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**EBU Newsletter**

## Welcome to the EBU Newsletter.

The EBU Newsletter is published every two months in English, French, German and Spanish. It is produced and translated thanks to the financial support of the European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. We hope you enjoy reading it, and we welcome your comments and feedback.

## EU update

### **A book is a book - VAT should not be a barrier to reading**

We responded to the EU consultation on VAT on electronic publications, including ebooks. Current VAT rules discriminate against blind and partially sighted people who cannot read books in standard print.

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## Announcements

### **The 2016 Onkyo World Braille Essay Contest**

The Onkyo World Braille Essay Contest is a worldwide initiative planned and sponsored by Onkyo Corporation and The Braille Mainichi, two Japanese firms actively engaged in the promotion of braille. Its European strand is run by the European Blind Union. EBU is proud to present below the full list of prize winners.

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## Snapshot

### **News from our partner organisation ICEVI-Europe.**

Within a series of conferences about “Sensory issues and disability” (“Olfaction, memory and learning” in 2009, and “Listening, acting, music and brain plasticity” in 2011), INS HEA (Institut national supérieur de formation et de recherche pour l'éducation des jeunes handicapés et les enseignements adaptés- National higher institute for training and research on special needs

education), organized an international conference on the sense of touch, in Paris, 17-19 March 2016.

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### **"Bridging the Gap between Museums and Individuals with Visual Impairments" (BaGMIVI Project).**

"Bridging the Gap between Museums and Individuals with Visual Impairments" (BaGMIVI) is a 3-year European project started in September 2014 and coordinated by the University of Thessaly in Greece. Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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## **National news**

### **Montenegro - Consumer Protection Act**

In Montenegro the Consumer Protection Act has come into operation.

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### **Slovenia – Summer Camp**

Some 45 blind and partially sighted persons of Slovenia and their guides gathered in the summer camp at the end of July. The camp was organised by Karitas, the charity organisation of the Ljubljana archdiocese in the north eastern part of Slovenia, in the village of Skomarje.

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### **Sweden - Campaigning for accessibility – A Street For All**

Synskadades Riksförbund the Swedish organisation of the visually impaired has as one of its primary goals to increase the knowledge of the general public on the living conditions of the visually impaired and our opportunities.

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## **Feature**

### **Spotlight on our members - The 70th Anniversary of the Union of the Blind of Serbia**

In the history of the blind and partially sighted of Serbia, July 14, 1946, undoubtedly represents a turning point. On that day, in Zemun, the Union of the Blind of Yugoslavia was set up first, and immediately after that the Union of the Blind of Serbia, which was a part of the unique federal

organization. Both organizations were born on the waves of tumultuous changes caused by the socialist revolution and recently ended war. At that time of great enthusiasm, blind and partially sighted persons, as well as others, also believed in positive changes and wanted to give their contribution in creating a better life and society.

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