencies. The 4 DIs have worked from 1 to 5 years. 1 of them works full-time, and 3 DIs work part-time as interpreters. 2 DIs always receive payment for their work, whilst 2 seldom receive a salary.

### **Interpreter training**

All of the 4 DIs who replied to the questionnaire, have received interpreter training - either at University of Hamburg or at Logo!.

### **Funding**

The government/municipalities in Austria pay for the DIs' work in certain situations. Otherwise DIs are privately funded.

### **Education**

There is an official sign language interpreter training programme specifically for DIs in Austria.

The name of the training programme is Logo!<sup>28</sup> and it is situated at

25 This means, that they have passed the exam at ÖGSDV, and in doing so they have proved their quality of knowledge and skills as interpreters.

26 Personal communication with Andreas Schodterer from Logo!

27 According to the responses from the NASLI and from the 4 DIs.

28 Lehrgang für Taube DolmetscherInnen und ÜbersetzerInnen.

the University of Salzburg. The training programme is specifically designed for DIs, and thus HIs are not enrolled in the training programme.

According to the information we received<sup>29</sup>, the training is categorised as vocational, and has a duration of 2 years. The first programme (2013-2015) was not a university course, thus the workload was not granted ECTS credit points. There were 12 students enrolled in the programme, and 7 students completed the programme successfully. The second programme is a university course which started in October 2016, and the programme is designed for one class of 12-16 students. This second programme corresponds to 77 ECTS points.

The subjects taught are:

International signs, translation from text to sign and vice versa, memory training, German, Austrian Sign Language, interpreting, ethics, interpreting and translating in a team, professional studies, translation science, media interpreting.

The training programme includes internship.

### **Membership of NASLI**

DIs can become members of the National Association of Sign Language Interpreters, ÖGSDV.

### **Recognition**

In Austria the recognition of DIs can be found in the official interpreter training programme for deaf students (Logo!). The government also funds deaf interpreting in certain situations.

There is an official register of all sign language interpreters in Austria, including the deaf interpreters. The official registration occurs, when an interpreter becomes member of ÖGSDV. Interpreters who are not members are not officially listed.

In Austria the work of an interpreter is conducted completely free of restrictions. This means that everybody can work as an interpreter, as long as somebody accepts his or her work.

29 From the training programme, Logo!

## BELGIUM

### FLANDERS

Sources: The NASLI in Flanders – and individual responses from 9 DIs (we were not able to distinguish whether they are from Flanders or Wallonia.)

Number of deaf sign language users: 5,000

#### **Number of DIs**

There are 5-10 DIs in the Flanders region, 5 of them work regularly as DIs.

#### **Employment and working conditions**

According to the information we have received, they are currently working as freelancers<sup>30</sup>. Some DIs are also employed by the government, for example by the public television station, VRT. All of the DIs in Flanders work part-time.

The DIs have worked for 0-8 years, and they sometimes or always receive payment for their work.

#### **Funding**

In Belgium, funding for deaf interpreting is primarily private, however governmental funding is possible in some specific situations.

#### **Education**

In Flanders, there are two sign language interpreter training programmes, which are situated in Ghent (VSPW) and in Mechelen (CVO). Both are vocational training programmes. The third sign language interpreter training programme is situated in Antwerp (University of Leuven, Faculty of Arts) and is a full-time bachelor programme in Applied Language Studies with the possibility of pursuing a Master in Interpreting.

In 2016 2-3 deaf students applied and were accepted by the Interpreter Training Institution CVO, in Mechelen. This interpreter training is at a vocational level, part-time, and has a duration of 3 years. It is the first time that deaf students have been admitted to an interpreter training programme in Flanders.

30 According to the NAD, the NASLI and the DIs.

## **Membership of NASLI**

In Flanders, no DIs have become members of the national association of sign language interpreters (BVGT), as the association requires educational qualifications from one of the three sign language interpreter training programmes before admittance.

## **Recognition**

There is no formal recognition of DIs in Belgium. Flanders is currently in the process of advocating for the recognition of DIs in Flanders. In Flanders they have a registration of all sign language interpreters, conducted by the Flemish Interpreting Agency<sup>31</sup>, which is set up and funded by the government. No DIs have yet been registered.

## BELGIUM

### WALLONIA

Sources: the NAD in Wallonia

Number of deaf sign language users: 4,000

#### **Number of DIs**

There are, in total, 16-26 DIs in Belgium<sup>32</sup>.

There are 11-15 DIs in the Wallonia region.

#### **Employment and working conditions**

In Wallonia some DIs are employed by the deaf association. All of the DIs work part-time as interpreters in Wallonia.

The DIs have worked for 0-8 years, and they sometimes or always receive payment for their work.

#### **Funding**

In Belgium funding for deaf interpreting is primarily private, but governmental funding is possible in some specific situations.

#### **Education**

In Wallonia, the Université Saint-Louis provides a BA in LSF/B translation/interpreting and during 2017 a MA in translation/interpreting will be launched at the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve. The DIs can attend the programme in Wallonia, but they have to provide their own sign language interpreters for some classes.

#### **Membership of NASLI**

It is not known, whether DIs in Wallonia can become members of the NASLI (ABILIS<sup>33</sup>)

#### **Recognition**

There is no formal recognition of DIs in Belgium. But Wallonia is at the moment advocating for the recognition of DIs, and is working on a research report about the situation of deaf sign language in-

32 According to the NASLI in Flanders, there are 5-10 DIs in Flanders alone, and according to the NAD in Wallonia there are 11-16 DIs in the Wallonian region.

33 Association belge des interprètes en langue des signes.

interpreters in Brussels and Wallonia.



## CROATIA

Sources: 1 DI respondent

Number of deaf sign language users: 6,500

### **Number of DIs**

There are around 9-11 deaf individuals working as DIs in Croatia.

### **Employment and working conditions**

Only one DI has replied to the questionnaire, and that person is employed by the deaf association. The DI works part-time and has worked as an interpreter for 0-2 years. The DI seldom receives a salary for interpreting.

### **Funding**

According to the information we have received, there is no funding of DIs in Croatia.

### **Education**

There are no training opportunities for DIs in Croatia.

## THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Sources: The NAD, the training programme at The Chamber of Czech Sign Language Interpreters, and 2 DIs.

Number of deaf sign language users: 10,000

### **Number of DIs**

In the Czech Republic there are around 15 DIs. According to the information we have received, one group consisting of 5-6 DIs are working as interpreters in community and/or international settings, and around 7-8 deaf individuals work as interpreters in cultural settings, such as the theatre, interpreting poetry and music.

Moreover there are around 10 deaf individuals who work as translators.

### **Employment and working conditions**

According to the responses from 2 DIs, DIs are employed by the deaf association and/or an interpreting company, working as freelancers and interpreting on a part-time basis. One of the two seldom works as an interpreter. They have worked for 0-5 years as interpreters and both DIs always receive a salary for their work.

### **Interpreter training**

1 DI has participated in a shorter training course and 1 DI has not received any training.

### **Funding**

The government/municipalities fund deaf interpreting in certain situations, for example doctor's appointments and meetings with social services. The official authorities fund interpreting within the police and justice system when they deem it necessary.

### **Education**

According to de Wit (2012), there were two educational training programmes for sign language interpreters in 2012; one organised by Charles University and another organised by the national association of sign language interpreters, The Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters. According to the information we have received through the survey, only the Chamber of Sign Language In-

interpreters in the Czech Republic has organised interpreter training for both HIs and DIs at project level.

This training of the deaf students had a duration of 1 year and was separate from hearing students.

The subjects taught focused on international signs and interpretation theories. Practical training was included. After the final examination, the participants only received certificates. It does not mean that they are qualified to work as interpreters in international settings. The 1-2 individuals who can work as international interpreters have gained qualifications through their own experiences.

The national association of sign language interpreters still organises workshops, seminars, courses and e-learning courses for current interpreters.

### **Membership of NASLI**

DIs can become members of the national association - the Czech Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters.

### **Recognition**

In the Czech Republic there have been attempts to achieve an officially recognised interpreter training programme for DIs, but until now there have only been short-term projects.

There is a form of recognition in the fact that the DIs in the Czech Republic are funded by the government/official authorities.

There is no official registration of DIs in the Czech Republic.

## DENMARK

Sources: The NAD, the NASLI, the Educational Training programme at UCC, a training project organised by the NAD, and individual responses from 10 DIs.

Number of deaf sign language users: 4,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are 12 DIs in Denmark.

### **Employment and working conditions**

All DIs in Denmark are employed at interpreting companies<sup>34</sup>. 10 DIs work part-time<sup>35</sup> and 2 work full-time.

The DIs in Denmark have worked for 2 years and up to over 15 years.

All DIs always receive salary for their work.

### **Interpreter training**

All of the DIs have received interpreting training (10 received shorter courses, 2 have an MA in interpreting (EUMASLI)).

### **Funding**

The government/the municipalities in Denmark pay for DIs in certain situations. There are still many areas where the government does not pay for DI. DIs still have to argue for the need of a DI in order to receive payment confirmation before each interpretation job. Thus, private funding for DIs does occur.

### **Education**

In Denmark there is no official sign language interpreter training programme for DIs. There is one established educational training institution in Denmark at the University College Capital, UCC. Here they train sign language interpreters at a BA level. However, they do not offer sign language interpreter training for deaf students.

<sup>34</sup> According to information from the NAD, the NASLI and the 10 DIs.

<sup>35</sup> Two of them are employed full-time at an interpreting agency, but they do not only interpret, they also work as sign language trainers and function as supervisors.

Thus, the Danish Deaf Association in the period 2012-2015, undertook a project called "Training of Deaf Interpreters", which resulted in 12 DIs becoming certified by the government<sup>36</sup> at the end of the project. The training project was specifically designed for DIs, and thus HIs were not enrolled in the training.

The training programme was categorized as "Shorter Courses" and had a duration of 2 years. There were 13 students enrolled in the training programme and 10 of them completed the programme. The students did not gain credits in ECTS points.

The subjects taught focused on interpreting techniques, tactile interpretation, low/close signs, ethics, Danish Sign Language, Danish, church and legal interpreting, how to work in a team, and ethics.

Internship was included in the training.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The DIs cannot become a member of the NASLI.<sup>37</sup>

### **Recognition**

Recognition of DIs in Denmark exists through the certification by the National Interpreting Authority. The certified DIs are funded by the government. They are not yet mentioned in the law, but are funded by the government, because there is an exemption for DIs in the law about sign language interpretation.

<sup>36</sup> The National Interpreter Authority granted the certification.

<sup>37</sup> When the survey was conducted it was not possible for DIs to become members of the NASLI. However this was changed shortly after. Moreover, a new association of sign language interpreters, named Skopos, was recently established in Denmark, where both DIs and HIs, deaf customers and sign language interpreter students can become members.

## ESTONIA

Sources: The NASLI and responses from 1 DI.

Number of deaf sign language users: 1,500

### **Number of DIs**

There are 2-5 DIs in Estonia<sup>38</sup>

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Estonia are employed at interpreting companies<sup>39</sup>.

We received responses from one DI. The DI has worked as an interpreter for 0-2 years and works part-time as an interpreter. The DI always receives a salary for his/her work as an interpreter.

### **Interpreter training**

The DI has received interpreter training at a BA level at University of Tartu.

### **Funding**

The government/municipalities in Estonia fund the work of the DI. Besides that, private funding occurs.

### **Education**

According to the information we have received, there is a sign language interpreter training programme situated at University of Tartu. The training programme is at a BA level. 1-5 DIs have either completed, or are currently enrolled, in the interpreter training programme.

### **Membership of NASLI**

DIs can become members of the National Association of Sign Language interpreters (EVKTÜ<sup>40</sup>).

### **Recognition of DIs**

In Estonia the DIs are recognised in the same way as HIs. The government funds deaf interpreting in certain situations, and the official sign language interpreter training programme is accessible for

38 According to the NASLI there are 1-5 deaf interpreters and we got individual answers from 1 deaf interpreter.

39 According to the NASLI and the responses from the DI.

40 Eesti Viipekeeletõlkide Kutseühing

deaf students.

## FINLAND

Sources: The NAD, the NASLI, the educational institutions Humak and Diaconia, and 6 DIs.

Number of deaf sign language users: 5,300

### **Number of DIs**

In Finland there are 6 professional DIs and a few DIs who have completed shorter courses.<sup>41</sup>

### **Employment and working conditions**

According to the information we have received, 5 of the 6 DIs in Finland are employed at the same interpreting company.

All of the 6 DIs have worked for more than 6 years (2 for 6-8, 1 for 9-11, 1 for 12-14 years and 2 for more than 15 years).

4 DIs are working full-time and 2 are working part-time as interpreters. They all receive payment for their work every time they interpret.

### **Interpreter training**

All of the 6 DIs have received interpreting training. 6 at BA level, and some DIs have completed courses organised by FAD as "Accompanying Interpreter for Leisure Activities" for Deafblind people.

### **Funding**

In Finland Kela (the government) pays for deaf interpreting. Nowadays, besides Kela, anyone, e.g. private people or associations that want to provide a sign language interpreter service, but for some reason cannot be funded by Kela, can pay for this service to the interpreter enterprise.

### **Education**

There is an official sign language interpreter training programme

<sup>41</sup> The first group of DIs were trained as "Deafblind interpreters"/ "Accompanying Interpreter for Leisure Activities" for Deafblind people, from 1978 until the middle of the 1990s. <sup>43</sup> Deaf people are listed by the NAD (FAD) as having attended courses during the 1970s-1990s to become an "Accompanying Interpreter for Leisure Activities" for Deafblind people.



for DIs in Finland. The education is not specifically designed for DIs, thus HIs are enrolled in the training as well. The training is situated at Humak University of Applied Science, Helsinki.

Nowadays, interpreter training in Finland is offered at two universities of applied sciences: Humak and Diaconia University of Applied Sciences ([www.diak.fi](http://www.diak.fi)), a Bachelor of Humanities programmes of 240 ECTS points.

However, Humak is the only one of the two Universities of Applied Sciences that accepts deaf students. Diak (=Diaconia UAS) is the other university, but it requires "good hearing and clear speech" from people entering their programme.

6 DIs have completed the sign language interpreter training at Humak during the years 2001-2016, and 1-2 DIs are currently enrolled.

Subjects to be taught:

International signs, tactile signing, low/close signs, translation from text to signs and vice versa.

### **Membership of NASLI**

DIs can become members of the national association of sign language interpreters, SVT, Suomen Viittomakielen Tulkit Ry.

### **Recognition**

The DIs in Finland are recognised through the funding of deaf interpreting by the government. Deaf students can enroll in an official, recognised educational training programme for sign language interpreters.

An official registration of HIs and DIs no longer exists in Finland. There was an official registration of both DI and HIs until last year, 2015. The registration was previously organised by FAD and accepted by Kela.

## FRANCE

Sources: The NAD and individual responses from 4 DIs, the NASLI and CETIM (Center of Translation, Interpretation and Linguistic Mediation) at the University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès

Number of deaf sign language users: about 120,000<sup>42</sup>

### **Number of DIs**

There are more than 40 DIs in France. In France, they 3 different categories of the DIs: 3-5 DIs working between two sign languages, 7-8 deaf translators working between text and sign language and 30-50 deaf intermediators who interpret and adapt in specific public areas, such as for foreign deaf people or in the medical sector.

### **Employment and working conditions**

The 4 DIs from France who have replied to the questionnaire, have worked as DIs from 0-2 years and up to more than 15 years. They work part-time. One DI is employed by the deaf association, the others work as freelancers or are not employed by anyone. 4 DIs always or sometimes receive a salary for their work, 1 DI never receives any salary.

According to the information we have received many intermediators work full-time.

### **Interpreter training**

1 DI has received interpreter training on a MA level (CeTIM (the University of Toulouse of Sign Language Translation and Interpreting), and the others have participated in shorter courses.

### **Funding**

According to the information we have received from France, deaf interpreting is funded by both the government and privately.

### **Membership of association**

In France, there is an association only for DIs. The DIs/translators

<sup>42</sup> Sander M-S. and co. Le handicap auditif en France : apports de l'enquête Handicap, incapacités, dépendance. Études et résultats, août 2007

can become members of the NASLI (AFILS)<sup>43</sup>, if and only if, they have graduated from a French university at a formal level. That is why the other DIs with long experience cannot be members. Therefore they have their own association.

### **Education**

According to the information from the NAD, official educational training for HIs in France exists, but there is no official educational training programme for DIs in France.

There is however, a 1 year course in training as “Intermediators” with a focus on deaf individuals supporting other deaf individuals in social, health, and hospital settings. The course is solely for deaf students. 12-15 of the over 30 deaf intermediators have graduated.

Moreover, there is a training programme in translation at a university level, with a duration of 3 years. The training is located at the University of Toulouse under the title “Sign Language translation and interpreter.” Some of the translator courses at the University of Toulouse are only for deaf students, and some are mixed with HI students, depending on theme.

7 of the 12 deaf translators have graduated.

The subjects to be taught:

LSF, French language translation, signwriting, creating web pages, use of technology, politics, law.

In France, we can also separate these DI ‘classes in another specific way by Interpreter training.

### **Recognition**

There are some forms of recognition of deaf translators and deaf intermediators, and in some exceptional cases a kind of recognition of DI.

There is training within some of the categories of deaf interpreting, and the funding of deaf interpreting service from the government is provided.

## GEORGIA

According to the information we received from the NAD in Georgia there are no DIs in Georgia.

## GERMANY

Sources: the NASLI, University of Hamburg and 21 DIs (2 DIs did not reply to all of the questions).

Number of deaf sign language users: 200,000

### **Number of DIs**

According to our sources there are 26-30 DIs in Germany<sup>44</sup>, although over 30 have completed interpreter training and went through the qualification procedures. 16 are enrolled in the current interpreter training programme<sup>45</sup>.

### **Employment and working conditions**

According to the information we have received from the associations, deaf interpreters in Germany are working as freelancers and/or are employed by interpreting companies.

Among the 20 DIs<sup>46</sup>, most work as freelancers (16), 4 of the 16 DIs moreover work elsewhere, employed by for example the government, the deaf association or an interpreting company. 1 DI works solely for the government, 3 DIs work only for interpreting companies, and 1 DI did not answer the question.

The 21 DIs have worked from 1 to 11 years, 18 of those worked up to 5 years.

7 DIs work full-time, and 14 work part-time as interpreters.

13 DIs always receive a salary for their work, 6 sometimes receive a salary, whilst 1 seldom and 1 never receives a salary.

### **Interpreter training**

All of the 19 DIs who replied to this question, except one, have received interpreter training - a two year training programme at the University of Hamburg, qualifying to take part in a state examination before the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs.

### **Funding**

<sup>44</sup> According to the NASLI there are 26-30 DIs, and we received answers from 19 deaf interpreters individually.

<sup>45</sup> According to Hamburg University.

<sup>46</sup> Only 20 DIs replied to the question.

The government/municipalities in Germany pay for the DIs' work. DIs and HIs are paid from the same money sources, usually following the guidelines as stated in the Law on Payment and Compensation by Judicial Authorities<sup>47</sup>

## Education

There is an official sign language interpreter training programme tailored specifically for DIs in Germany.

The training programme has been offered by the Institute for German Sign Language and Communication of the Deaf (IDGS, University of Hamburg) in cooperation with the Centre for Professional Continuing Education, located at the same university, since 2009. The training programme is specifically designed as a continuing education programme for budding DIs, and thus, HIs are not enrolled. The training for HIs at the BA level has been offered at IDGS since 2003. The MA programme, with specialisation in conference interpreting, court interpreting and interpreting research, is offered for both deaf and hearing students.

According to the information we received, the training is equivalent to BA level training, and has a duration of approximately 2 years. Prospective DIs are required to be fluent in two working languages before enrolment.<sup>48</sup> The interpreter training for DIs corresponds to 90 ECTS points. A successful participation in that programme is a prerequisite to qualify as an interpreter, by taking part in a state examination before the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs in Hessen (Staatliche Prüfung). The examination board examines interpreters for different kinds of working languages, including German Sign Language, both for DIs and HIs. In regard to payment and job opportunities, the state examination is considered an equal to BA and diplomas in interpreting.

The subjects taught include:

Introduction to interpreting and translation, memory training, interpreting theory, linguistics, international signs, German, sight interpreting and translation, ethics, team interpreting, media interpreting (including interpreting from autocue), simultaneous interpreting between international signs and German Sign Lan-

47 Justiz Vergütungs- und Entschädigungsgesetz (JVEG).

48 However, the hearing students acquire German Sign Language during the first years of studying.

guage, or interpreting between a foreign sign language and German Sign Language.

The programme also includes two compulsory internships; observation of interpreters at work and practical interpreting.

### **Membership of NASLI**

Certified DIs can become members of the national association of sign language interpreters (Bundesverband der GebärdensprachdolmetscherInnen Deutschlands, BGSD), as well as its regional branches.

### **Recognition**

In Germany, the recognition of DIs can be found through the officially recognised interpreter training programme for deaf students, memberships in professional organisations of interpreters and in the governmental funding of deaf interpreting in certain situations. Moreover, the DIs who have completed the state examination in Germany, are listed as Certified Interpreters.

## GREECE

Sources: Personal communication with one DI and responses from the NASLI, Organization of Greek Sign Language Interpreters.

Number of deaf sign language users: 5,000

### **Number of DIs**

Around 5 deaf individuals in Greece have experiences in working as DIs<sup>49</sup>.

### **Employment and working conditions**

In Greece the DIs do not receive salaries and are not employed by anyone. DIs work informally or voluntarily as interpreters, at for example international conferences and in court.

### **Interpreter training**

The DIs have not received any training but are self taught as there is no training for DIs in Greece. One of the DIs has many years of experience working as a sign language teacher for HIs. Through this work the DI has gained knowledge of the code of ethics and professional behaviour in relation to sign language interpretation.

<sup>49</sup> This information was received during the spring of 2016. At the Seminar on the 31st October 2016, Greece commented that they have increased the number of DIs to, in total, 9 deaf individuals, although they all still work voluntarily and without training.



## HUNGARY

Sources: The Hallatilan Foundation which is responsible for the interpreter training programme, and personal communication with Romanek Péter Zalán.

Number of deaf sign language users: 9,000

### **Number of DIs**

In Hungary there are 3-4 individuals who work voluntarily as DIs. There is a sign language interpreter training programme in Hungary at the Hallatilan Foundation, but the programme is not accessible for deaf students.

### **Recognition**

In Hungary there is no recognition of DIs. There is no interpreter training, no government funding, and no salary for DIs.

## ICELAND

Sources: the NAD, the NASLI and the University of Iceland.

Number of deaf sign language users: 250-300 <sup>50</sup>

### **Number of DIs**

In Iceland, there is 1 DI who is currently undergoing interpreter education training<sup>51</sup>.

### **Employment and working conditions**

The DI works at the Communication Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing <sup>52</sup>.

### **Funding**

In Iceland the government/municipalities pay for the deaf interpreting service in certain situations.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The 1 DI will become a member as soon she has completed the interpreter education training. She will be the first DI member of the NASLI in Iceland (HART).<sup>53</sup>

### **Education**

In Iceland there is an official educational training programme for sign language interpreters, located at the University of Iceland. The education has a duration of 3 years, and gives in total 180 ECTS points - 120 ECTS from sign language studies and 60 ECTS from interpreting and ethics. The training programme for DIs is not separated from the training for HIs.

One DI will graduate in the year 2017 with a BA degree in sign language interpreting.

The subjects taught are:

50 <http://www.althingi.is/altext/135/s/0012.html>

51 According to the information from the NAD there are 1-5 DIs, and according to the NASLI there are no DIs in Iceland. According to the University of Iceland, the first DI will graduate as interpreter in 2016.

52 According to information received from the Communication Center for the Deaf and Hard of hearing.

53 HART is an abbreviation of the name of the Icelandic association for sign language interpreters.

Ethics studies, translation studies, tactile, contact interpreting, signing in a small space, whispering interpreting, providing assistance in addition to or besides guidance/backup/shadow interpreting. Text to sign and sign to text, different age groups and language groups, interpreting about various topics. There are also internships and practical training included in the programme.

### **Recognition**

The DIs are funded by the government in some situations, and DI can be enrolled in the sign language interpreter training programme in Iceland.

## IRELAND

Sources: Two NADs (the Irish Deaf Society), the NASLI, Trinity College, and 5 DIs.

Number of deaf sign language users: 4,500

### **Number of DIs**

In Ireland there are 5-10 DIs<sup>54</sup>.

### **Employment and working conditions**

In Ireland DIs work as freelancers<sup>55</sup> or are employed by interpreting companies and the government/municipalities.

All of the 5 DIs work part-time. 4 of them sometimes or always receive a salary and 1 never receives salary.

### **Interpreter training**

1 DI received shorter courses in the USA, 1 DI received various shorter workshops etc., and 2 DIs received shorter training at Trinity College (see more information about the interpreter training below).

### **Funding**

In Ireland the deaf interpreting service is paid for by the government/municipalities, and private funding also occurs.

### **Education<sup>56</sup>**

There is an interpreter training project specifically tailored for DIs in Ireland.

The name of the training project is Justsigns, and it is an EU funded programme situated at Trinity College Dublin. The project started because Trinity College Dublin identified a need to train DIs in Ireland. The programme is specifically designed for DIs, and thus HIs are not enrolled in the training. According to the information we received, the training is categorized as vocational training and

54 According to the NAD there are 6-10 DIs and the NASLI estimates there are 1-5. We also received individual responses from 5 DIs.

55 According to the NAD, DIs only work as freelancers. According to the DIs, they are also employed by interpreting companies and by the government/municipalities.

56 According to both the Irish Deaf Society and NIL.

has a duration of under 1 year. Students attending the training receive 10 ECTS points. 1-5 students are currently enrolled in the programme and none have yet completed the programme. At Trinity College Dublin there is also a 4 year honours degree of 240 ECTS points. The programme does not separate DIs from HIs, but according to the information we have received to date<sup>57</sup>, no DI has applied. Part of the reason for this is the limited work opportunities for DIs.

The subjects taught are a.o.:  
International signs, foreign sign languages.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The DIs in Ireland can become members of the national association of sign language interpreters, CISLI.

### **Recognition**

In Ireland there is an official registration of DIs similar to HIs. The DIs are funded by the government in some specific situations. Moreover, the DI have access to the interpreter training.

## ITALY

Sources: The NASLI and 1 DI

Number of deaf sign language users: 40,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are 1-5 DIs in Italy.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Italy are currently working as freelancers, and they work part-time. The DIs always receive salary for their work. They work both alone and in team with a HI. The DIs have worked for 6-8 years.

### **Interpreter training**

MA Translator and Interpreter [Ca 'Foscari University of Venice].

### **Funding**

The DIs in Italy are paid through private funding.

### **Education**

There is no training for DIs in Italy. But the DI had answered that the Ca Foscari University in Venice accepted deaf students until 2014, and that they were trained by the university. However, more information is needed.

### **Membership of NASLI**

DIs can become a member of the NASLI (ANIOS<sup>58</sup>).

### **Recognition**

There is no recognition of DIs in Italy, and no formal interpreter training for deaf individuals.

58 Associazione interpreti di lingua dei segni Italiana.

## LATVIA

Sources : The National Association of the Deaf and 1 DI.

Number of deaf sign language users: 2,000

### **Number of DIs<sup>59</sup>**

There is at least 1 DI in Latvia.

### **Employment and working conditions**

The one DI works part-time and never receives any salary for interpreting. The interpreter has worked for 3-5 years.

We did not receive any information about education or recognition.

59 According to the information from the deaf association, there are no DI in Latvia. But we received 1 response from one deaf individual who works as a DI.

## LITHUANIA

Sources: Responses from 2 DIs.

Number of deaf sign language users: 8,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are 7 DIs working as official DIs in Lithuania. They are employed full-time by the Sign Language Interpreter Centres. Moreover there are 4 DIs working as freelancers, mainly in international settings. There are in total 11 DIs in Lithuania.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Lithuania always receive payment for their interpreting. DIs in Lithuania work as employees of the Sign Language Interpreter Centre, which is a government sponsored centre.

### **Interpreter training**

The 7 DIs only received a short course as training.

### **Funding**

The government funds the DI service.

### **Education**

There is no official interpreter training for deaf students in Lithuania, but in September 2016 two DIs started the interpreter training at Vilnius Kolegija, University of Applied Sciences. Moreover, the Sign Language Interpreter Centre arranges a short course with training in team interpretation and how to interpret in different settings - for both DIs and HIs.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The DIs in Lithuania can become members of the national association of sign language interpreters.

### **Recognition**

The DIs service is funded by the government in Lithuania, and DIs are officially listed through their employment at the Sign Language Interpreter Centre.



## MALTA

According to the information we have received from the NAD in Malta, there are no DIs in Malta.

## THE NETHERLANDS

Sources: the NAD, and 1 DI who only replied to two questions.

Number of deaf sign language users: 7,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are 5 DIs in the Netherlands, who are working on a regular basis and receive payment for it.

### **Employment and working conditions**

The DIs work as freelancers, and they work part-time as interpreters. One DI has worked as an interpreter for 12-14 years.

### **Funding**

DIs in the Netherlands are paid through private funding, or work voluntarily without payment. The government/municipalities pay in certain situations. The deaf association in the Netherlands is currently advocating for the inclusion of the DIs in the registration system. When DIs become registered, their work will then be paid for by the government.

### **Education**

There is no training for DIs in the Netherlands.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The DIs cannot become members of the National Association of Sign Language Interpreters, NBTG<sup>60</sup>.

### **Recognition**

In the Netherlands, the DIs are mentioned in the law, and DIs are sometimes paid by the Ministry of Justice, if DIs are hired to interpret for mentally disabled deaf people who have been arrested, or are called as a witness. The deaf association is planning to advocate for interpreter training for DIs in the Netherlands and get them included in the registration system.

60 Nederlandse Beroepsvereniging Tolken Gebarentaal.

## NORWAY

Sources: The NASLI, the NAD and the sign language interpreter education.

Number of deaf sign language users: 5,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are 1-5 DIs in Norway<sup>61</sup>.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Norway work as freelancers.

### **Funding**

The government/municipalities in Norway pay for DIs' services in certain situations.

### **Membership of NASLI**

DIs can become members of the NASLI (Tolkeforbundet, NAI).

### **Education**

Up until autumn 2016 there was no official sign language interpreter training for DIs in Norway. But now the training programme 'Bachelor in Sign Language and Sign Language Interpreting' is open to deaf students. Bergen University College has started a research process where they a.o.t. will study the DI training programme created by Humak in Finland. The content and level of the educational training for DIs is pending.

The subjects taught:

An example from Bergen UC (in progress): Norwegian Sign Language, written Norwegian, international signs, (ASL, BSL), interpretation, ethics, translation from text to signs and vice versa, interpreting for the deaf blind, interpreting and translating in a team, practical placement.

### **Recognition**

The DIs in Norway are funded by the government.

<sup>61</sup> According to the NASLI there are no deaf interpreters in Norway, but according to the NAD there are 1-5 deaf interpreters.

## POLAND

Sources: The NASLI and individual responses from 5 deaf interpreters.

Number of deaf sign language users: 50,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are around 10 DIs in Poland.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Poland are working as freelancers and are employed by interpreting companies.

According to the individual responses from 5 DIs, they work as freelancers. 4 have worked for up to 5 years and 1 has worked for up to 15 years.

All of the DIs work part-time, 2 DIs sometimes receive a salary, 1 DI seldom receives a salary, and 2 never receive a salary.

Interpreter training: 1 DI has participated in shorter courses, 1 DI has received training in Polish Sign Language, and 1 DI has not received any training<sup>62</sup>.

### **Funding**

The government does not fund a deaf interpreting service in Poland. It is privately funded. The DIs work also voluntarily.

### **Membership of the NASLI**

The DIs can become members of the NASLI in Poland, named STPJM.

### **Education**

According to the information we have received, there are two kinds of interpreter training in Poland: One is a one-day or weekend training, which is usually organised by the Sign Language Interpreter Association, STPJM<sup>63</sup>.

62 Only two DIs replied to the question.

63 Stowarzyszenie Tłumaczy Polskiego Języka Migowego (STPJM).

The other interpreter training in Poland is situated at the University of Warsaw, in which deaf students can participate. The course is not addressed specifically to deaf students, but they are provided interpretation into Polish Sign Language, and during practical classes, activities are adjusted to them in terms of texts, exercise forms etc. In total there are 70 hours with focus on interpreting. They can also take a final exam in interpreting at the end of the programme. Unfortunately the programme was closed in Autumn 2016.

There are more than 30 deaf students who have completed, or are currently enrolled, in the two trainings.

### **Recognition**

There is no official recognition of DIs in Poland. But one may argue that it is a form of recognition that the DIs are allowed to participate in the short interpreter trainings organised by the NASLI and at the University of Warsaw. Moreover the DIs are registered through the SPTJM (the NASLI).

## PORTUGAL

Sources: The NAD, the NASLI, 2 educational institutions and 5 DIs.

Number of deaf sign language users: 60,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are at least 6 DIs in Portugal<sup>64</sup>.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Portugal are working as freelancers, employed by the deaf association or by interpreting companies.<sup>65</sup>

The DIs have worked as interpreters from 0-2 years and up to more than 15 years.

All of the 5 DIs work part-time. 2 DIs always or sometimes receive a salary for their work. 2 DIs seldom receive a salary.

### **Interpreter training**

All of the 4 DIs have received interpreter training, 1 through shorter courses and 3 at a BA level.

### **Funding**

Deaf interpreter services in Portugal are paid through private funding. Payment from the government/municipalities also occurs.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The DIs can become a member of the NASLI, ANAPI-LG<sup>66</sup>.

### **Education**

There is an official sign language interpreter training programme in Portugal in which deaf students can be enrolled. The name of the training programme is "Degree in Portuguese Sign Language - Interpreter Branch" and it is situated at the Polytechnic Institute of

<sup>64</sup> According to the NAD there are 1-5 DIs, and according to the NASLI there are 6-10 DIs. According to information from the educational institution IPC there are 4 DIs. Since we have received responses from 5 DIs, we have assumed that there are around 5 DIs in Portugal.

<sup>65</sup> According to the information from the DIs.

<sup>66</sup> ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DOS PROFISSIONAIS DE INTERPRETAÇÃO DE LÍNGUA GESTUAL.

Coimbra. The training programme is not specifically designed for DI, and thus HIs are also enrolled in the training.

The training is categorized as BA level, and students receive 180 ECTS points. The duration of the training is 3 years. 4 DIs have completed the training and one deaf student is currently enrolled.

The subjects taught are among others:

International signs, translation from text to signs and vice versa, and tactile interpretation.

### **Recognition**

There is an official recognition of DIs in Portugal, as they can enrol in the official sign language interpreter training programme in Portugal.

## ROMANIA

Sources: The NAD and the NASLI.

Number of deaf sign language users: 24,601

### **Number of DIs**

There are 6-10<sup>67</sup> DIs in Romania.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Romania work as freelancers.

### **Funding**

In Romania the government funds the deaf interpreter service.

### **Membership of the NASLI**

The DIs in Romania can become a member of the national association of sign language interpreters, named ANIALMG<sup>68</sup>.

### **Education**

There is no interpreter training for DIs in Romania.

### **Recognition**

DIs in Romania are funded by the government in certain situations, and are mentioned in the law.

67 According to the NASLI there are between 6-10 DI, and according to the NAD there are no DI in Romania.

68 ASOCIATIA NATIONALA A INTERPRETILOR AUTORIZATI IN LIMBAJUL MIMICO – GESTUAL.



## RUSSIA

Sources Centre for Deaf Studies and Bilingual Education.

Number of deaf sign language users: 144,800

### **Number of DIs**

There are 4-5 DIs that work from time to time as interpreters between RSL and ASL, and about 3-4 DIs that work between RSL and written Russian.

### **Education**

There is no special training for DIs, but a group of DI/guides for deafblind clients have received training.

Although the general sign language interpreter training for HIs started in the 1930s within the deaf association, and at college level in 1967, the university training started only a few years ago. There were a number of attempts to organise training at pedagogical or social universities, but at the moment the main training institutions are Moscow State Linguistic University and Novosibirsk Technological University.

## SERBIA

Sources: The NASLI and individual response from 1 DI.

Number of deaf sign language users: 10,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are 4-6 DIs in Serbia.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs work as freelancers or are employed by the deaf association in Serbia. One DI never receives a salary for interpreting, and has worked for 6-8 years, as a part-time job.

### **Interpreter training**

The DI has participated in shorter courses at the NAD in Serbia.

### **Funding**

There is no official funding of DIs in Serbia. Private funding does occur.

### **Education**

According to the information we have received there is no official sign language interpreter training programme in Serbia, but their NAD organises some shorter courses. There is no sign language interpreter training for HIs in Serbia either.

### **Membership of the NASLI**

The DIs can become members of the NASLI (Association of Serbian Sign Language Interpreters).

### **Recognition**

The DIs in Serbia are certified similarly to the HIs.

## SLOVENIA

Sources: The NAD and 2 DIs.

Number of deaf sign language users: 984<sup>69</sup>

### **Number of DIs**

There are between 2-5 DIs in Slovenia<sup>70</sup> who work as interpreters in different situation, and at formal international events. Moreover, there are some deaf individuals who only work as interpreters at “informal” events. None of the DIs are trained or certificated.

### **Employment and working conditions**

The DIs in Slovenia are working as freelancers. The two DIs who replied to the questionnaire have worked for 0-2 years and for 6-8 years. Both DIs work part-time. 1 DI sometimes receives payment for his/her work as a DI, and 1 DI seldom receives payment for their work.

### **Interpreter training**

None of the DIs have received any interpreter training.

### **Funding**

There is no official funding of the deaf interpreting service in Slovenia.

### **Education**

According to the information we have, Slovenia implemented a national vocational qualification (NPK) for the sign language interpreter profession. Several organisations have that kind of training the examination of NPK ( For example in University of Ljubljana). Deaf people are but not included.

There are no official programs for the education for (deaf) interpreters.

Slovenia has some shorter courses training, organized by the deaf

69 <http://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/stevilo-zaposlenih-invalidov-se-povecuje.html>

70 According to the NASLI in Slovenia, there are 1-5 DIs, and we received individual responses from 2 DIs. Thus there may be at least 2 DIs in Slovenia

association in cooperation with the “Research Centre of Slovenian Sign Language”, where 1-5 deaf students are currently studying or have previously been enrolled. But they don’t receive any certificate nor have they official status as interpreters.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The DIs cannot become members of the National Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ATLPRENES).

### **Recognition**

In Slovenia the DIs don’t have any access to interpreter training which provide certification, and there is no funding for the DIs.

## SPAIN

Sources: The NAD, the NASLI and personal communication with 1 HI.

Number of deaf sign language users: 100,000

### **Number of DIs**

There are up to 15 DIs in Spain. According to the NAD there are 4 DIs and according to the NASLI (FILSE), there are 11-15 DIs.

### **Employment and working conditions**

According to the information we have received, the deaf interpreters are employed by the deaf association. 4 DIs work as professional sign language interpreters (at the deaf association), the other DIs are not professional sign language interpreters, but work as supporters for deaf blind people, mentally disabled deaf people, refugees, immigrants and the elderly.

### **Funding**

The government pays for DIs in certain situations. Private funding does occur, for example from the deaf association.

### **Education**

In Spain, the sign language interpreter training is moving from a higher vocational training level to university level. From September 2016, a number of universities started a new training programme. There are no deaf students enrolled as of yet.

In September 2015, a new higher vocational training programme appeared, called "communicator mediators". It is not a training programme to become an interpreter, and it has a slightly different professional profile. In this programme deaf people can participate.

### **Membership of NASLI**

The DIs can become a member of the Spanish National Association of Sign Language Interpreters (FILSE<sup>71</sup>).

### **Recognition**

71 Federación Española de Intérpretes de Lengua de Signos.

There is no form of recognition of DIs in Spain, besides the fact that the government pays for DIs in certain situations.

Sources: The NAD and individual responses from 3 DIs - 1 DI only replied to some questions.

Number of deaf sign language users: 10,000

### **Number of DIs**

According to the information we have received, there have been 3-5 DIs until recently (May 2016), where 21 deaf individuals completed the one-year training programme as DIs through the NAD, SDR's project called "Training of Deaf Interpreters and Translators" (11 DIs and 10 deaf translators).

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in Sweden work as freelancers, employed by an interpreting company or by the government.

Among the 3 DIs who replied to the questionnaire, 2 are working as freelancers and 1 is employed by the government.

The 3 DIs all work as part-time interpreters. The DIs have worked from 3-5 years, and up to more than 15 years as interpreters. The DIs always or sometimes receive a salary for their work.

### **Funding**

The government/municipalities in Sweden pay for the deaf interpreting service. Private funding does occur.

### **Education**

Sweden has just recently (2015-2016) begun training DIs in a project run by the Swedish Association of the Deaf, SDR.

The project offered training for deaf interpreters and translators. It was a pilot project with the aim that it will be established as a permanent training programme. Stockholm University offers courses in Swedish Sign Language for both deaf and hearing students, and in autumn 2016 they also offered a course in translation. Several years ago Stockholm University offered a training programme for

<sup>72</sup> Sources from Sweden: The NAD (Sveriges Dövas Riksförbund) and individual responses from 3 DIs (1 DI only replied to some questions).

deaf individuals to become interpreters for the deaf blind.

21-25 deaf students were enrolled in the one year SDR training project. The training was at a vocational level, and no ECTS points were given. In 2016 and 2017 a new group of deaf individuals will be enrolled into the one-year training programme.

Subjects to be taught:

International signs, tactile interpretation, low/close signs, translation from Swedish Sign Language (SSL) to text, and just a small amount of translation/interpretation from text to SSL.

### **Membership of NASLI**

DIs can become members of the Swedish National Association of Sign Language Interpreters (STTF)<sup>73</sup>.

### **Recognition**

The government funds deaf interpreting, and the NAD is at the moment advocating for an officially recognised interpreter training programme for deaf students.



## SWITZERLAND

Sources: The NASLI in the German-speaking region, the NAD and the NASLI in the French-speaking region and the NASLI in the Italian-speaking region. We received a response from one individual DI who only replied to 2 questions.

Number of deaf sign language users: 10,000

### THE GERMAN-SPEAKING REGION<sup>74</sup>

#### **Number of DIs**

In the German-speaking region of Switzerland there are 1-5 DIs.

#### **Employment and working conditions**

The DIs in the German-speaking region work as freelancers.

#### **Funding**

It is not known whether the DIs receive payment for their work, or who pays in the region.

#### **Education**

There are no training options for DIs in the region. In the region there is however an educational training programme for HIs (Höhere Fachschule für Heilpädagogik).

#### **Membership of the NASLI**

DIs in the German-speaking region cannot become members of the Regional Association of Sign Language Interpreters (BGD)<sup>75</sup>.

#### **Recognition**

There is no recognition of DIs in the German-speaking region.

<sup>74</sup> The source of the German-speaking region is BGD (the Regional Association of Sign Language Interpreters).

<sup>75</sup> Berufsvereinigung der gebärdensprachdolmetscher/innen der deutschen Schweiz.

## SWITZERLAND

### THE FRENCH-SPEAKING REGION<sup>76</sup>

#### **Number of DIs**

There are 1-5 DIs in the French-speaking region of Switzerland.

#### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in the French-speaking region work as freelancers. They are paid by the National Interpreting Agency. They are paid per hour. They work only for foreign deaf people, and mainly in social and medical settings - one to one interpretation.

#### **Funding**

The government pays for the DIs in the sense that they pay an amount to the National Interpreting Agency. But mainly, social agencies or hospitals have to pay themselves for the service of the DI as well as the HI. That means that sometimes no one pays for the interpretation.

#### **Education**

There is no training for DIs in the French-speaking region. Training for HIs is, at the moment, only situated in HFH Zurich (the German-speaking region). The French Regional Association of Sign Language Interpreters, ARILS, and the National Association of the Deaf are working together to create a short training programme for the first time, probably in 2017.

Around 7 to 9 DIs are interested in participating in this short training programme.

#### **Membership of the NASLI**

DIs cannot become members of ARILS as it is now, because the statutes state that members can only be interpreters if they possess a recognised and official diploma. No DIs in Switzerland currently have such a diploma.

#### **Recognition**

ARILS is now advocating for the recognition of DIs, and would like them to be trained and be able to become members of the inter-

<sup>76</sup> GErvaix, ARILS (NASLI) Association Romande des Interprètes en Langue de Signe.

preter association ARILS. The government funds DI in some situations.

## SWITZERLAND

### THE ITALIAN-SPEAKING REGION

#### **Number of DIs**

There are 1-5 DIs in the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland.

#### **Employment and working conditions**

The DIs are employed by the NAD.

#### **Funding**

The government sometimes provides funding for the deaf interpreting service.

#### **Education**

They do not have training for HIs in this region.

#### **Membership of the NASLI**

DIs cannot become members of the Regional Association of Sign Language Interpreters (Ilissi)<sup>77</sup>.

#### **Recognition**

The government funds DI in some specific instances.

77 Interpreti in Lingua Italiana dei Segni della Svizzera Italiana.

## THE UNITED KINGDOM<sup>78</sup>

Sources: We received responses from the NASLI that covers all of the regions within United Kingdom (England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland). We also received some regional information from Scotland and Northern Ireland, which will be listed after the responses from UK. We did not receive responses from England or Wales.

Number of deaf sign language users: 77,000

### **Number of DIs**

According to the information we received, there are 16–20 DIs in the UK. There are 2–5 DIs in Northern Ireland and 1 DI in Scotland.

### **Employment and working conditions**

DIs in the UK are employed by interpreting companies/agencies or are working as freelancers.

### **Funding**

The government/municipalities in UK fund the deaf interpreting service in certain situations, and private funding also occurs.

### **Education**

In the UK all courses in sign language interpreting should be accessible to deaf and hearing people. There are several official sign language interpreter training programmes in the UK<sup>79</sup>, which DIs can take in order to become certified by the NRCPD as a deaf translator or a sign language interpreter. The level of the training ranges from a vocational level up to a MA level. The number of deaf individuals who have completed, or are currently enrolled in the training, is from 1–5.

### **Membership of the NASLI**

DIs can become members of the NASLI in the UK (ASLI).

### **Recognition**

The UK has an official register of DIs, the Register of Sign Lan-

<sup>78</sup> Source from UK: The NASLI (Association of Sign Language Interpreters, ASLI).

<sup>79</sup> University of Wolverhampton, Heriott Watt University in Scotland, and a diploma at level 6 from various centres (de Wit 2012).

guage Interpreters by the NRCPD<sup>80</sup>, the national registration body in the UK for sign language interpreters, and with SASLI, the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

## NORTHERN IRELAND<sup>81</sup>

### Number of DIs

There are at least 2 DIs in Northern Ireland.

### Employment and working conditions

Both DIs work as freelancers, 1 is additionally employed by the NAD.

The 2 DIs have worked 0-2 years and 6-8 years as interpreters, both part-time. 1 DI always receives a salary and 1 DI sometimes receives a salary.

Both DIs work mostly alone or in a team with another DI.

### Funding

Both DIs are paid through private funding and one additionally receives payment from the government/municipalities.

## SCOTLAND<sup>82</sup>

### Number of DIs

There is 1 DI in Scotland.

### Employment and working conditions

The one DI in Scotland works as a freelancer.

The one DI who has replied to the questionnaire has worked for 6-8 years as an interpreter, and works part-time. The DI receives payment for their work as an interpreter and most often works in a team with a HI.

### Interpreter training

The DI has a MA in interpreting between BSL and English from the University of Leeds.

80 <http://www.nrcpd.org.uk/approved-courses>.

81 Source from Northern Ireland: 2 DIs.

82 Sources from Scotland: The NASLI, 1 educational institute and 1 response from a DI.

## **Funding**

In Scotland, the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters receives funding from the Big Lottery Fund. This funding funds the deaf interpreting service.

## **Membership of NASLI**

By meeting the SASLI membership criteria, DIs can become members of the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

## **Education**

According to the information we have received<sup>83</sup>, in Scotland the only training possibility for DIs is the European Master in Sign Language Interpreting, EUMASLI<sup>84</sup>, which is an international programme at Heriot-Watt University. It is at MA level and the programme is carried out by Heriot-Watt University in cooperation with the HUMAK University of Applied Science (Finland) and Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Science (Germany). The training programme is not specifically designed for DIs, thus HIs are also enrolled in the training programme. The education has a duration of 2-3 years and corresponds to 90 ECTS points. 1-5 international DIs have completed the education.

Subjects to be taught can be found on their website<sup>85</sup>.

## **Recognition**

See under the UK.

83 According to the information from NASLI.

84 European Master in Sign Language Interpreting (EUMASLI).

85 <http://www.eumasli.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2015/09/EUMASLI-Curriculum.pdf>.

# APPENDIXES

## APPENDIX 1: METHODOLOGY

The survey consisted of three different questionnaires of around 10 questions each. The questionnaires were sent out by email to the following four main target groups in each country/region in Europe:

- The National Sign Language Interpreter Associations (NASLI)
- The National Deaf associations (NAD)
- Educational Institutions/training programmes responsible for Sign Language interpreter training (whether only for hearing students, deaf students or both).
- Deaf interpreters

The questionnaires were entered into the online survey tool SurveyMonkey. The questionnaires were translated into International Sign Language. The disadvantage of this method is that it left out respondents without computers and access to the Internet. Another challenge with the survey is that associations often receive questionnaires through online survey tools, and it does not tend to motivate response as much as if it were a face-to-face interview. However, due to limited time and resources, we decided to use this method.

The third challenge is that there can be different understandings of the various topics in the questionnaires; an example is the responses on the educational level of the sign language interpreter training for the DIs. There can be different views on whether the level should be categorized as vocational, a shorter course, BA or MA level.

We reached the target groups through email, using the networks



of the partners in the project<sup>86</sup>.

After collecting the information, we sent out a draft to the relevant country, asking for comments to and/or modification of the collected information.

### **The questionnaires**

The questionnaires were kept as short and as easy to respond to as possible in order to ensure that as many respondents as possible would complete the surveys. We made an introduction video in international signs explaining the context and the objective of the survey.

We asked for the name and title of the respondent for our own use in case we needed to ask for more information from that association/institution.

The rest of the survey is divided into five themes:

- A. Number of Deaf Sign Language interpreters
- B. Organisation of Deaf Sign language interpreters
- C. Training of Deaf Sign Language interpreters
- D. Recognition of Deaf Sign Language interpreting
- E. Work of Deaf interpreters

### **The responses**

The list of respondents etc. can be found in appendix 2.

### **Cleaning data and analysis**

The data analysis has been cleaned for respondents that did not reply to the questions, or those who found that the questionnaire was not relevant for them. The analysis was carried out by the DDA.

86 For reaching the NASLIs, we used EFSLI's network, for the NADs we used EUD's network and our own network. For the Educational Institutions, we found the contact information through our own network and the addresses we could find from de Wit (2012).

## APPENDIX 2: LIST OF RESPONDENTS

### National/regional associations of Sign Language interpreters

We sent the questionnaire to 33 associations in total, and 22 associations responded to the survey:

1. Austria (ÖGSDV)
2. Belgium, Flanders (BVGT)
3. Denmark (FTT)
4. Estonia (EVKTÜ)
5. Finland (SVT)
6. Germany (BGSD)
7. Greece (SDENG)
8. Iceland (HART)
9. Ireland (CISLI)
10. Italy (ANIOS)
11. Norway (NAI)
12. Poland (STPJM)
13. Portugal (ANAPI-LG)
14. Romania: ANIALMG
15. Scotland (SASLI)
16. Serbia (ATSZJ)
17. Spain (FILSE)
18. Sweden (STTF)
19. Switzerland (French-speaking region): ARILS
20. Switzerland (German-speaking region): BGD
21. Switzerland (Italian-speaking region): LISSI
22. UK (ASLI)

### National associations of the Deaf

We sent the questionnaire to 44 associations in total and received 17 responses.

1. Belgium: (Wallonia) Info-Sourds de Bruxelles (ASBL)
2. The Czech Republic: Czech Republic Union of the Deaf and the Hard of hearing in the Czech Republic (SNNCR)
3. Denmark: The Danish Deaf Association (DDL)
4. Finland: The Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD)
5. France: Fédération Nationale des Sourds de France (FNSF)

6. Georgia: Union of the Deaf of Georgia
7. Iceland: Félag heyrnarlausra
8. Ireland: Irish Deaf Society
9. Latvia: Latvian Association of the Deaf (LNS)
10. Malta: Deaf People Association
11. Norway: The Norwegian Association of the Deaf (NDF)
12. Portugal: Federação Portuguesa das Associações de Surdos (FPAS)
13. Romania: Romanian National Association for Deaf (ANSR)
14. Slovenia: Zveza drustev gluhih in naglusnih Slovenije
15. Spain: Confederación Estatal de Personas Sordas (CNSE)
16. Sweden: Sveriges Dövas Riksförbund (SDR)
17. The Netherlands: Dovenschap Nieuwe Stijl

### **Responses from the interpreter training institutions/programmes**

We sent the questionnaire to 30 interpreter training institutions/programmes. Some contact information was found through A comprehensive guide to sign language interpreting in Europe <sup>87</sup> and some was found through the responses of the associations. The aim of the questionnaire was to get an overview of whether they provide training for deaf interpreters at the institutions, at which level and how many deaf students that have completed the interpreter training. We also asked which subjects the students are being taught.

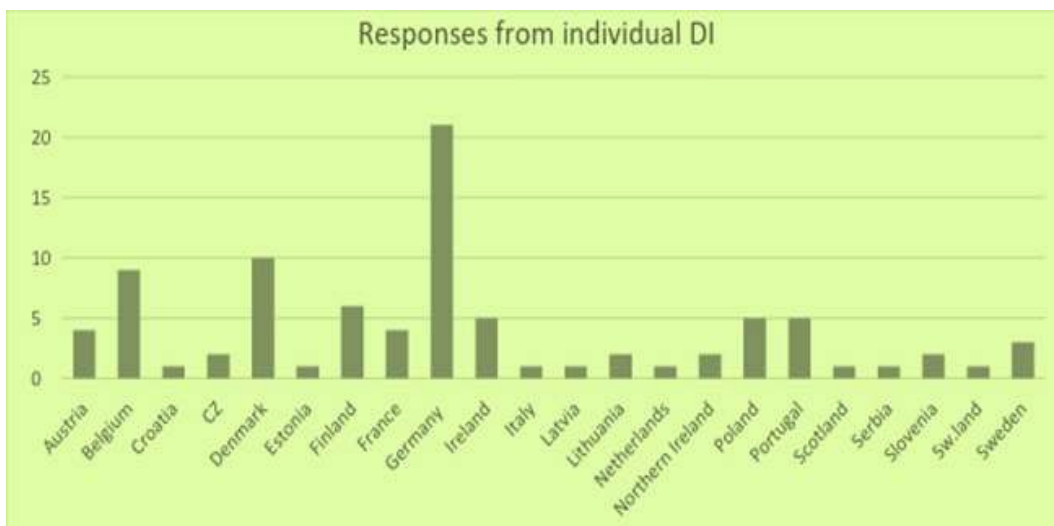
21 training institutions/programmes from 15 different countries have replied. 5 countries - Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Portugal and Sweden- had more than one institution/training programme which replied:

Country	Name of the educational institution/programme	Training for DI?	Training for HI?	Level
<b>Austria</b>	Logo! – Lehrgang für Taube DolmetscherInnen und ÜbersetzerInnen	Yes	No	Shorter course
<b>Belgium</b>	Université Saint-Louis	No	Yes	-
<b>Czech Republic</b>	The Chamber of Czech Sign Language Interpreters	Yes	Yes	Vocational
<b>Denmark</b>	UCC, Sign language interpreting programme	No	Yes	BA
<b>Denmark</b>	Danish Deaf Association/ Training of Deaf Interpreters Project	Yes	No	Shorter course
<b>Finland</b>	Humanistinen ammat- tikorkeakoulu/Humak University of Applied Sciences	Yes	Yes	BA
<b>Finland</b>	Diaconia University of Applied Sciences	No	Yes	BA?
<b>Germany</b>	IDGS, U Hamburg	Yes	Yes	BA
<b>Hungary</b>	Hallatlan Foundation	No	Yes	-
<b>Iceland</b>	University of Iceland	Yes	Yes	BA
<b>Ireland</b>	Trinity College Dublin	Yes/no	Yes	BA
<b>Ireland</b>	Trinity College Dublin/ EU-project Just Signs	Yes	Yes	Vocational
<b>Norway</b>	Bachelor in Sign Language and Sign Language Interpreting (Bachelor i tegnspråk og talking)	Yes/No	Yes	BA
<b>Portugal</b>	Escola Superior de Educação de Coimbra	Yes	Yes	BA
<b>Portugal</b>	Polytechnic Institute of Porto	No	Yes	BA
<b>Russia</b>	Centre for Deaf Studies and Bilingual Education	No	No	-

<b>Slovenia</b>	University of Ljubljana	No	No	-
<b>Sweden</b>	Sveriges dövas Riksförbund/ pilotutbildning för döva tolkar och översättare	Yes	No	Vocational
<b>Sweden</b>	Strömbäcks folkhögskola	No	Yes	-
<b>Sweden</b>	Nordiska folkhögskolan	No	Yes	-
<b>Scotland/ UK</b>	Heriot-Watt University (EUMASLI)	Yes	Yes	Master

### Individual responses from DIs

The following figure shows the number of DIs who answered the questionnaire and which country they are from.



### APPENDIX 3: INTERPRETER TRAINING

The following table does not include countries which replied that they do not have deaf interpreters.

Country	Training Separated from HI	Training Not separated from HI	No accessible interpreter training	Level
1. Austria	1			Vocational
2. Belgium - Flanders		1 (first deaf students from 2016 autumn)		Vocational
3. Belgium- Wallonia		1		Vocational?
4. Croatia			1	
5. Czech Republic	1			Shorter courses/vocational
6. Denmark	1			Shorter courses (project level)
7. Estonia		1		BA
8. Finland		1		BA
9. France	1			There are both shorter courses and training on diploma/BA level (License) – with focus on translation
10. Germany	1			BA
11. Greece			1	
12. Hungary			1	
13. Iceland		1		BA (1 year diploma)
14. Ireland	1			Shorter courses on project level (and the DI can access the SLI training programme but no one has applied)
15. Italy			1	But one DI has received interpreter training on MA level
16. Latvia			1	
17. Lithuania		1 (deaf students from Autumn 2016)		By September 2016 two Deaf interpreters will start the interpreter training at the College
18. Netherlands			1	
19. Norway		1		BA.
20. Poland		1		Vocational and BA level
21. Portugal		1		BA

22. Romania			1	
23. Russia	1			Shorter courses (only one time project)
24. Serbia			1	There is no training for HI in Serbia either
25. Slovenia			1	Shorter courses
26. Spain			1	No DI have accessed the interpreter training
27. Sweden	1			Vocational level on project level
28. Sw.land /germany			1	
29. Sw French			1	The association hopes to set up short courses for DI, 2017
30. Sw Italian			1	
31. UK (incl. Scotland, Northern Ireland)		1		Both vocational, BA
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	

## APPENDIX 4: RECOGNITION

Country	Yes DI are mentioned in the law	Yes Government pays for DI in certain situations	Yes We have officially recognised SLI education for DI	Yes Official registration/ Authorised list/ certification of DI	No
1. Austria		X	X	X	
2. Belgium					
3. Croatia					(X)
4. Czech Republic		X			
5. Denmark		X		X	
6. Estonia		X	X	X	
7. Finland		X	X	(X)	
8. France		X	X	X	
9. Germany		X	X	X	
10. Greece					X
11. Hungary					X
12. Iceland		X			
13. Ireland		X		X	
14. Italy					X
15. Latvia					(X)
16. Lithuania		X		X	
17. Netherlands	X	X			
18. Norway		X			
19. Poland					X
20. Portugal			X		
21. Russia					(X)
22. Romania	X	X			
23. Serbia				X	
24. Slovenia					(X)
25. Spain		X			
26. Sweden		X			
27. Switzerland		X			
28. UK		X	X	X	



## APPENDIX 5: QUESTIONNAIRE

### Questionnaire for NAD and NASLI

Approximately how many Deaf people work as Deaf sign language interpreters in your country?

Where are Deaf sign language interpreters in your country employed? (you can choose more than one option)

Where are Deaf sign language interpreters in your country employed? (you can choose more than one option)

Please write all the names and e-mail addresses of the sign language interpreter training institutions in your country

Are there/have there been any training options for Deaf sign language interpreters in your country?

What is the the level of the training that is offered Deaf sign language interpreters

Please write the approximate number of Deaf persons who have completed/are currently enrolled in the interpreter training

Write the E-mail and name of the organisation(s) or institution(s) which have carried out training of Deaf sign language interpreters in your country

Can Deaf sign language interpreters become members of the association of sign language interpreters in your country?

Is there an association of Deaf sign language interpreters in your country?

Is there any formal recognition of Deaf sign language interpreters in your country? (you can choose more than one option)

## **Questionnaire for educational institutions which train or have trained in sign language interpreting**

Does your educational institution have interpreter training for hearing sign language interpreters?

Does your educational institution have interpreter training for Deaf sign language interpreters?

Please write the approximate number of Deaf persons who have completed or are currently enrolled in this training

How many years of training do you offer Deaf sign language interpreters?

What is the level of the training that you are offering Deaf sign language interpreters?

Please write the number of ECTS of the training that you are offering Deaf sign language interpreters (if none write 0)

Is this training program for Deaf sign language interpreters separate from the training programme for hearing sign language interpreters?

Which of following subjects do you teach deaf sign language interpreters?

## Questionnaire for deaf individuals who work as deaf interpreters

How many years have you worked as Deaf sign language interpreter?

Do you work fulltime or part time?

How often do you receive salaries for your work as Deaf sign language interpreter?

Who pays for Deaf sign language interpreting in your country?  
(you can choose more than one option)

Where are you employed? (you can choose more than one option)

In which sectors do you interpret? (you can choose more than one option)

For which of the following groups do you typically interpret? (you can choose more than one option)

Which of following communication forms do you use in your interpreter work? (you can choose more than one option)

How do you most often work?

Which interpreter training have you received?

Write the E-mail address and name of the institution(s) or organisation(s) which provides/provided Deaf sign language interpreter training.

## APPENDIX 6: NUMBER OF DI AND DEAF SIGN LANGUAGE USERS

COUNTRY	DI PER 1000 DEAF SIGN LANGUAGE USERS	DI IN TOTAL	DEAF SIGN LANGUAGE USERS
Slovenia	5.7	5	984
Iceland	4	1	250
Belgium (Wallonia)	3.8	15	4.000
Estonia	3.3	5	1.500
Denmark	3	12	4.000
Ireland	2.2	10	4.500
Norway	2	5	2.500
Belgium (Flanders)	2	10	5.000
Croatia	1.7	11	6.500
Switzerland	1.5	15	10.000
Finland	1.1	6	5.300
Sweden	1.1	11	10.000
Lithuania	1.1	11	8.000
Czech Republic	1	10	10.000
Greece	1	5	5.000
Netherlands	0.7	5	7.000
Austria	0.6	5	8.000
Serbia	0.6	6	10.000
Latvia	0.5	1	2.000
Hungary	0.4	4	9.000
Romania	0.4	10	24.601
France	0.3	30	120.000
UK	0.3	20	77.000
Germany	0.2	30	200.000
Spain	0.2	15	100.000
Italy	0.1	5	40.000
Poland	0.1	5	50.000
Portugal	0.1	6	60.000
Russia	0.03	5	144.800
Malta	-	0	200
Georgia	-	0	?

# LITERATURE

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