

# International Council for Education and Rehabilitation of People with Visual Impairment

**Annual report 2015**

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# Preface

# 

Herewith the Board presents the annual report 2015 of ICEVI-Europe.

2015 has been a year in which ICEVI-Europe has significantly engaged in the exchange of knowledge and expertise, thereby improving the support for people with visual impairments.

Interesting activities have taken place this year promoting the education and rehabilitation opportunities for people with visual impairment. ICEVI-Europe has enhanced its collaboration with the European Blind Union (EBU). ICEVI-Europe was cordially invited to attend the 10th EBU General Assembly in London, UK held on October 26-28 2015. The General Assembly was hosted by the Royal National Institute of Blind People, RNIB, from the UK and the presiding theme was “Making Sense of a Turbulent World: Politics and Inclusion in the 21st Century.” The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed during the Gala Dinner of the General Assembly by the President of the EBU, Mr. Wolfgang Angermann and the President of ICEVI-Europe, Mrs. Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou, signaling a historic moment of a new phase of cooperation between the two organizations.

Within the context of the MoU, ICEVI-Europe and EBU in cooperation with the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam have carried out a common research study on the Availability of Services for Visually Impaired Elderly Persons in Europe. This research study was conducted by Mrs. Rosaline de Korte, a Masters Research Student at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, who was supervised by Dr. Hans Welling, the Immediate Past President of ICEVI-Europe, with the goal of capturing sufficient understanding about the policies, laws, type of services and circumstances regarding ageing people with visual impairment in the various European countries. Data from self-administered online questionnaires regarding different service categories sent to European National Organizations of Blind and Partially Sighted People that were members of EBU were collected and analyzed. The findings of the research study were compiled into a thorough and comprehensive report that not only provided a greater insight on the current situation of visually impaired elderly persons throughout Europe and but also analyzed the availability, accessibility and affordability of services provided to them. Furthermore, it served as a good reference source for possible improvements in rehabilitation programs regarding the ageing population with visual impairment throughout Europe.

Moreover, a European Survey on Early Intervention was carried out by the DATO Group in Spain, a group devoted to boosting Early Intervention (EI) all around the country, in cooperation with ICEVI – Europe, as an initial starting point in organizing the Early Intervention Interest Group by investigating the current status of EI in various European Countries. Mrs. Ana Isabel Ruiz López, Board Member of ICEVI-Europe, representing the South European countries subregion and Mrs. Elena Gastón López, National Representative from Spain of ICEVI-Europe are the leaders of the EI Interest Group who led this survey initiative and compiled the report. The objective of the survey report was to discern how Early Intervention is structured and organized nowadays in Europe and to draw some conclusions and recommendations for the future to be improved upon, not only at a national or regional level, but on an international level also, based on the exchange of experience and training. Specifically, the report described the type of early intervention programs and services provided in various countries, the roles of schooling and families of children with visual impairments, as well as, the needs of the clients of the early intervention programs and professionals who provide the necessary support services. It was sent to the EBU, as a basis for drawing up a joint paper on education and developmental policy/guidance for parents.

The EBU and ICEVI-Europe engaged in a joint project on the following topic***:*** “Mobility of University Students with Visual Impairment” – How to motivate and support the active participation of students with visual impairment in the Erasmus projects. The first phase of the project was complete at the end of 2015. A working group was set up comprised of 3 members, a pilot study was executed and a state-of-the-art report was produced based on the results from the survey that was disseminated, regarding blind and partially sighted students’ access to Exchange programmes throughout Europe. Mrs. Krisztina Kovacs, Board Member representing the Central European Countries Subregion of ICEVI-Europe, represented ICEVI-Europe within this research working group. The research group gathered information about the experience of students with VI and Erasmus+ coordinators. The aim of this state-of-the-art report was to obtain a clear picture of the possibilities and barriers of exchange programs for university students with visual impairments.

The International Conference on Enabling Access for Persons with Visual Impairment **(ICEAPVI-2015)** which was held in Athens, Greece at the Eugenides Foundation on February 12-14 2015 has taken place with great success. This event was organized by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Speech and Accessibility Laboratory, Department of Informatics and Telecommunications) and co-organized by ICEVI-Europe. Distinguished researchers and scientists from 27 countries around the world that work in the field of Education, Rehabilitation, Information Technologies and Communication (ICT) and Assistive Technologies for people with blindness and low vision attended this interdisciplinary scientific event in order to exchange knowledge and best practices and present their latest ideas and recent research in these thematic areas. Parents of children of various ages, as well as, notable scientists and practitioners from Greece made their presence known with stimulating discussions and contributions regarding accessibility for the visually impaired. Thirty seven scientific papers were presented throughout the three days of the conference, each of which was highly valued and appreciated by all the participants. Moreover, five workshops, a round table discussion entitled “The Power of Parent Organizations” and an exhibition of Assistive Technologies and Services for Persons with Visual Impairment all took place within the conference. The invited Keynote Speech was delivered by Dr.Klaus Miesenberger (University of Linz, Austria), with the title “Advanced and Emerging Solutions: ICT and AT in the Education of Low Vision and Blind Students.” Dr Miesenberger is a dedicated and accomplished professional such with an extensive research and teaching background in the area of ICT for people with visual impairments. The opening of the conference was initiated by the Invited Speaker, Dr. [Nurit Neustadt-Noy](http://access.uoa.gr/ICEAPVI-2015/proceedingsFiles/31.pdf) (Foundation for Service Development at National Insurance Institute of Israel and Commission for Equal Rights for People with Disability) who presented a speech entitled: “Beyond Accessibility: Museums and Exhibits Friendly to Visually Impaired and Blind Visitors.” Dr. Neustadt-Noy is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in the training of visually impaired people and teaching professionals in the field of blindness, as well as, in the assessment of organizations/services for blind persons in various countries. We are very excited that this conference will not only serve as a platform where professionals and practitioners throughout Europe can exchange knowledge and best practice and share experiences, but also it will promote and establish a network for enabling access for persons with visual impairment.

The first Kick-Off Meeting of the **BaGMIVI project** (Bridging the Gap Between Museums and Individuals with Visual Impairments) was successfully held on February 12-13, 2015 in Athens, Greece. All 12 of the formal partners of the consortium were present at this meeting, including ICEVI-Europe, one of the non-profit, non-governmental partner organisations. The project aims to shape and promote strategic partnerships between museums and schools (mainstream or/and special schools of the blind) within which students with visual disability are enrolled and to promote the equal access of people with visual impairments to cultural centres such as museums, thereby, ultimately enhancing social integration. The expected tangible results of the BaGMIVI include the development of a needs assessment study, a syllabus, videos from the holding of Joint Staff Training Events for museum members and the development of accessible museum content/programmes, and the development of a best practice guide and policy guidelines and recommendations.

In the report year, the Board mainly looked ahead to 9th ICEVI European Conference in 2017 and began preparations with the Belgian Host Committee. The Board of ICEVI-Europe visited Bruges, Belgium on November 23 - November 24, 2015, where it held its Board Meeting and Host Committee Meeting with the Belgian Host Committee regarding the organization of the 9th ICEVI European Conference, which will be held on July 2-7 2017 in Bruges, Belgium. ICEVI-Europe was graciously hosted by one of the organizing members of the conference host committee, Spermalie vzw De Kade and had the opportunity to meet the members of the other two organizing members, Centrum Ganspoel and Blindenzorg Licht en Liefde and engage in thorough initial discussions concerning the preparations and logistics of the European Conference. The theme of the European Conference will be “Empowered by Dialogue,” based on the Quality of Life Framework by Dr. Robert Schalock. The Board hopes that this conference will offer the opportunity to meet colleagues throughout Europe, in order to come together to exchange knowledge, expertise and share best practices. The Board hopes that many of you will take advantage of the opportunity to attend our conference and become an active part of a network of people and institutions promoting the social inclusion of people with visual impairment.

2015 also marked changes within the Board of ICEVI-Europe. After many years of dedicated service, Mrs. Liliya Plastunova resigned as Board Member representing the East European Countries subregion. Dr. Vladimir Ruchin, an Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology at the Saratov State Technical University in Saratov, Russia has accepted to take on this role. Similarly, after significant contributions and efforts towards ICEVI-Europe, Mr. Klaus Hoem resigned as Board Member representing the Baltic -Nordic Countries subregion and consequently as Vice-President, due to the fact that he accepted a demanding new position as CEO of the Danish Multiple Sclerosis Association. Mr. Hoem was succeeded by Mrs. Tarja Hännikäinen, a Consulting Teacher from the VALTERI Center for Learning and Consulting, Onerva in Finland.

You are urged to visit the ICEVI-Europe website in order to become further familiar with the above projects and reports. .

Initial discussions during the EXCO Meeting of ICEVI World in London on April 7-10 2015, raised the need for a structural reorganization process of ICEVI World, which would involve the registration and incorporation of each ICEVI region in England and Wales, as a separate legal entity, but under the control of ICEVI World, the sole company law member. After discussions of the next EXCO Meeting held in Kampala, Africa on October 3-4 2015 had concluded, the regional constitution was withdrawn, however a new draft constitution for ICEVI World was drawn up, specifically new Articles of Association and a new Memorandum of Association. The purpose of the regional development process being undertaken by ICEVI World is to establish strong ICEVI regions that follow its mission and aims. Within this context, it is important to note that ICEVI-Europe has always been a model for all regions of ICEVI World; it is a separate legal entity registered in the Netherlands and has been so since March 8, 2007, when it was incorporated governed by Articles of Association of its own. Furthermore, the Articles of Association were amended on August 14, 2013 in accordance to the decisions taken by the General Meeting/General Assembly of July 4, 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey. Nevertheless, ICEVI-Europe follows the mission, vision and goals of ICEVI World and this is its purpose; however, at the same time, it maintains its own identity, due to the fact that it has a legal status as an Association with its own regional strategy.

It is the Board’s hope that you will read this annual report with interest and that it will encourage you to cooperate with colleagues in and beyond Europe. We happily welcome your feedback and suggestions.

The board would like to thank all who have contributed to ICEVI activities in 2015 and we hope you will all continue to participate in 2016.

This report is approved by the general meeting and conforms to art.17 of the Articles of Association, on 21 June 2016.

**Athens, Greece 21 June 2016**

On behalf of the Board,

Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou  
President

[www.icevi-europe.org](http://www.icevi-europe.org)

# 2 Report from the board

**Report from the Board**

In this report you will read that several conferences and workshops have taken place in 2015.

On November 3-4 2015, ICEVI-Europe was invited to participate in the VBS Congress program committee meeting held in Nurnberg, Germany, regarding the organization and preparations for the upcoming XXXVI. Convention of Pedagogy for the Blind and Visually Impaired on August 1-5, 2016 in Graz, Austria. ICEVI-Europe is one of the Partner Organizations that will be co-organizing this conference together with VBS and other organizations, including the Local Organizer of the Conference and member of ICEVI-Europe, Odilien-Institut. We are very pleased to be cooperating with VBS, which was established in 1873 and is one of the oldest organizations of professionals in Europe. The President of ICEVI-Europe, attended this meeting and was accompanied by Mr. Max Grote, a blind college student from Germany, who undertook the translation of all discussions from German to English for my behalf. Mr. Dieter Feser, Chairman of VBS, Mr. Patrick Temmesfeld, Director of bbs nürnberg Bildungszentrum für

Blinde und Sehbehinderte, along with other members of the Congress and Program Committees attended this meeting.

GPEAA (Groupement de Professeurs et Educateurs d'Aveugles et d'Amblyopes) held its 51st Pedagogical Days on October 8-10, 2015 in Toulouse, France.

As mentioned before, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed at the 10th EBU General Assembly in London, UK held on October 26-28 2015. The Memorandum of Understanding sets outs a framework for close cooperation between the two organizations in order to achieve the mutual goal of ensuring and facilitating the full inclusion of people with visual impairment throughout all parts of the European Society. It outlines possible areas and activities of cooperation to explore, including but not limited to the following: maintenance of regular, high-level contact between the Board Members of both organizations, dissemination of information on both organization platforms and circulation of respective Newsletters, the exchange of information and expertise regarding important developments, announcements, European Projects etc., exploration of undertaking common projects, as well as, the attendance of Principal Officers at the General Assemblies of both organizations. Moreover, elections for the Board of the EBU were held within the 10th EBU General Assembly in London. The Board of ICEVI-Europe would like once again to extend its warmest congratulatory wishes to Mrs. Maria Kyriacou, the National Representative of Cyprus for ICEVI-Europe, for her election as Secretary General of the European Blind Union. We are certain she will effectively carry out the responsibilities of her new role and wish her great success.

Three issues of the newsletter were published in 2015 and important information could also be read on the website of ICEVI-Europe [www.icevi-europe.org](http://www.icevi-europe.org)

**The theme of the 9th ICEVI European Conference in Bruges, Belgium in 2017, as previously mentioned, is “Empowered by Dialogue,”** based on the **Quality of Life Framework** by Dr. Robert Schalock. This theme was specifically chosen as the focus of the European Conference because it contains two interrelated concepts, 'dialogue' which is believed to be a strong vehicle in order to 'empower'. Dialogue is conducted via constructive discussions between open-minded partners, who respect one another’s differences of views. Empowerment refers to the act of making someone stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights. All stakeholders are invited to join the ICEVI European Conference in Bruges, where in dialogue they will empower each other and look for a way to improve the independence, social participation and well-being of people with visual impairments. The Quality of Life Framework, which consists of eight domains, will be used as a guide to structure the different activities that will take place throughout the conference. Lectures, oral presentations, workshops and discussion sessions will be based on each of the following eight domains: personal development, self-determination, interpersonal relations, social inclusion, rights, physical well-being, emotional well- being, and material well-being. All stakeholders, including the individual person with visual impairment and his environment; the individual professionals, regular or specialized, their teams or organizations and services; the volunteers and their network; communities and policy makers are encouraged to attend the European Conference, interact, network, and exchange knowledge and experiences with one another, with the goal of improving the quality of life of individuals with visual impairments.

**The following noteworthy events have taken place in 2015:**

**12-14 February 2015**

ICEAPVI-2015: International Conference on Enabling Access for Persons with Visual Impairment, Athens (Greece)  
web: <http://access.uoa.gr/ICEAPVI-2015/>

**10-11 March 2015**

Visually-impaired Musicians' Lives" (VIML) Conference, London (England)   
For further information visit the conference website: <http://vimusicians.ioe.ac.uk/confer_train.html> or alternatively, contact Robert Mitchell at [r.mitchell@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:r.mitchell@ioe.ac.uk)   
The project website can be found at [http://vimusicians.ioe.ac.uk](http://vimusicians.ioe.ac.uk/)

**19-20 March 2015**

5th Advanced Research Seminar on Audio Description (ARSAD), Barcelona (Spain)   
For more detailed information about the current call for papers and past seminars. please visit: <http://jornades.uab.cat/arsad/>

**4-6 June 2015**

Study Days of the Association of Psychologists for People with Visual Impairments in Bordeaux France   
Venue: A l'Athenee Municipal, place Saint Christoly in Bordeaux   
For questions regarding these Days (organization, practical information, registration, etc.), please contact Sandra Mesnieres, Secretary of Days, at [bordeaux2015@alfphv.net](mailto:bordeaux2015@alfphv.net)   
For further information, pleasse visit <http://alfphv.net/>

**26-27 May 2015**

Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) - One Approach to Assessment and Intervention, Edinburgh (Scotland)   
Venue: Scottish Sensory Centre, Paterson's Land, Holyrood Campus   
www: [www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/vi&multi/vmay15.html)

**27-29 May 2015**

12th European Conference on Supported Employment, Lisbon (Spain)   
For further information about the conference, call for papers and registration details please visit the conference website: <http://euselisbon2015.com/>   
Should you have any questions regarding the Early Delegate Registration, please contact Monica Leonardo (APEA) at [secretariat@euselisbon2015.com](mailto:secretariat@euselisbon2015.com) or by telephone 00351 212064920 or 00351 212064934 (direct contact).

**18 June 2015**

Professional Conference celebrating 25 years of Early Care in the Czech Republic on New methods for diagnosing and developing visual perception in children with disabilities (Prague)   
Venue: Faculty of Humanities of Charles University   
Address: U Krize 8, Prague 5, ZIP code 158 00   
For further information about the conference, please visit the conference website: [www.roksedou.com](http://www.roksedou.com/)

**18 September 2015**

International conference: "APPROACHES AND METHODS IN THE HABILITATION AND REHABILITATION OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPARIMENT", Cluj - Napoca (Romania)   
Organized by: Special School for Visually Impaired Children and Sport Club Association Kory Francisc   
Address: Str. Dorobantilor nr. 31. Cluj Napoca, Romania   
E-mail: [internationalconferentecluj@yahoo.ro](mailto:internationalconferentecluj@yahoo.ro)

**15-17 October 2015**

International Health & Wealth Conference, Algarve (Portugal)   
website: [www.ihw-conference.com](http://www.ihw-conference.com/)   
e-mail: [info@ihw-conference.com](mailto:info@ihw-conference.com)

**12-14 November 2015**

The Next Typhlo & Tactus Book Prize   
Venue: Cannero Riviera (Italie)   
Authors shall send their entry at the date fixed by their national T&T contact point.   
For further information, please visit the Typhlo & Tactus website: <http://www.tactus.org/>

# 3 ICEVI-Europe activities in 2015



**Report from the Baltic and Nordic countries by Tarja Hännikäinen**

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | **ESTONIA:**  **ICEVI Nordic and Baltic sub-region meeting** was held on October 2015 at Tartu Emajoe School, Estonia. The new head of sub-region Tarja Hännikäinen (Finland) chaired the meeting with participating contact persons from Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden and Estonia. The country reviews told about the situation in the field of education and rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment. Even though, the situations are different in Nordic and Baltic countries, our main goals and concerns are similar. The participants highlighted that in addition to working for equal educational opportunities for blind and visually impaired, it is more and more important to ensure the high quality of that education.  Our Nordic-Baltic team expressed our common concern about the lack of trained professionals for persons with visual impairment. In many countries, there is no possibility to get specialization in visual impairment at university level. The team emphasized that in professional development the cooperation among ICEVI partners is crucial. The other topics discussed were employment/unemployment among persons with visual impairment and situation with services for persons with MDVI. Our group agreed to share our ideas, materials and good practices in the web-based folder for our team. |
| 2 | Global campaign activities, if any | **DENMARK:** Several conducted, but none with a global perspective. |
| 3 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | **NORWAY: Master in Vision Rehabilitation** - part-time study at University College of Southeast Norway  <http://www.hbv.no/masynped-d/master-in-vision-rehabilitation-part-time-article136954-23068.html> .  **Master Program in Visually Impairment**, part time study. A collaboration between Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU; Trondheim) and Statped (The Norwegian Support System for Special Needs Education). <https://www.ntnu.no/videre/gen/-/courses/list/syns-pedagogikk%2Co%3Dspesialpedagogikk_%2Co%3Dmasterprogram/past2/>  **The annual meeting of the NOVIR - Nordic Visual Impairment Network.** NOVIR is a Nordic co-operation in the field of education and rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment ([www.novir.net](http://www.novir.net)) took place in September in the north of Norway, in Tromsoe. All Nordic countries were represented. There was discussion on future forms of co-operation and on seminars to be held in the coming years, planned topics included CVI and technical aids. Participants also got interesting information on the work done in the field of VI in Northern Norway and the Faroe Islands.  **SWEDEN:** **“Braille and tactile reading from a literacy perspective” – a NOVIR seminar**  The NOVIR seminar “Braille and tactile reading from a literacy perspective” was held in Stockholm, March 5 – 6, 2015. The seminar was hosted by the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools (Specialpedagogiska skolmyndigheten – SPSM). Delegates representing centers and schools within the field of education of children and pupils with visual impairment in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden attended the seminar.  **FINLAND:** **Annual meeting for persons working on the area of education for pupils with visual impairment** was held at Helsinki. This two-day-seminar gathered 110 participants; students, parents and professionals from rehabilitation, education, associations etc. The main theme was to learn from each other and how to find the best practices for cooperation in order to support education and rehabilitation of children and young persons. The first day concentrated on pupils from pre-school to 9th grade, and the second day pointed out especially the importance of the transition phase after compulsory education and toward employment.  On October 1st 2015 a meeting of the **Nordic and Estonian Braille authorities** was held at in Helsinki, Finland and the following day continued with an open seminar **’Motivating Braille Literacy in the Digital Age’. A wide range of topics included Accessible education in the Digital Age and** Braille Meets The 21st Century- presentation of the BlindSquare –programme, Screen Readers as a motivating source for Braille Reading and a presentation of Braille use in Estonia. |
| 4 | Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | **DENMARK:** Together with The Danish Union for the Blind IBOS are working on **a project called “Rethinking the Future”.**  The project provides young people with visual impairment the opportunity to participate in a specialized visual clarification process towards education and/or employment. The project combines handheld, visual expertise with network-building and motivational activities. Participants gets assigned to a visual professional mentor who supports through motivational and counseling sessions, educational counseling and other activities such as internships and workplace visits. The target group is young people in the age of 18 to 30 year old with severe visual impairment. It is also a requirement the participant prior to the project is on training help/assistance or comparable services and that the participant has no or limited education. Finally, participants may not have other significant disabilities that overshadow their visual impairment. The project started in 2015 and runs until 2017. |
| 5. | ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | **LATVIA:** **Collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Latvia** on the developing of legislative regulations of support of SEN children in mainstream educational system. The action of support/resource/training centers will be regulated by the new regulations from the September 2016. |
| 6 | Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | **ICELAND:** <http://www.soundofvision.net/>; [www.teachcvi.net](http://www.teachcvi.net)  **NORWAY:** In 2015, Gro Elisabeth Aasen defended her doctoral dissertation for the degree of Ph.d. (Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oslo): **Language and activity among children and adolescents with congenital blindness. An** observation-based study. This thesis is written within the field of special needs education regarding children and adolescents with congenital blindness and varying degrees of additional difficulties such as autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Focusing particularly on echolalia the thesis is concerned with how unconventional utterances expressed by children and adolescents with congenital blindness and ASD can be understood, and the effect augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) – using tactile symbols and schedules – can have for children with blindness in a heterogeneous sample. Other Publications: Commands for the screen reader VoiceOver for IOS http://www.statped.no/Laringsressurs/Fag/Syn/Kommandoer-i-VoiceOver-for-IOS/  Learn how to read Braille, short videos: http://www.statped.no/Laringsressurs/Fag/Syn/Lar-a-lese-punktskrift/Filmsnutter-om-a-lare-a-lese-punktskrift/  See also learning resources at statped.no: <http://www.statped.no/Laringsressurs/Fag/Syn/#l> |
| 7 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | **LATVIA:** Collaboration of Strazdumuiza Residential School- Training Centre with the National Centre for Education of the Republic of Latvia in implementing of the supported by the EU Project **“The competence based approach to the teaching materials”** in which the producing of teaching materials for Braille users will be provided. |
| 8 | Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | **ICELAND:** **TEACHCVI project.** European project about CVI. Screening and assessment and teaching material for teachers and other professionals.  **LATVIA:** **The Program of Early intervention for blind, low vision and MDVI children** took place in Strazdumuiza Residential School- Training Centre for Blind and Visually impaired children in October and March. This program had been started in 2014 as the complex support for the blind and low vision children and their families first time in Latvia. It takes place 2 times a year- in spring and autumn. Since the beginning it covers 21 blind, low vision and MDVI children and their relatives and is very appreciated by them.  **NORWAY:** **Statped is a national state agency that offers special education services within the educational sector**. The municipalities and county municipalities are obligated to meet children, young people and adults in an adequate manner according to their rights within an inclusive learning environment. Statped intends to contribute actively to achieving this objective. Statped’s services are voluntary and offered as supplementary support. Statped is divided into four regional sections. We also have a department dedicated specifically to the development of learning resources and new educational technology. Statped intends to be a driving force behind the development of learning resources and technology within the field of special needs education. We produce special learning aids, teaching materials and media for adapted education such as audio books, books in braille and other tactile teaching materials. To make adapted books in Braille easily accessible to the schools, Statped has this year developed a searchable overview and a simpler booking system on www.statped.no.  Statped works strategically to develop new knowledge based on research and practical experience. Our agency has developed its own R&D strategy for this kind of work. To coordinate, promote and unify Statped’s research in the field of special education, **a section for R&D was established in 2015**. Statped’s research is in collaboration with universities, health care institutions and others.  **The project “Parent training” continued**. The aim is to develop, strengthen and coordinate the parent training in Statped. The training program is initiated with an aim to take care of parent’s needs so that they can take part in their children’s education more actively. Parent training will be offered to all of Statped’s target groups in all regions.  Four internal professional networks in the field of visual impairment were established. The purpose is to coordinate, build and develop competence within and between regions and professional disciplines. These networks are Network for Braille, Network for mobility and orientation, Network for ICT and Network for evaluation and assessments of visual functions. Further information see: <http://www.statped.no/Spraksider/In-English/>  **SWEDEN:** **Sweden Auditory Focus - Sound environment and participation for pupils with visual impairment.** Master's thesis. By Sara Backström Lindeberg  This study investigates auditory accessibility and participation for pupils with blindness in everyday school situations. What opportunities do the pupils have to use their hearing to distinguish and gain access to social and educational processes in different sound environments? Auditory observations by researchers and pupils have been made in various school environments at five Swedish schools. At the same time, qualitative interviews have been conducted with five pupils aged 8–18 years. A theoretical model has been generated on the basis of grounded theory. This model describes auditory identification processes and cognitive processes for access to social and educational contexts in activities, which is the study’s main concern. The results of the study indicate that the pupils constantly use sound to gain access to both social and educational processes, and that sound is often their most important and only source of information. The study also shows that the sound environment is decisive in terms of the pupils’ opportunities to participate. The implications for organizational structure, educational working practices and the design of premises that can increase the pupils’ opportunities to participate are discussed in the study.  <https://www.spsm.se/contentassets/956abc84f24448949ed84139694b3953/auditory_focus_english_slutlig.pdf>  **FINLAND:**  **Organizational changes:** In Finland the name and the structure of the organisation supporting pupils with visual impairment has changed from ‘Jyväskylä School for the Visually Impaired’ to ‘Onerva’ and on August 2015 to **‘Valteri Center of Learning and Counselling, Onerva Unit.**’ The national Valteri Centre for Learning and Consulting has six units in different parts of Finland, and Onerva is one of them taking care of supporting pupils with visual impairments. Main philosophy is to supplement municipal and regional support services in learning and school attendance. These services can target the needs of individual children and young people, or the needs of an entire working community, municipality or region. Newcontact information: Valteri- Center for Learning and Consulting, Onerva <http://www.onerva.fi/en/> and <https://www.valteri.fi/EN/valteri.html>.  **New Innovative Learning and Working Environment at Onerva, Jyväskylä, Finland**  Onerva - unit by Valteri Center for Learning and Consulting – moved to a new building in December 2015. A new kind of learning and working environment that enables functionality, activeness and the application of new technology. All premises and furniture can be adapted to different purposes. Accessibility and multi-sensory impact in the environment refers to the suitability of the premises for everyone, irre­spective of the nature of support needed. The spaces and routes have good portable lights and clear contracts, fine acoustics and they are barrier-free and safe. Further information: [www.onerva.fi](http://www.onerva.fi).  **Project of tactile pictures and maps** was conducted in co-operation with Onerva consulting teachers and learning material designers by Celia, the national library for persons with visual impairments. Main idea was to support the pupils to use tactile pictures and to help the mainstreamed schools to handle the tactile pictures and maps. The mainstreamed schools had expressed their concern about being unable to make priorities of the relevant pictures among excessive amount of tactile pictures in study books. There was a common understanding of the need to modify the school books and a need for a generic set of tactile pictures. As the result of this project the amount of delivered tactile pictures decreased in study books but the quality increased and gave space to the specified embossed pictures and maps, which follow the national curriculum. These choices helped especially the pupils in mainstreamed schools to follow the education in inclusive settings. Also the same set of tactile pictures could be used both with Braille book and with e-book.  **” Education for Blind” celebrated its 150- year anniversary in October, in Finland.** The celebration took place in Helsinki and was organised by The Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (FFVI). In combination was organised the one-day seminar of important theme “Motivating Braille Literacy in Digital Age”. Both seminars were streamed also through web-radio in order to make possible to participate from all over the country. The Braille-theme is in the specific focus of the FFVI -work, and its representatives specially pointed out their concern of the Braille-skills in the time of digitalization during compulsory and further education. |

This report is submitted by Tarja Hännikäinen, Finland in cooperation with Nordic and Baltic Countries Representatives

Date 14.4.2016



**Report from the English speaking countries by Steve McCall**

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | None |
| 2 | Global campaign activities, if any | None |
| 3 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | None |
| 4 | Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | None |
| 5. | ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | None |
| 6 | Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | In 2015 Dr. Steve McCall was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the Royal National Institute of the Blind for services to the education of blind children. |
| 7 | Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | The RNIB are inviting applications from teachers of the visually impaired across Europe for the next version of its online course on how to teach literacy through Braille to children and young people who are blind. The 6 month course does not require attendance in the UK and costs around 700 Euros. For further details contact Rory Cobb Rory.Cobb@rnib.org.uk  Or go to  http://www.rnib.org.uk/braille-network-and-forum |
| 8 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | Israel has developed an audio description service to enable people with VI to access plays in theatres and other cultural events.  Four parties collaborated in making this new service available: The Central library for the Blind, The Center of the Blind (the umbrella organization of blind persons in the country), Hebrew University (H.U) Department of Communication and Social Security Fund for Developing Services for People with Disability.  The process involved the training of describers and promotion of the services across organizations for people with VI. VI patrons are met by the describers before the show and are taken on a back stage touch- tour to explore the set and meet the cast. They are provided with audio devices to listen to the description. Describers have also provided pre-recorded description for over 50 Israeli films which can be borrowed from an online library or viewed in select cinemas. In the short time the service has been available, over 2,000 visually impaired individuals have accessed audio described events and it is hoped to extend the service to musicals, operas, museums, exploration tours and sightseeing.  VIEW - the UK professional association for teachers of the visually impaired hold annual conferences on education. The next conference takes place in March 16-17 2017. http://www.viewweb.org.uk/conference |

This report is submitted by Steve McCall

Date 13.5.2016



**Report from French speaking countries by Nathalie Lewi-Dumont**

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | **Belgium:**  Feb-March: Training organized by the francophone association *of* occupational therapistsfrom Belgium  *How to approach the patient's visual problem in my practice*  <http://www.ergo-ae.be/agenda.php?idagenda=579>  June, 2-14: Awareness annual campaign about VI*: La malvoyance d’un instant n’est pas celle d’une vie. Low vision of a moment is not that of a life.*  <http://www.braille.be/fr/a-propos-de-nous/actualites/2015/06/la-malvoyance-d-un-instant-n-est-pas-celle-d-une-vie>  June, 25 : Louvain la neuve. *Conference « For an inclusive school: What resources and what partnerships for the integration of students with disabilities in regular schools?*  Organized by the league of families (downloadable proceedings)  <https://www.laligue.be/association/communique/analyse-2015-actes-colloque-ecole-inclusive>  From September : Round tables pour VI children’s parents. *I see Foundation*  <http://www.fondationisee.be/Tables-rondes-I-See-Etre-parent-d.html>  *I see Foundation* creates, with the support of the Brussels Ministry for equal opportunities, a new awareness campaign aiming at giving a positive image of visual impairment by showing that despite the impairment, integration into society, for a blind or visually impaired person is possible. Through short videos, 4 visually impaired bear witness to their life, their passion, their profession.  <http://www.fondationisee.be/Campagne-4-temoignages-de-vie-pour.html>  Oct. 15-17/10/2015 : Braill’Tech–La technologie au service des personnes aveugles et malvoyantes (Technologies for VI– Annual exhibition organized by *La Ligue Braille* as part of the International White Cane Day  <http://www.braille.be/en/services-technical-aids/technical-aids>  Nov 13th: Mons 13ème colloque d’automne, Ariba 13th autumn conference (“representative initiatives in low vision francophone association”). *Les personnes déficientes visuelles au coeur du trajet de soins (*“People with visual impairment in the centre of the care pathway”) <http://amisdesaveugles.org/images/sitefr/edit/communication%20scientifique/ARIBa/13-Colloque-Automne-ARIBa-Mons.pdf>  Training on sensory impairments in children and adolescents (6 days): UCL/IRSA. Second training session at the end of 2016 [www.uclouvain.be/481320.html](http://www.uclouvain.be/481320.html)  [Les fiches tactiles du Creth](http://www.lestactiles.be/) : A useful website, created in 2014. It presents forms, videos, about solutions categorized by the type of disability.  http://www.lestactiles.be/category/visuel/  **Switzerland:**  Planète Santé 20 april 20th (a workshop on health) (Lausanne) : A tool kit on eye and eye functioning has been given out for sensibilisation.  December 10th : Olten national seminar . «Travailler avec un déficit visuel » (Working with a visual impairment)  Exhibition « L’œil nu » held in Lausanne, 27.05.2014-25.10.2015. For a public aged 7 and more. With a tool kit « Mon œil » and an educational handout. More under : <http://www.espace-des-inventions.ch/#!oeil-nu/clyc>  **France**  May 11th: Ariba 19th spring congress. Paris: « Visual impairments: medical and social aspects » (“representative initiatives in low vision francophone association”).  June, 4-6th, Bordeaux – APLHV Seminar (association of french speaking psychologists for VI people) "Aux bords du cadre -Quand l'écoute des personnes Déficientes Visuelles nous amène à penser nos pratiques au-delà du champ.- Questions qui se posent et comment les résoudre ("On the edge of the framework". When listening to VI people brings us to think our practice beyond our field: issues and how to address them").  June 8-11. Braillenet Association, 9è forum européen de l’accessibiltié numérique: *Digital technology for a better access to knowledge*  <http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/evenements/colloques/colloques/85_index_en.html>  June 11th, Paris: General Assembly of ANPEA (French blind and low vision children parents’ association)  October, 8-10th: Journées pédagogiques du GPEAA (teachers and educators for VI) *Education connectée et déficience visuelle* (*Connected education and visual impairment : e-pedagogy, e-research, e-education*). Toulouse  November 19-21th: Paris. *Représentations et discours du handicap* (Handicap: representation and discourse). International conference  (Several papers on VI)  <http://www.paris-sorbonne.fr/representations-et-handicap>  A new platform about contemporary art and VI  http://www.ijatoulouse.org/art-contemporain-et-deficience-visuelle/ |
| 2 | Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | **Switzerland:** SAMS: Etude sur le handicap visuel et le marché du travail (Study on visual impairment and access to work), Report, sept. 20215 (french, german, italian versions)  <https://www.zhaw.ch/fr/sozialearbeit/forschung/vielfalt-und-gesellschaftliche-teilhabe/sams-etude-sur-le-handicap-visuel-et-le-monde-du-travail/>  The foundation: « Swiss center for special education » started the publication of advice for regular teachers teaching student with SEN students : June : a downloadable document on VI is available : Ayer, G. et Joss Almassri, C. (2015). [Déficience visuelle et scolarisation à l’école régulière : informations à l’intention des enseignants sur le handicap, les mesures de différenciation pédagogiques et la compensation des désavantages](http://www.szh.ch/bausteine.net/f/40221/Ficheinformation_De%c2%b4ficiencevisuelle_Versionlongue_DEF_22062015.pdf?fd=3). Berne: Fondation centre suisse de pédagogie spécialisée CSPS.  <http://www.szh.ch/fr/Thmes-et-projets/Projets/Besoins-ducatifs-particuliers-et-intgration/page34525.aspx>  An article about a new service of professional counseling for visually impaired people by the Centre pédagogique pour élèves handicapés de la vue (CPHV): Gyger, J. & Schütz, F. Pédagogie spécialisée. Les personnes malvoyantes ou aveugles dans la formation professionnelle: nouvelles perspectives et développements en Suisse romande. 4/2015, 22-29. CSPS: Berne.  **France :** Many more tactile books for children and theoretical books at Les doigts qui Rêvent (Dreaming fingers) : The 2015 book La chasse à l’ours (On a Bear Hunt) won an Award at the 2016 Jury of the Bologna international Children’s Book Fair (feb 2016)  Another association, « Mes mains en or » (Golden hands), produces tactile books for VI children. |
| 3 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | **Switzerland :**  Septembre 2016 - 2019 : Démarrage d’un CAS pédagogie spécialisée option déficience visuelle par la Haute école pédagogique que canton de Vaud à Lausanne (HEP) ; <http://candidat.hepl.ch/cms/accueil/formations-continues/formation-postgrade/offre-de-formations-postgrades/cas-certificate-advanced-studies/cas-devi-special-def-visuels.html>  **France :**  March, 17-19th: «Touch to learn, touch to communicate» INS HEA and Cité des sciences, Paris <http://sensorialite.inshea.fr/?q=en>  May 9th: 20e Colloque de Printemps ARIBa (“representative Initiatives in low vision francophone association”). Paris, Palais des Congrès <http://www.ariba-vision.org/sites/default/files/ARIBa%2009%20mai%202016_20e%20colloque%20printemps.pdf>  March 30th-April 12th: 7th audiodescribed movies festival, organized by The Valentin Haüy Association, Paris  http://www.avh.asso.fr/rubriques/actualites/actualites.php?var=titre&infos=1271  May 21st, Lyon. SARADV *Familles, professionnels: Co-construire le projet de vie du jeune déficient visual. Families, professionals: Building together the young visually impaired’s life project.*  <http://www.ctrdv.fr/index.php/item/207-3eme-journee-d-etudes-saradv-21-mai-2016>  May 30th Braillenet Conference, 30 May 2016, 9am-6pm  Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris 10th European e-Accessibility Forum : *e-Accessibility in a connected world*  <http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/evenements/colloques/colloques/89_index_en.html>  June 28th: International conference, Paris: [*Jacques Lusseyran (1924-1971) entre cécité et lumière*](http://inshea.us10.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=7210a29bb5eb974f4c89a6dd1&id=381ab3859f&e=6706ba95d8) (*Jacques Lusseyran, between blindness and light*)  October 6-8: GPEAA conference (teachers and educators for VI): *Mental representations* |
| 4 | Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | - **Belgium**: beginning of the application of the “inclusion law” (2014) promoting inclusion for all in the society. Feb 23rd, beginning of awareness campaign *Plateforme Annonce Handicap* (PAH) – publication of booklets for professionals and parents. Organization of training/ sensibilisation sessions<http://www.annoncehandicap.be/Professionnel> - **Switzerland**: ZuBra: A research about the future of braille led by two Institutes in Zurich (Switzerland) and Heidelberg (Germany), including the French part of Switzerland. http://www.hfh.ch/en/research/projects/hfh\_projects/future\_of\_braille\_zubra/ |

This report is submitted by Nathalie Lewi-Dumont

Date: June 2nd, 2015



**Report from the South European countries by Ana Isabel Ruiz López**

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | There hasn’t been any meetings of the sub-regional committee in 2015 |
| 2 | Global campaign activities, if any | There haven’t been any Global campaign activities during 2015. There are no countries involved in it. |
| 3 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programs, if any conducted during the reporting period | **Italy:** Irifor organized several workshops and teacher training seminars/courses for teachers and educators dealing with visually impaired students at different levels of school;  Irifor participated to an International seminar about school inclusion organized by Erikson  **Spain:** There have been many training courses and workshops within Spain. We have also participated in the Zero Project Conference in United Nations in Wien about innovative policies and practices on inclusive education and ICT |
| 4 | Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | **Spain:** ONCE participated in an event of the Permanent Mission of Austria & the International Disability Alliance, together with the Permanent Missions of Australia, Brazil, China, Ecuador,  Ethiopia, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain and Thailand, about Inclusive Education and ICTs for All: Towards Accessible and Sustainable Societies, in United Nations. |
| 5. | ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | **Italy:** Irifor participated to a work group organized and ruled by MIUR (Ministry of Education, University and Research) about the inclusion of the visually impaired in Italian schools |
| 6 | Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | **Spain:** ONCE has been awarded with the Zero Project Award on innovative policies and practices on inclusive education and ICT |
| 7 | Human interest stories from the region as a result of ICEVI initiatives | **Italy:** The creation of “smart Braille”, an app which allow the deaf-blind to use the iphone through a blue tooth connection and a Braille keyboard (with free materials and training) |
| 8 | Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | **Italy:** E. Borromeo (2015) *Lingue straniere e disabili visivi: strumenti e strategie didattiche*, Irifor-Bulzoni  (English translation of the title: *Visually impaired students and foreign languages: teaching tools and strategies*)  **Spain:** ONCE has published two issues of INTEGRACIÓN, a specialized publication on visual impairment. [Visit INTEGRACIÓN](http://www.once.es/new/servicios-especializados-en-discapacidad-visual/publicaciones-sobre-discapacidad-visual/nueva-estructura-revista-integracion/copy_of_numeros-publicados)  ONCE has published a manual: ONCE has published a manual:  Teaching Braille beyond the code. New perspectives on literacy for visually impaired students. ([only available in Spanish](http://www.once.es/new/servicios-especializados-en-discapacidad-visual/braille/documentos/DOCUMENTO%20TECNICO%20B%2011%20DIDACTICA%20DEL%20BRAILLE%20V1.pdf)) |
| 9 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | **Italy:** Developing and implementation of CLI – Centro Linguistico Irifor (Irifor Linguistic Centre): a linguistic centre for all, inclusive, but specialized in foreign language learning and teaching for the visually impaired, created in April 2016  ([cli@irifor.eu](mailto:cli@irifor.eu))  **Spain:** Next autumn ONCE is going to celebrate a national conference on Early Intervention for more than a hundred professionals who work partially or fulltime in that field within the Specific Teams of Educative Attention to the Visually Impaired. It will consist in a round table with experts, several workshops and seminars to share best practices. |
| 10 | Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | **Italy:** Research project on Glaucome at University of Siena: Research project on in-water rehabilitation “IPOP Method” with University “La Sapienza” of Rome; Research on transcription and accessibility of scientific texts with University of Torino; Research project on English language teaching to the visually impaired with University of Urbino; A post-grad course in “Third Sector Management” with University of Bologna  **Spain:** ONCE has made a research about apps for blind and visually impaired children. The catalogue will be available soon.  As usual, 4 visually impaired students from Italy and one visually impaired from Portugal aged between 15 and 17 years have participated in ONCE’s Summer English camp in Pontevedra.  There are 3 students from Portugal in ONCE’s Physiotherapy College, in different grades |

This report is submitted by Maria Mencarini from Italy

Ana Isabel Ruiz and Elena Gastón from Spain.

Mariona Carbonell, from Andorra reported there hadn’t been any activities in her country during 2015

Date 15/05/2016



**Report from the German and Dutch speaking countries by Dieter Feser**

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | No meetings of the contact persons from the German and Dutch speaking countries were held in 2015 |
| 2 | Global campaign activities, if any | No activities |
| 3 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | There were various seminars conducted by the VBS that were in collaboration with members of ICEVI from Europe as presenters. |
| 4 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | August of 2016 VBS International conference in Graz - ICEVI is a co-partner. At this conference we have planned our next meeting of the contact persons of the German and Dutch speaking countries.  November 2016 ENPVI Psychology Conference in Budapest in collaboration with ICEVI. |
| 5 | Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | Specific Curriculum (ECC Expanded Core Curriculum) for vocational education in Germany was developed and will be presented in Graz. |

This report is submitted by: Dr. Elke Wagner (contact person for Germany) and Dieter Feser (Board Member of ICEVI-Europe)

Date 27th of April 2016



**Report from East European countries by Vladimir Ruchin**

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | **Armenia**  School children's meetings with other schools children in the regions.  **Byelorussia**  The regional committee meetings were held three meetings in January, February and March organizing committee preparing the conference failed  **Kazakhstan**  Musical rehabilitation of disabled children "MUSIC CHILDREN'S HEARTS"  **Russia**  The meeting of representatives of Russia and Belarus on cooperation |
| 2 | Global campaign activities, if any | **Armenia**  Charitable foundation opend in the school, which is realizing different charitable projects for children such as socialization, educational, medical spheres etc.  **Byelorussia**  In the fall of 2015 conducted joint training with ICEVI future conference  Joint events and meetings with international organizations such as the WBU, IAPB, the UN, the World Bank and other organizations at the regional level.  **Russia**  Participation of a representative of Russia in meeting ICEVI in Cluj-Napoca and report «Early intervention» |
| 3 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | **Armenia**  School organises lectures, master classes with parents of children with visual imapriments, as well as organizes practice for students in the school.  Our teachers were trained and recieved qualification of spatial orientation in Poland.  Teachers also took training in the work with blind, deaf and multipal defects children, which was orgnized by Perkins International.  **Byelorussia**  Two workshops were held: the Faculty of Special Education BSPU (Gaydukevich SE, Dalinelya OV) by educational levels in March 2016, a seminar on addictions at the Faculty of Psychology BSPU (Bobrova ES) in May 2016г.  **Georgia**  Training for early intervention centers was conducted to improve skills of working with 0 to 7 years old visually impaired children with multiple disability for early interventionists  **Kazakhstan**  Basic «Kinaesthetics in care" for people who are professionally working with people with disabilities and people in need of care, as well as for people who are without special education care for their relatives or friends in need of physical support.  Seminar from 16 to 21 May, "Improving the quality of life and caregiver human person in need of support."  **Russia**  26.10.2015 – the First All-Russian Congress of Pathologists (Special Teachers)"Special children in society"  Regular webinars for education and rehabilitation of people with visual impairments |
| 4 | Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | **Armenia**  School collaborates with polish organizations: Polish Blind Union as well as Armenian Blind Union, Armenian Ophthalmology Project, Save the Children, EU – Program for Amrenian Students to be Implemented in association with the EU.  **Russia** |
| 5. | ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | **Armenia**  -  **Russia**  - |
| 6 | Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | **Armenia**  \_  **Russia**   * The letter of the Ministry of Education in the region   **Ukraine**  Prof. Synyova was honored by the following awards in 2015:  "For personal contribution to the development of the University" from the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, National M.P. Dragomanov University from April 23, 2015,  Honoree for N. I. Pilman’s reward "For achievements in pediatric ophthalmology» from the Ministry of Health Care of Ukrainefrom June 18, 2015 |
| 7 | Human interest stories from the region as a result of ICEVI initiatives | **Armenia**  **-**  **Russia**  \_ |
| 8 | Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | **Armenia**  School has publications, articals, printed methodological manulas, but these are not in the website of ICEVI.  **Georgia**  An article on early intervention training in the ICEVI’s newsletter in July.  **Byelorussia**  Losik G. Computer Training System for Trip without vision / 5th European Conference on Psychology and Visual Impairment (ECPVI 2014), 20th – 21st November 2014 Bratislava, Slovakia  Losik, G. “Plan Table” for Oral Perception of the Page with the Text by Visually Impaired Individuals / Losik G., Philipovich F., Egorov P., Brazevich A. // Procееding of the International Conference ICEAPVI. – Athens, Greece. 2015,– p. 111 – 114.  Losik G, Severin A, Asadchy Y. The Perception of Object with Flexible Shape by Visually Impaired Persons / International conference “Sensory issues and Disability”, France, Paris, 17-19March, P. 37-39.  **Russia**  <http://www.icevi-europe.org/enletter/issue59.html>  **Ukraine**  Visually impaired children within inclusive educational settings: guidelines for teachers and students / N.M. Alieieva, Yu.V. Barinov et al./ scientific editorship by Ye. O. Synyova, S.O. Rykov. – K.:Kafedra, 2016/ - 212 p. |
| 9 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | **Armenia**  Upcoming meetings organized by school psychologist.  **Georgia**  Meeting with the ICEVI board-members to plan and organize a regional conference  **Russia**  \_  **Ukraine**  All-Ukrainian scientific and practical seminar "Psychological, educational and ophthalmologic support for inclusive education of visually impaired children", Kyiv, March 2016.  The 4th Congress of the All-Ukrainian nongovernmental professional organization “Association of the typhlopedagogues of Ukraine”, Kyiv, June 2016 |
| 10 | Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | **Armenia**  \_  **Georgia**  A pilot expended curriculum documents have been created and are ready for pilot in 2016 for blind and partially sighted children in grades 1-4. Until now the schools both public and special used national curriculum and did not have a clear plan of teaching orientation and mobility, daily life skills, social skills, self-advocacy, etc.  **Russia**   1. Saratov Special School for the Blind and VI Children – Preschool program for the Blind and VI Children (age 3-7). 2. National Research Saratov State University - Home Visits to the families with Blind and VI Children (age 0-3). First visit is made by the Teacher of VI Children (PhD, University Teacher); the following visits are made by the students of the Special Needs Education Chair, Department of Psycho-Pedagogical and Special Education. The Teacher and students work as volunteers. Mutual benefit: families have special help, students obtain experience in forming Individual Education Plan, teaching VI kids.   Nizhniy Novgorod – non-profit organization “Perspektiva” – classes for the Blind and VI kids (age 0-7), organizing leisure for VI children and children with multiple disabilities  **Ukraine**  The study being carried out by the Department of Typhlopedagogy, Faculty of Corrective Pedagogy and Psychology of the National M.P. Dragomanov Pedagogical University on psychological and pedagogical support and rehabilitation for individuals who lost their vision during military operations in the east of Ukraine. |

This report is submitted by Dr. Ruchin V.A**.** Associate Professor of sociology and social anthropology

PhD.

Date

**27.04.2016**



## Report from the Balkan countries by Andrea Hathazi

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Global campaign activities, if any | **Bulgaria**  1. In 2015 Bulgarian Association for Education of Visually Impaired Children participated in many official national meetings discussing the texts of the new educational Law for Preschool and School Education. The Association sent official suggestions regarding the education of SEN students to the Parlaiment.  2. Prof. Vladimir Radoulov and prof. Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova together with one more colleague from Sofia University developed for the Ministry of Education an official Evaluation tool for assessment the individual needs of children and students with multiple disabilities.  3. In December 2015 the school for visually impaired children “Prof. Dr. Ivan Shishmanov” celebrated 110 years of its establishment.  **Croatia**   1. 1.Early Developmental Support training held from October 2014 to April 2015 in Mali dom Zagreb - offers steps in the planning and implementation of the Early Intervention Program in work with families of children at risk or with developmental disabilities. Training was held by Mali dom employees Marijana Konkoli Zdešić and Ana Validžić Požgaj   2. Training program Low Vision Assessment and Rehabilitationwas conducted in February and March of 2015, and then repeated in September and October in Mali dom – Zagreb. Main educators are Sonja Alimović, Tatjana Petrović Sladetić i Snježana Seitz.  Program is designed to offer a comprehensive and systematic training in the field of assessment and rehabilitation of visual functions functional vision in children and adults. The introduction level offers insight into the development of vision and visual functions, as in the main injuries of visual system. It also introduces the students with the role of vision in other developmental areas.  3. The training program **Alternative And Augmentative Communication** was also organized twice, in May and August of 2015, by Martina Celizić and Diana Korunić. Training provides professionals with theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of Alternative And Augmentative Communication.Lectures, discussions, analysis of videos and case studies will encourage the participants to design appropriate communications tools and activities for their users. The specific needs of users with multiple disabilities will be considered in the context of various communication situations and environments. The training program represents a preliminary stage in the acquisition of knowledge and skills in this area.  4.We also organized two practical workshops:  ***Natural Cosmetics Activity within the Educational and Rehabilitation Programs*** in May, conducted by Mirjana Marojević and Nikolina Mihalić Kocijan, and ***Implementation of Dance and Movement in Educational and Rehabilitation Work*** in November conducted by Ivana Macokatić.  ***Enhanced Handling and Positioning in Early Infancy***, course organized in October of 2015. The program framework will empower professionals with the skills of creating the appropriate support for the child in the execution of movements. Education is designed as a response to the challenges and needs of various professions in the knowledge of typical and atypical motor development and of necessary body position and its movement in a given educational and rehabilitation activities. It was held by Jasminka Gagula.  5. Seminar "***Basics of Orientation and Mobility of persons with visual impairment, additional disabilities and deaf-blind***" was held at the Education and Rehabilitation Sciences Faculty in Zagreb from October 19 to 23, 2015.The seminar was organized by the Perkins International, Education and Rehabilitation Sciences Faculty in Zagreb and Mali dom - Zagreb. Main seminar lecturers were Dennis Lolli from Perkins School for the Blind and Tatjana Petrovic Sladetic from Mali dom-Zagreb, with guest lecturers.  6. Our employees also conducted two education programs in Split, for the employees Of Juraj Bonači Center for rehabilitation at their request, in August of 2015. Education consisted of ***Creating of Individual Education Plan*** and ***Designing Purpose-orientated Activities***. It was conducted by Ivana Rogar Gojević, Martina Celizić and Senada Jagar.  **Romania**  2015-2016: Inclusive education for blind people, EEA Grants project of Travelling Book Foundation in partnership with Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, University of Bucharest, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi, University in Oradea, West University of Timisoara and special schools for people with visual impairment in Romania.  2015-2016: Passport of success for children and young people with visual impairment- Pontes Association. The main objective of the project is represented by the decrease of inequities and social exclusion through active participation of local social public and private actors within a sustainable network on medium and long term period at the level of community.  2014-2015 project of Travelling Book Foundation, I Know, I want, I can-= I change, a personal development program for people with visual impairment in Bucharest and Cluj Napoca.  15-19 May, 2015, Bucharest, National Film Festival for Blind People- the first film festival from Romania for people with visual impairment organized by TravellingBOOk Foundation in partnership with Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, University of Bucharest, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi, University in Oradea, West University of Timisoara and special schools for people with visual impairment in Romania. |
| 2 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | **Bulgaria**   1. The Eight National seminar for resource teachers working with Visually Impaired Children took place in june 2015 in Varna. 2. In June 2015 a seminar for teachers of Visually impaired multiply disabled was hel in Varna.   In December 2015 prof. Mira Tzvetkova had a seminar in O&M in Moscow, in the Center for corrective pedagogy.  **Croatia**  Perkins seminar “Fundamentals of Orientation and Mobility for Children who are Blind with Additional Disabilities and/or Deafblind” for practitioners from institutions working with persons with multiple disabilities (Silver, Mali dom, Vinko Bek, Dodir, Goljak), students and professors of Faculty of education and rehabilitation sciences from Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbia and Slovenia.  **Cyprus**  1.Implementation of an Erasmus+ program (mobility of youth) for the ‘Who Am I: promoting empowerment, resilience and self-awareness amongst youth with visual impairment’, September 5-13, 2015  2. 5 day workshop on archery and ShowDown  **Greece**  ICEVI-Europe is one of the formal partners in the project titled “**Bridging the Gap between Museums and Individuals with Visual Impairments**” (BaGMIVI). The aim of the BaGMIVI project is to support museums to develop various practices in order to enhance the access and inclusion of people with visual impairments into their context and content. The project is approved by the Erasmus+ Programme in relation to Key Action 2 and the coordinating organization is the University of Thessaly in Greece.  Five type of participating organizations, all together 12 formal partners and 4 silent partners, including museums, schools, associations for people with visual impairment which are governmental organizations, and a company share their knowledge and experience towards the attainment of the above general aim of the BaGMIVI project. The main activities of BaGMIVI project concern the development of a needs assessment study, of a syllabus for museums staff training, the holding of joint staff training events for museum members and the development of accessible museum content/programmes, the organization of the museums visits and vice versa and the development of a best practice guide and policy guidelines and recommendations and the dissemination activities.  The need for collaboration and interagency partnerships is the basis of BaGMIVI project and all the partners are involved actively in the development and successful implementation of the project. In this framework the role of ICEVI-Europe is critical for the organization of certain activities, the achievement of particular project outputs as well as the dissemination of the project outputs and results.  ICEVI-Europe has been devoted so far to the implementation of the Project with different ways and activities.  For instance, during 2015 ICEVI-Europe was the leading organization for certain activities and outputs of the BaGMIVI project such as the videos from museums staff training in visual disabilities and access issues. ICEVI-Europe has contributed to preliminary planning for the museum staff training through collaboration with the participating organizations (UNIVERSITATEA BABES BOLYAI, SOFIISKI UNIVERSITET SVETI KLIMENT OHRIDSKI, EOTVOS LORAND TUDOMANYEGYETEM and UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY) in order to decide which training sessions were best to be recorded in each country ensuring that the videos from all museum staff training will cover the same thematic areas. Also, ICEVI-Europe has contributed to the design of the video recordings of museum staff training with parts of seminars and workshops and parts of the training sessions.  **Romania**  2014-2015 – Seminar: Employment of people with disabilities- developing opportunity of companies through protected units” within project „Increased chances on labor market for vulnerable people” organized by PONTES Association  Seminar Evaluation of Impact and efficacy of actions and support interventions offered to people at risk of social exclusion” within the project Increased chances on labor market for vulnerable people” organized by PONTES Association  National Competition for Pupils with Visual Impairment, Cluj-Napoca, February, 2015 organized at the Special Highschool for pupils with visual impairment in Cluj-Napoca. |
| 3 | Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | **Bulgaria**  1.project BaGMIVI  **Greece**  During 2015, ICEVI-Europe had a significant contribution to the preparation and organization of the first meeting among partners of the BaGMIVI Project (kick-off meeting) which was held on the 12th & 13th February 2015 in Athens. The representatives of ICEVI-Europe who participated in kick off meeting had an active role since there was the opportunity to discuss about the activities, to clarify key points, to ask for more information and make very useful comments about the procedural issues of the project. Also the contribution of the ICEVI-Europe members who participated in kick off meeting was very important with the composition of minutes and a report from the kick-off Meeting  **Internal EBU document**  Report of the mapping exercise carried out by the commission of persons with visual impairment and additional disabilities, Working period 2011 – 2015, June 2015, authors Maria Kyriacou (coord.)(Cyprus), Beáta Prónay (Hungary), Andrea Hathazi (Romania), [www.euroblind.org/media/**ebu**-media/additional-disabilities.docx](http://www.euroblind.org/media/ebu-media/additional-disabilities.docx) |
| 4 | Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | **Cyprus**  Election of Maria Kyriacou as secretary general of EBU |
| 5 | Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | **Bulgaria**  Radoulov, Vl. History of education of Visually Impaired in Bulgaria (2015), Phenomenon publ. Co.,. Sofia, in Bulgarian language.  Tzvetkova-Arsova, M. Education of children and students with multiple disabilities (2015), Phenomenon publ. Co.,. Sofia, in Bulgarian language.  Journal of Education and rehabilitation of Visually Impaired, in Bulgarian language  **Croatia**  Mali dom - Zagreb in October 2015 published a manual "***Enhanced Handling and Positioning of the Child through Motion and Movement***." The manual was written by our employee Jasminka Gagula, physiotherapist and children's Bobath therapist (NDT certificate), with extensive experience in working with children with disabilities.  The manual was written in order to present the procedures of proper handling through motion and movement with children of early age with developmental risks or with children who have already developed a classification of cerebral palsy. The manual is intended for experts in the field of Early Intervention including different profiles of expertise - physical therapists, special education teachers, occupational therapists, psychologists and other specialists who usually work in the field of pediatrics, and as such is unique and extremely useful  **Cyprus**  Report of the mapping exercise that was carried out by EBU and ICEVI on the needs, problems and challenges faced by persons with additional disabilities (available at the EBU website)  The future we want: a tool kit to promote gender equality’ (available at the EBU website  **Greece**  ICEVI-Europe communicates with the BaGMIVI project partners at regular basis and has a critical role to the dissemination of the project. Information about the project was published as short news in Bulgarian Journal for Education and Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired in issue 1-2, 2015 (in Bulgarian language). ICEVI-Europe has already published the Announcement of the Erasmus+ Project in the ICEVI-Europe Newsletter Issue No. 55, which was sent to the entire ICEVI-Europe Membership Network and also made it available on the ICEVI-Europe Website |
| 6 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | **Bulgaria**   1. In 2016 Bulgarian Association for Education of Visually Impaired Children will participate in development of new state educational standards for the implementation of the new educational Law for Preschool and School Education.   **Greece**  The role of ICEVI-Europe is expected to be critical also for the next outputs and activities of BaGMIVI project as partner and as leading organization in certain activities. For instance, ICEVI-Europe is the leading organization for outputs of the BaGMIVI project such as the videos from thedevelopment of differentiated and accessible museum programmes which will be implemented in 2016. In this activity ICEVI-Europe and the participating universities will collaborate for the development of differentiated and accessible museum programmes and also will describe the theoretical principles that should be implemented for the development of the accessible content/programmes. ICEVI-Europe is also the leading organization for the development of policy recommendations and guidelines during 2016 and 2017 after the completion of all phases of the BaGMIVI project. ICEVI-Europe will do the search for all policy documents that need to be addressed for the development of policy recommendations and guidelines.  Finally, it is important to note that the role of ICEVI-Europe will be very important for the dissemination of the project results and outcomes not only during the project but also after the completion of the project. The results and outcomes will be published on the ICEVI-Europe Website, Newsletter and disseminated to its Members (ICEVI-Europe). |
| 7 | Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | **Croatia**  1. Mali dom -Zagreb participates as a partner in the project MINCE - Model for Inclusive Community Education financed by the European Union.   The aim of this project is to increase the social inclusion of people with severe intellectual disabilities, by developing models for inclusive community learning. The project is coordinated by the institution Lebenshilfe Graz in Austria, and the project involves a total of seven organizations from seven European countries (Austria, Portugal, Germany, Slovenia, Poland, Bulgaria and Croatia).  The project started with the two-day meeting of representatives of all the partners in Mali dom-Zagreb, on November 30th and December 1st 2015  2. Research project “Visual functioning in children with intellectual disabilities” – functional vision assessments of children with intellectual disabilities in schools in order to recognize problems in visual functioning that are unnoticed most of the time. |

**This report is submitted by Andrea Hathazi, ICEVI Board- Member, representing the Balkan Region**

Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova, National Representative of Bulgaria

Marijana Konkoli, National Representative of Croatia, Sonja Alimović, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, University of Zagreb.

Maria Kyriacou, National Representative of Cyprus

Vassilis Argyropoulos, National Representative of Greece

Date: 27.04.2016

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**Report from the Central European countries by Krisztina Kovacs**

| **S.**  **No** | **Area of Reference** | **Description** |
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| 1 | Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | **Slovenia:**  Being a group member of ICEVI, TIFLO section within Association of Special Pedagogues of Slovenia had three meetings in 2015 (February, July and November). The main topic of the first meeting was updated and renewed Slovene Braille Code. The second meeting had several highlights: report about a completed Comenius project Precise evaluation – fair intervention, report of the commission on NVDA screen reader, report about the annual MDVI Euronet meeting in Dublin, visit of the new Library for the Visually Impaired Minka Skaberne. The third meeting concentrated on the new Erasmus + project - EDUCARE and the presentation of three different models we acquired in the Netherlands.  The main goal of the meetings is to share knowledge and information. |
| 2 | Global campaign activities, if any | **Hungary:**   1. 17 May 2015: **REHAB CRITICAL MASS**: Demonstration and silent marching for the equal rights and equal access for persons with disability in Hungary   <https://www.facebook.com/rehabcriticalmass.hu>; <http://www.szeretlekmagyarorszag.hu/igy-zajlott-a-rehab-critical-mass/>  **Poland:**   1. **The Project of international youth exchange**   In 2015 Polish Association Of the Blind was a partner in two Youth Exchange. The first one, in September took place in Bulgaria and the second on the turn of October and November in Finland. The participants were visually impaired people at the age of 18 to 30.   1. **European Volontary Work EVS- 02/2016**   Since October 2015 till June 2016 one visually impaired person has been participating in the Project realized in Belgium, in Liege, within the organization VIEWS. The volunteer has been working at school for the visually impaired children. In this project three visually impaired people take part. |
| 3 | Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | **Czech Republic:**  Conference celebrating 25 years of Early Intervention in Czech Republic June 18.2015, Prague: scientific programme:  Jana Vachulova:History and present of early care, Lea Hyvarinen: What happens to visual information on the way from the eye to the brain cortex, Marjolein Dik: Neuropsychological assessment of visual and tactual processing functions, Gerti Jaritz: From black and white to apps… and annual conference on Early Intervention in September, Olomouc  **Hungary:**   1. Establishment of the Disability Center at ELTE University to provide equal access to students with disability 2. Annual Conference MAGYE (Union of Hungarian Special Education Teachers) 2014, June. Presentations on: Visually impaired children in families; Checklist on visual impairment with autism; XV. national Conference on Education:   Adaptation of Competency Assessment for learners with visual impairment.   1. People in the field of vision rehabilitation started **networking**: workers of the newly established centers and the 6 NGOs. 2. B. Prónay affiliated to the Eotvos University (ELTE) is participating in a **Tempus** project leading by the German Jodranian University (N. Bussieres) and co-partners University of Jodan, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Bethlehem University Palestine, Radbaud University and Royal Visio, The Netherlands and Aston University and Focus Birmingham. The aim of the project is curriculum and skills development in vision rehabilitation in the Jordan and Palestine (<http://www.visionme.org/> . 3. International Conference in the School for the Blind in October 2015: The 190 jubilee of teaching blind children in Hungary 4. The School for the Blind Budapest visit the School for the Blind in Cluj-Napoca on the mutual project of MDVI in March 2015 5. DBI Conference 6. Perkins School for the Blind, Boston has invited teachers form the School for the Blind in Budapest for a post-graduate training 7. Enviter meeting in Lisbon in November, 2015 8. EduCare Erasmus+projekt <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details-page/?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/34efb4f1-1500-4621-a3ed-5f4978825ca9> 9. “Tuning to each other” – music project of hard of hearing and visually impaired children     **Slovenia:**   1. 1.) Erasmus + EDUCARE project is meant to improve the practice of professionals dealing with VI or MDVI pupils and students with behavioural challenges. Early intervention - a project which involves the Balkan countries, coordinated by Royal Dutch Visio with the goal to implement good practices in the field of early intervention. 2. New knowledge acquired by the professionals is shared in many ways: Within the institutions working with VI children and adults, Delivering the knowledge to mainstream schools (permanent), Annual conference of Association of Special Pedagogues of Slovenia: The topic in 2015 was The role of institutions working in SEN on the way to new educational practices at all levels of education and in employment process     **Poland:**   1. **POLISH ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND : The Project TYFLOPOLIS** (gr. typhlos – blind , polis – city):From 4th September 2015 till 31st December 2016 **The Polish Association Of The Blind** in co-operation with the **City of Warsaw** as well as with the partners –The Foundation-Chance For the Blind and Globe Forum- have been participating in the project **The Virtual Warsaw.** The aim of the Project is to improve the quality of life of the visually impaired living in Warsaw as well as to make the city of Warsaw more attractive both for the city dwellers and tourists. Within the Project there will be conducted: consultations about the needs of the visually impaired, basing on which there will be formed the application and the net of transmitters implemented in the city and the public transport. The Virtual Warsaw is at the stage of implementation. The initial stage works involve testing the efficiency of the applications vital for the recipient, for example the accuracy of navigation, receiving information about the selected tourist objects, offices, and marking the route between the objects. 2. **CHANCE FOR THE BLIND FOUNDATION:** This foundation organized the thirteenth edition of the conference "Reha For The Blind", which was held on 3-4 of December 2015. Motto „How to see more- medicine, technology and rehabilitation come to our help”  * REHA has for years been the largest meeting of people who are blind, visually impaired and their sighted friends. It is a unique opportunity for anyone to explore the world of touch and sound. During the conference 50 exhibitors from all over the world presented the most modern equipment to enable the rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired people. The conference consisted of merits sessions and panel discussions which were associated by the exhibitions of the modern aids enabling the rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired. During the conference the organizers provided many attractions and competitions, among the others the presentation of a game BLIND FOOTBALL.  1. **DEAF AND BLIND AID SOCIETY***:* **The project – integrated- avare – active.**  In the years 2015-2016 Deaf and Blind Aid Society and The Fundation Activization have been realizing the project financed by the FIO means “on Inclusion”. The aim was among the others to organize the focus meetings to increase the awareness of impaired people about the widely understood adjustment of public spheres to the possibilities of this group and acquainting them with the e-publication “Availability of European Means 2014-2020 For impaired people in Practice”. Deaf and Blind Aid Society within the information meetings delivered knowledge about the tendencies to adjust the environment to the needs of people with different impairments as well as about the methods assigned to achieve that. The meetings conducted by the specialists of the association were held in Cracow, Szczecin, Olsztyn, Gdansk, Lublin and Zielona Gora. The project „On Inclusion The Intergrated-Aware-Active “ also plans informative meetings with the representatives of public institutions and the administration with the aim to acquaint those responsible for the comfort and security of the impaired with the problem. |
| 4 | Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | **Hungary:**  Fostering Mobility of university students with Visual Impairment – joint project with evidence based research with cooperation between ICEVI Europe and European Blind Union – pilot study and state of the art report was finished in 2015. <http://www.icevi-europe.org>  **Slovenia:**  Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Slovenia supports all the initiatives of EBU.  Representatives took part at the 10th General Assembly in October 2015.  **Poland:**  Polish Association of the Blind is a member of the EBU. EBU membership results in the exchange of good ideas concerning people with impaired vision. Both Polish Association of the Blind and Deaf and Blind Aid Society cooperate with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Committees of the Polish parliament, Polish Forum of People with Disabilities, the Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights.  **Educational centers for visually impaired children cooperate with the local authorities in the region.** |
| 5. | ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | **Slovenia:**  At the moment there are three important areas of work with working groups on governmental level:   * Centres of Expertise * Early intervention   Rehabilitation of newly-blind adults |
| 6 | Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | Hungary: Gordosné Szabó Anna priye for the best practice leader in special education: **Csilla Molnár**, teacher of the School for Low Vision Children, Budapest  **Slovenia:**  **Damijana Dušak** - award of Association of Special Pedagogues of Slovenia for her valuable contribution to education practice of VI and MDVI children.  **Janja Hrastovšek** - award of TIFLO section for developing Early intervention and Functional vision assessment in Slovenia  **Grega Hribar** - award of TIFLO section for coaching Slovene ICC teams  and his mentoring Pupils’ school publication |
| 7 | Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | **Czech Republic:**   "Škála vývoje hry dětí se zrakovým postižením" and "Rosteme hrou, Vývoj a podpora hry dětí se zrakovým postižením, Pracovní sešit"  Publications of scale of the play development of children with visual impairment and Work Book for the Scale, translated from Dutch, available in Eda, z.u. Prague  **Hungary:**   1. Lőrincz, Borbála – Pajor, Emese - Gombás , Judit: Assessment of the motoric askills of blind chilren aged 10-17 with the Eurofit test. Hungarian Journal of Sport Science 16:(4 (64)) pp. 4-10. (2015) 2. Gombás, Judit: Recreational Sports for persons with visual impairment in Hungary: Hungarian Journal of Sport Science 16:(1 (61)) pp. 29-33. (2015) 3. Pajor, Emese – Beke, Anna Mária: Maniu Dragos, Adrian - Maniu, Emese Ágnes (ed.) Relating Braille Letter Confusion to Verbal Working Memory and Language Functions. Cluj-Napoca: Editura Risoprint, 2015.  Approaches and Methods in the Habilitation and Rehabilitation of People with Visual Impairment 4. Dr Földiné Angyalossy, Zsuzsánna: Low vision training in early childhood <http://gyermekneveles.tok.elte.hu/6_szam/pub/foldine_angyalossy.html> 5. State Institute for the Blind published 5 methodology volumes on theory and best practice of rehabilitation for visually impaired physically impaired, mentally retarded individuals, special approaches and techniques for elderly and those with cerebral visual impairment. 6. B. Prónay- M. Kyriacou - A. Hathazi: Survey paper for EBU on visual impairment and additional disabilities (<http://www.euroblind.org/working-areas/persons-with-additional-disabilities/>). 7. B. Prónay - J. Gombás - E.I. Veress: Accessibility for persons with visual impairment - training material for Erasmus students. Eotvos Loránd University (ELTE)   **Poland:**   1. Welcome to the *International Journal of Pedagogy, Innovation and New Technologies* *(IJPINT)*, a high quality open access, peer reviewed research journal. 2. *The International Journal of Pedagogy, Innovation and New Technologies* will focus on comparative studies that lead to new insights that have potential for policy impact and challenge orthodox theories. It stresses the importance of appreciating the interplay of local, national, regional and global contexts and dynamics, in shaping pedagogy and innovation. 3. *IJPINT* will provide a platform for researchers and academics to impart and share knowledge in the form of high quality empirical and theoretical research papers, focusing on education and innovation, embracing a wide range of topics including but not limited to: experimental teaching, social capital, developments in special education, progressive methods of research and analysis, innovative leadership, human factors, new media, and technological advancement. |
| 8 | Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | **Czech Republic:**  New applications for iPads from EDA:  EDA PLAY TOBY, EDA PLAY PAULI available at pasture since beginning of May 2016  **Hungary:**   1. The Vision Assessment Committee is 40 year old – national conference in 25th of April, 2016, Budapest 2. ELTE University (Budapest) is hosting the .6th ECPVI (European conference on psychology and visual impairment) on 11th and 12th of November 2016. 3. IT for MDVI- cooperation with Netherlands 4. Erasmus + project in Inclusion with Spain 5. Enviter conference in Plovdiv   **Poland:**   1. **The International Conference**  **Interdisciplinary Contexts of Early Intervention, and Early Support of a Child’s Development**  **21-23 September 2016 , The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw:** During the conference we suggest to conduct the discussions on the following thematic blocks concentrating on the process of early intervention and early support for the child’s development:   1/ medical conditions, 2/social , legal and economic contexts, 3/ family engagement, 4/the diagnosis of a child’s and family needs and possibilities, 5/ the methods of a development support, 6/ professionals’ preparation. The above given subject categories are only reference points. The final program will be de-scribed basing on the sent proposal of speeches by people declaring their participation in the conference.[www.konferencje.aps.edu.pl/osoba](http://www.konferencje.aps.edu.pl/osoba)  **2.) Polish Scientific Conference within cycle**  **Typhlopedagogy-theory and practice. A visually impaired person and the changing socio-cultural and education-rehabilitation environment. 14. 10. 2016, The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland:** The aim of the conference is to start scientific discussion about the current condition of education and rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired in Poland. Interdisciplinary view on the issues of modern typhlopedagogy and the exchange of theoretical and practical experiences can contribute to mark the further ways of development of this sub-discipline of special education, including taking scientific, research and rehabilitation activities in the spheres so far neglected. [www.aps.edu.pl](http://www.aps.edu.pl)  **Slovenia:**  1.) Continuation of work in projects (e.g. Educare meeting on Aggression and self-inflicted injuries in Budapest, Hungary, June 2016 and on Autism, Osimo, Italy, October 2016).  2.) The VI students of Zavod za slepo in slabovidno mladino Ljubljana will take part in the international sports games in Prague in June 2016. |
| 9 | Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | **Hungary:**  1.)Educare, VI Children with psychiatric disorders  2.)BaGMIVI - Erasmus+ KA2 Project on Bridging the Gap between Museums and Individuals with Visual Impairments (partners: University of Thessaly, ELTE University Budapest, University of Sofia, Babes-Boyai University, Scottish Sensory Centre, ICEVI, European Blind Union  3.) The **State Institute for the Blind** opened a new centre for centre based rehabilitation and further training to those working on the field of vision rehabilitation.  4.) The **State Institute for the Blind** finished a 3,5 year project co-financed by the EU and the government of Hungary. The aim of the project was to establish rehabilitation services in the country in 12 areas where services were missing so far. Now together with the NGOs services they are covering the whole country. The other results of the project were: establishment of the National Methodology Centre, the Assessment Centre for Adults with Visual Impairments, carrying out a countrywide research on the quality of life and access to complex rehabilitation for those with visual impairment in Hungary, publishing 5 methodology volumes.  5.) Teachers form the School for the Blind have visited Owinska, Poland in the topic of O&M and tactile pictures  6.) Bydgoszty, Poland: O&M Conference with the presentation of Ágnes Somorjai, director of the School for the Blind  7. Inclusive musical programs for flute players in the School for the Blind  8.) Tactile map exchanging between European blind schools  9.) Pupils form the Vocational Department of the School for the Blind has visited many European schools for the blind as exchange students.  10.) Localisation of JAWS 15.0 screen reading software (<http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/> ); Localisation of MAGic 13.0 screen magnifying software (<http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/> )  11.) Development of an application for voluntary readers of newspaper articles for Lapról hangra/From paper to voice website  <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hu.infoalap.lhf>  12.) Development of an application for visually impaired users of Lapról hangra/From paper to voice website ([www.laprolhangra.hu](http://www.laprolhangra.hu) )  13.) Tacmon2 - EU development project , The aim of TACMON2 is to develop an innovative technology for the low-cost realization of a large area Interactive Graphical Tactile Display as a computer periphery for visually impaired people, providing them a new dimension of access also to graphical oriented electronic information and to a wider range of PC applications. Infoalap was a project partner, Further information: <http://www.tacmon.eu/new/> 14.) Blindtrack – EU development project The **aim of the BLINDTRACK project is to develop a running facility embedded to a 400m athletic track for visually impaired people to run without another person’s assistance.** Infoalap was a project partner, further information: [www.blindtrack.eu](http://www.blindtrack.eu)  15.) RoboRraille project - RoboBraille is an e-mail and web-based service capable of automatically transforming documents into a variety of alternate formats for the visually and reading impaired. Infoalap was a project partner, for further information: <http://www.robobraille.org/hu>  16.) Crisis intervention training for professionals working with persons visual impairment  17.) Seminar for ophthalmologists in the topics of: rehabilitation, accessibility, elderly with AMD, functional vision assessment.  18.)Hungarian development of Ray for Blind – android application  **Slovenia:**   1. Steady progress of team working on Slovene glossary of VI terms. 2. Within the partnership of Gymnazium pro zrakove postizene a Stredni skola pro zrakove postizene from Prague and Zavod za slepo in slabovidno mladino Ljubljana a group of Czech VI students spent a week in Ljubljana in April 2015. They joined Slovene students in the project week. The topic was Ljubljana - a friendly city for the visually impaired persons and architect Plečnik as a common personality to both cities. The final event was very successful attended also by the Czech Ambassador in Slovenia. Slovene students returned the visit in April this year. They spent a beautiful week discovering Prague and spending time in joint activities with their Czech peers. The partnership is developing in the best possible way. |

\*The official contact person from Slovakia did not react

This report is submitted by Krisztina Kovács secretary and regional representative for Central-European countries

Date 31/May/2016

# 4 Financial report 2015

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| **Balance** |  | |  | **31-12-2014** |  |  | |
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| Cash |  | |  | 0,00 € |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  | |  | **25.583,14** **€** |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Profit and loss** | | |  | **2015** |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Income** |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| BaGMIVI Project Funds |  | |  | 6.461,45 € |  |  |  |
| Contributions | | |  | 8.510,62 € |  |  |  |
| Interest |  | |  | 204,18 € |  |  |  |
| Donations | | |  | 4.482,00 € |  |  |  |
| Conference Fees |  | |  | 7.513,69 € |  |  |  |
| **Total Income** | | |  | **27.171,94 €** |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| ICEAPVI Conf. Expenses |  | |  | 10.737,00 € |  |  |  |
| Administration Expenses |  | |  | 1.969,00 € |  |  |  |
| Website |  | |  | 0.00€ |  |  |  |
| Bank fee |  | |  | 130,57 € |  |  |  |
| Travel and Accommodation | | 3.402,50 € | | |  |  |  |
| Other Costs | | |  | 25,00 € |  |  |  |
| BaGMIVI Project Expenses | | |  | 3.348,00€ |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Expenditure** | | |  | **19.612,07 €** |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **RESULT** |  | |  | **7.559,87 €** |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Balance as per 31.12.2015** | | **33.143.01 €** | | |  |  |  |

## 5 Estimate 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Income** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **BaGMIVI Project** |  |  |  |  |  | **6.500,00** |
| **Contributions** | |  |  |  |  | **5.000,00** |
| **Donations** |  |  |  |  |  | **1.000** |
| **Interest** |  |  |  |  |  | **200** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Other income** | |  |  | **result 31.12.2015:** | | **33.143,01** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total income** | |  |  |  |  | **45.843,01** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Website costs** | |  |  |  |  | **1.200,00** |
| **Website Redesign** |  |  |  |  |  | **1.400,00** |
| **Website Domain Name & Hosting 300,00** | | | | | | |
| **Travel and accommodation 4.000,00** | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bank Fee** | |  |  |  |  | **150** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Other Costs** | |  |  |  |  | **500** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Administration Expenses 6.000,00** | | | | | | |
| **BaGMIVI Project Expenses 4.000,00** | | | | | | |
| **Total expenditure** | |  |  |  |  | **17.550,00** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Estimated Result** | |  |  | **per 31.12.2016:** | | **28.293,01** |

# 6 Looking to the future

2015 was an active year, wherein productive discussions have taken place for various projects and conferences to come in the following years.

In the report year the Board mainly looks ahead to the **9th ICEVI-European Conference** which will be held July 2-7 2017 at the facilities of the Sint-Lodewijkscollege in Bruges, Belgium. The Board believes that this conference will offer the opportunity to meet fellow colleagues throughout Europe, in order to come together to exchange knowledge and expertise. Workshops and discussion sessions will get a more prominent place and strengthen the interaction between the conference's participants. During this conference the General Assembly will also take place in which the re/elections will be held. The Board hopes that many of you will have the opportunity to attend our conference and looks forward to seeing you there. We would like to urge you to visit the conference website for additional information and details <http://www.icevi-bruges2017.be/>.

It is with regret that the Board of ICEVI-Europe announces that the **7th ICEVI Eastern European Conference** on 10-14 May 2016 in Minsk, unfortunately will not take place due to difficulties encountered by the Belarusian Host Committee. Nevertheless, initial discussions have commenced for its organization with the ICEVI-Europe National Representative of Georgia and other members of the Host Committee. Communication and consultation with Georgia is scheduled to take place regarding the organization of the East European Conference in Tiblisi. Further information will be announced on the ICEVI-Europe website as progress is made and discussions have come to a close.

The Board of ICEVI-Europe is very much looking forward to the upcoming **VBS Convention of Pedagogy for the Blind and Visually Impaired**, August 1-5 2016 in Graz, Austria. We hope to see all of you there, contributing with your knowledge and experiences, making this conference on the topic of Inclusion of the Blind and visually handicapped a great success. Further information can be found under the calendar of events section on the ICEVI-Europe website, as well as, on the VBS Congress Website, <http://www.vbs-2016.at/>

ICEVI-Europe is looking forward to playing a more proactive role and intensifying its cooperation with GPEAA in France with regards to organizing a common regional conference. This will comprise a very important event that will lead to further exchange of professional expertise.

ICEVI International and the World Blind Union will be jointly holding their General Assemblies at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida, USA, from 18th to 25th August 2016. The **WBU/ICEVI Joint Assembly** **2016** will be hosted by the National Federation of the Blind and include an ICEVI Day on Monday 22nd August 2016 that will be dedicated to conference-style papers and workshops. For additional information on the World Conference, including a schedule of events, event pricing, venue and travel details, an agenda, registration etc. please visit the WBU-ICEVI 2016 conference website <http://www.wbu-icevi2016.org/>

The **6th European Conference on Psychology and Visual Impairment (6th ECPVI)** will take place on November 10-12, 2016 in Budapest, Hungary at the ELTE Barczi Gusztav Faculty of Special Needs Education. The theme of the conference is PSYCHOLOGICAL SURVIVAL SKILLS IN A SIGHTED WORLD. For further information regarding the program, registration procedures, forms and important deadlines, you are welcomed to visit the conference website at <http://6ecpvi.elte.hu/>.

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# 7 Members of the Board as of December 31st 2015

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mrs. **Betty Leotsakou**, *President* [bl@icevi-europe.org](mailto:bl@icevi-europe.org),  [bleotsakou@ gmail.com](mailto:bleotsakou@gmail.com) | Betty Leotsakos |
| Ms. **Tarja Hännikäinen** representing the Baltic and Nordic countries  [*Tarja.Hannikainen@valteri.fi*](mailto:Tarja.Hannikainen@valteri.fi) | Tarja Hännikäinen |
| Mr. **Steve McCall**, *Treasurer*  representing the English speaking countries [s.mccall@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.mccall@bham.ac.uk) | Steve McCall |
| Mrs. **Krisztina Kovacs**, Secretary  *representing the Central European countries*  [kkovacs.sza@gmail.com](mailto:kkovacs.sza@gmail.com),  [kkovacs@barczi.elte.hu](mailto:kkovacs@barczi.elte.hu) | C:\Users\Laptop\Desktop\krisztina kovacs photo.jpg |
| Mrs. **Nathalie Lewi-Dumont**  representing the French speaking countries  [nathalielewi@gmail.com](mailto:nathalielewi@gmail.com) | Nathalie Lewi-Dumont |
| Mrs. **Ana Isabel Ruiz López** representing the South European countries  [airl@once.es](mailto:airl@once.es) | Ana Isabel Ruiz Lopez |
| Mr. **Dieter Feser** representing the German and Dutch speaking countries  [dieter.feser@nikolauspflege.de](mailto:dieter.feser@nikolauspflege.de%20) | Dieter Feser |
| Mr. **Vladimir Ruchin** representing the East European countries  [r-vl@yandex.ru](mailto:r-vl@yandex.ru) | Vladimir Ruchin |
| Mrs. **Andrea Hathazi**  representing the Balkan countries  [ahathazi@yahoo.com](mailto:ahathazi@yahoo.com) | Andrea Hathazi |
| Mr. **Hans Welling**  **Immediate Past President**  [wellingja@yahoo.com](mailto:wellingja@yahoo.com) |  |
| Mr. **Francis Boé**  Advisor of ICEVI-Europe to GPEAA[francis.boe@free.fr](mailto:francis.boe@free.fr) |  |

# Martha Gyftakos

# Martha Gyftakos Executive Assistant to the President of ICEVI-Europe

# ICEVI-Europe

# 12 Ioannou Kotsou street,

# Glyka Nera 15354

# Athens, Greece

# [mgyftakos@yahoo.com](mailto:mgyftakos@yahoo.com)

# 

# 8 ICEVI-SUBREGIONS of Europe

## Baltic and Nordic Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Denmark **vacancy** |  |
| Estonia  **Mrs Vilje Kirs,**  viljekirs@hotmail.com | http://www.icevi-europe.org/images/vk.png |
| Finland  **Mrs Tarja Hännikäinen,** tarja.hannikainen@onerva.fi | Tarja Hännikäinen |
| Iceland  Mrs **Huld Magnúsdóttir,** [huld@midstod.is](mailto:huld@midstod.is) | huld |
| Latvia  **Mrs Ligita Geida,** [ligitageida@apollo.lv](mailto:ligitageida@apollo.lv) | Ligita Geida |
| Lithuania  **Mrs Grita Strankauskiene,** [kaunosim@gmail.com](mailto:kaunosim@gmail.com) or [grita.stran@gmail.com](mailto:grita.stran@gmail.com) | Grita Strankauskiene |
| Norway  Mrs **Astrid Kristin Vik,** [Astrid.Vik@statped.no](mailto:Astrid.Vik@statped.no) | Astrid K. Vik |
| Sweden  **Mr Anders Rönnbäck,** [anders.ronnback@spsm.se](mailto:anders.ronnback@spsm.se) | Anders Rönnbäck |

## English speaking Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ireland  **Mrs Audrey Farrelly**  [audrey.farrelly@gmail.com](mailto:audrey.farrelly@gmail.com) | Audrey Farrelly |
| United Kingdom, Wales  Mrs **Nicola J. Crews**  [nicola.crews@rnib.org.uk](mailto:nicola.crews@rnib.org.uk) | Nicola J. Crews |
| United Kingdom, England  Mrs **Maha Khochen** [mahakhechen@hotmail.com](mailto:mahakhechen@hotmail.com) | Maha Khochen |
| United Kingdom, Scotland  Mrs **Janis Sugden** [janis.sugden@ed.ac.uk](mailto:janis.sugden@ed.ac.uk) | Janis Sugden |
| Israel  **Mrs Nurit Neustadt-Noy** [nuritnoy@macam.ac.il](mailto:nuritnoy@macam.ac.il) | Nurit Neustadt-Noy |

## French speaking Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Belgium  Mrs **Violaine Van Cutsem**,  [violainevancutsem@hotmail.com](mailto:violainevancutsem@hotmail.com) | Van_Cutsem_Violaine |
| France  Mr **Francis Boé,** [francis.boe@free.fr](mailto:francis.boe@free.fr) | Francis Boe |
| France  Mrs **Marie Renée Hector,** [mrhector@noos.fr](mailto:mrhector@noos.fr) | marie |
| France  Mrs **Nathalie Lewi-Dumont** ,  [nathalielewi@gmail.com](mailto:nathalielewi@gmail.com) | Nathalie Lewi Dumont |
| France  **Mrs Michelle Collat (French speaking)**,  [michele.collat@orange.fr](mailto:michele.collat@orange.fr) |  |
| Switzerland  **Mrs Mira Goldschmidt**,  [mira.goldschmidt@fa2.ch](mailto:mira.goldschmidt@fa2.ch) | Mira Goldschmidt |
| Switzerland  **Mrs Isabelle Mathis,** [isabelle.mathis@bluewin.ch](mailto:isabelle.mathis@bluewin.ch) | Isabelle Mathis |

## South European Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Italy  **Mrs** **Daniela Floriduz,** [dfloriduz@gmail.com](mailto:dfloriduz@gmail.com), copy to [inter@uiciechi.it](mailto:inter@uiciechi.it) | danielafloriduz |
| Portugal  **Mrs Leonor Moniz-Pereira,** [lmpereira@fmh.utl.pt](mailto:lmpereira@fmh.utl.pt)  [Lmpereira@fmh.ulisboa.pt](mailto:Lmpereira@fmh.ulisboa.pt) | Leonor Moniz-Pereira |
| Spain **Mrs** **Elena Gastón López,** [egl@once.es](mailto:egl@once.es) | Elena Gaston Lopez |
| Andorra  Mrs**Mariona Carbonell del Castillo,** [mariona.carbonell@gmail.com](mailto:mariona.carbonell@gmail.com),  school: [eensm@andorra.ad](mailto:eensm@andorra.ad) | Mariona Carbonell del Castillo |
| Malta **vacancy** |  |
| Monaco **vacancy** |  |
| San Marino **vacancy** |  |

## German and Dutch speaking Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Austria  **Mrs Gertrude Jaritz,** [vsbp@gmx.at](mailto:vsbp@gmx.at) | Gerti Jaritz |
| Belgium  Mrs **Eliane Bonamie**,  [Eliane.bonamie@mpi-spermalie.be](mailto:Eliane.bonamie@mpi-spermalie.be) | Eliane Bonamie |
| Germany  **Mrs Elke Wagner**,  [elke.wagner@nikolauspflege.de](mailto:elke.wagner@nikolauspflege.de) | Elke Wagner |
| The Netherlands  Mrs **Carina Poels,** [carinapoels@visio.org](mailto:carinapoels@visio.org)  [cpoels@visio.org](mailto:cpoels@visio.org) | Carina Poels |
| Switzerland  **Mr Christian Niederhauser**,  [c.niederhauser@blindenschule.ch](mailto:c.niederhauser@blindenschule.ch) | christian |
| Lichtenstein **vacancy** |  |
| Luxembourg  Mr **Frank Groben,** [frank.groben@idv.etat.lu](mailto:frank.groben@idv.etat.lu) | Frank Groben |
| South Tirol (Italy)  Mrs **Elisabeth Gitzl,** [info@blindenzentrum.bz.it](mailto:info@blindenzentrum.bz.it) | eliszabethgitzl |

## 

## Central European Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Czech Republic  Mrs **Marketa Skalicka,**  [marketa.skalicka@ranapece.eu](mailto:marketa.skalicka@ranapece.eu) |  |
| Hungary  **Mrs Krisztina Kovacs,** [kkovacs.sza@gmail.com](mailto:kkovacs.sza@gmail.com)  [kkovacs@barczi.elte.hu](mailto:kkovacs@barczi.elte.hu) | C:\Users\Laptop\Desktop\krisztina kovacs photo.jpg |
| Poland  **Mrs Graszyna Walczak,** [grawal@aps.edu.pl](mailto:grawal@aps.edu.pl)  [grawal20@wp.pl](mailto:grawal20@wp.pl) | Grazyna Walczak |
| Slovak Republic  Ms **Tímea Hóková,** [dkhokova@fedu.uniba.sk](mailto:dkhokova@fedu.uniba.sk)  [hokova@unss.sk](mailto:hokova@unss.sk) | th |
| Slovenia  Mrs **Marija Jeraša,** [marija.jerasa@guest.arnes.si](mailto:marija.jerasa@guest.arnes.si) | si-mj |

## East European Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Armenia  Mr **Aleksan Aharonyan,** [specschool14@yandex.ru](mailto:specschool14@yandex.ru) | Alexan Aharonyan |
| Azerbaijan  Mrs **Melahet Haciyeva,** [melahet.haciyeva@gmail.com](mailto:melahet.haciyeva@gmail.com) | mh |
| Belarus  Mr **Vladimir Gordeiko,** [gordeiko@tut.by](mailto:gordeiko@tut.by) | Vladimir Gordeiko |
| Georgia  **Mrs Mariam Mikiashvili**  [Mariam.miki@gmail.com](mailto:Mariam.miki@gmail.com) | Mariam Mikiashvili |
| Kazakhstan  **Mrs Karlygash (Klara) Rakisheva**,  [suarez1992@yandex.ru](mailto:suarez1992@yandex.ru) | Karlygash Rakisheva |
| Moldova  Mrs **Larisa Celan,** [larisacelan@gmail.com](mailto:larisacelan@gmail.com) | Larisa Celan |
| Russia - Central Region, North-West Federal District  **vacancy** |  |
| Russia - Ural Federal District, Siberian Federal District, Far-Eastern Federal District Mrs **Tsyndyma Boyko,** [imna2002@rambler.ru](mailto:imna2002@rambler.ru) | ru-tb |
| Russia - Southern Federal District, North-Caucasian Federal District, Volga Federal District  Mrs **Irina Sumarokova,** [irasu@list.ru](mailto:irasu@list.ru) |  |
| Ukraine  **Mrs Evgeniya Synyova**,  [ev\_sineva@hotmail.com](mailto:ev_sineva@hotmail.com) | Ievgeniia Synova |
| Ukraine **Mrs Vira Remazhevska,**  [lewenia@hotmail.com](mailto:lewenia@hotmail.com) | Vira Remazhevska |
| Tajikistan  Mr **Tengniev Kholmakhmad Аhmadovich,** [tbu-tajiknet@mail.ru](mailto:tbu-tajiknet@mail.ru)  [tengniev@уandex.ru](mailto:tengniev@уandex.ru) | Mr. Tengniev Kholmakhmad &Acy;hmadovich |

## Balkan Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Albania  Mrs. **Zhaneta Muca**  [shvsh@shvsh.org.al](mailto:shvsh@shvsh.org.al) |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina **vacancy** |  |
| Bulgaria  Mrs. **Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova**  [miratz@abv.bg](mailto:miratz@abv.bg) | Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova |
| Croatia  **Mrs Marijana Konkoli Zdesic**,  [marijana@malidom.hr](mailto:marijana@malidom.hr) | Marijana Konkoli Zdesic |
| Cyprus  **Mrs** **Maria Kyriacou,** [m.kyriacou@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:m.kyriacou@cytanet.com.cy) | mk |
| FYROM Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  **Mrs Elena Hristova,** [hristova\_e@yahoo.com](mailto:hristova_e@yahoo.com) |  |
| Greece  Mr **Vassilis Argyropoulos,** [vassargi@uth.gr](mailto:vassargi@uth.gr) | Vassilis Argyropoulos |
| Montenegro **vacancy** |  |
| Romania Mrs **Andrea Hathazi,** [ahathazi@yahoo.com](mailto:ahathazi@yahoo.com) | Andrea Hathazi |
| Turkey  Mrs **Songül Atasavun Uysal**,  [songula@hacettepe.edu.tr](mailto:songula@hacettepe.edu.tr) | Songül Atasavun Uysal |
| Serbia  Mrs **Aleksandra Grbović**,  [sgrbovic@ptt.rs](mailto:sgrbovic@ptt.rs) | ag |