



**International Council
for Education and
Rehabilitation of People
with Visual Impairment
Europe**

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION AND
REHABILITATION OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT,
EUROPEAN REGION
ANNOUNCES ELECTION OF
NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Athens, Greece – August 19, 2015 - Within the past eight months, many welcoming changes have taken place within ICEVI-Europe. One of these changes is the appointment of two new Board Members until the end of their term in July 2017.

Mr. Klaus Hoem, Director of The National Institute for The Blind and Partially Sighted (IBOS) in Denmark has stepped down as Vice-President of ICEVI-Europe and Board Member representing the Baltic and Nordic countries sub region. He has held the position since July 2013 and had to resign in order to embark on the duties and responsibilities of his new position as CEO of the Danish Multiple Sclerosis Association. His vacancy has been replaced by **Mrs. Tarja Hännikäinen**, a Consulting Teacher and Teacher Trainer from Onerva, Center for Learning, Counseling and Training in Finland. Mrs. Hännikäinen, who was considered for this position during previous elections, is nominated and comes highly recommended by Mr. Hoem as being very knowledgeable and skilled in her field, as well as, personable.

Similarly, **Mrs. Mira Goldschmidt**, a Mobility Instructor from the Centre Pédagogique pour Handicapés de la Vue in Switzerland has resigned as Board Member representing the French speaking countries sub region. Her vacancy was intermittently replaced by **Mr. Francis Boe**, Honorary President of GPEAA (Groupement des Professeurs et des Educateurs d' Aveugles et d' Amblyopes), who holds the position of Advisor of ICEVI-Europe today. **Mrs. Nathalie Lewi Dumont**, Associate Professor at INS HEA in France was nominated by Mr. Boe and elected by the Board of ICEVI-Europe as a Board Member, representing the French Speaking Countries sub region. Mrs. Dumont comes highly recommended in regards to her experience, knowledge and achievements in the field of visual impairment.

“On behalf of the Board of ICEVI-Europe, I would like to sincerely thank the Board Members that have stepped down for their exceptional work and service to the organization; we wish them continued success in their future endeavors. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs. Hännikäinen and Mrs. Dumont on board with us and we look forward to engaging in a fruitful collaboration with them in order to further ICEVI Europe’s goal of promoting education and rehabilitation opportunities for individuals with visual impairment throughout the world,” said Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou, President of ICEVI-Europe.

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Visual Impairment (ICEVI)
Europe

European President
Betty Leotsakou

12 Ioannou Kotsou str.
Glyka Nera, Attiki
T.K. 15354
Greece

tel.: +30 6936040630
fax: +30 210 3511505
e-mail:
bleotsakou@gmail.com

www.icevi-europe.org

ING bank account
number:
4890207

BIC: INGBNL2A

IBAN: NL90 INGB 0004
8902 07

About ICEVI – EUROPE

ICEVI - Europe is a region of the International Council for Education of people with Visual Impairment, ICEVI. This is a global organisation of individuals and organisations that promotes equal access to appropriate education and rehabilitation for all people with visual impairment so that they may achieve their full potential.

<http://www.icevi-europe.org/>

For Further Information please contact:

Martha Gyftakos
Executive Assistant to the President
Fax: +30 210 3511505
Email: mgyftakos@yahoo.com

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