

# IMPACT OF AGEING IN DEAF PEOPLE

## Considerations in health care

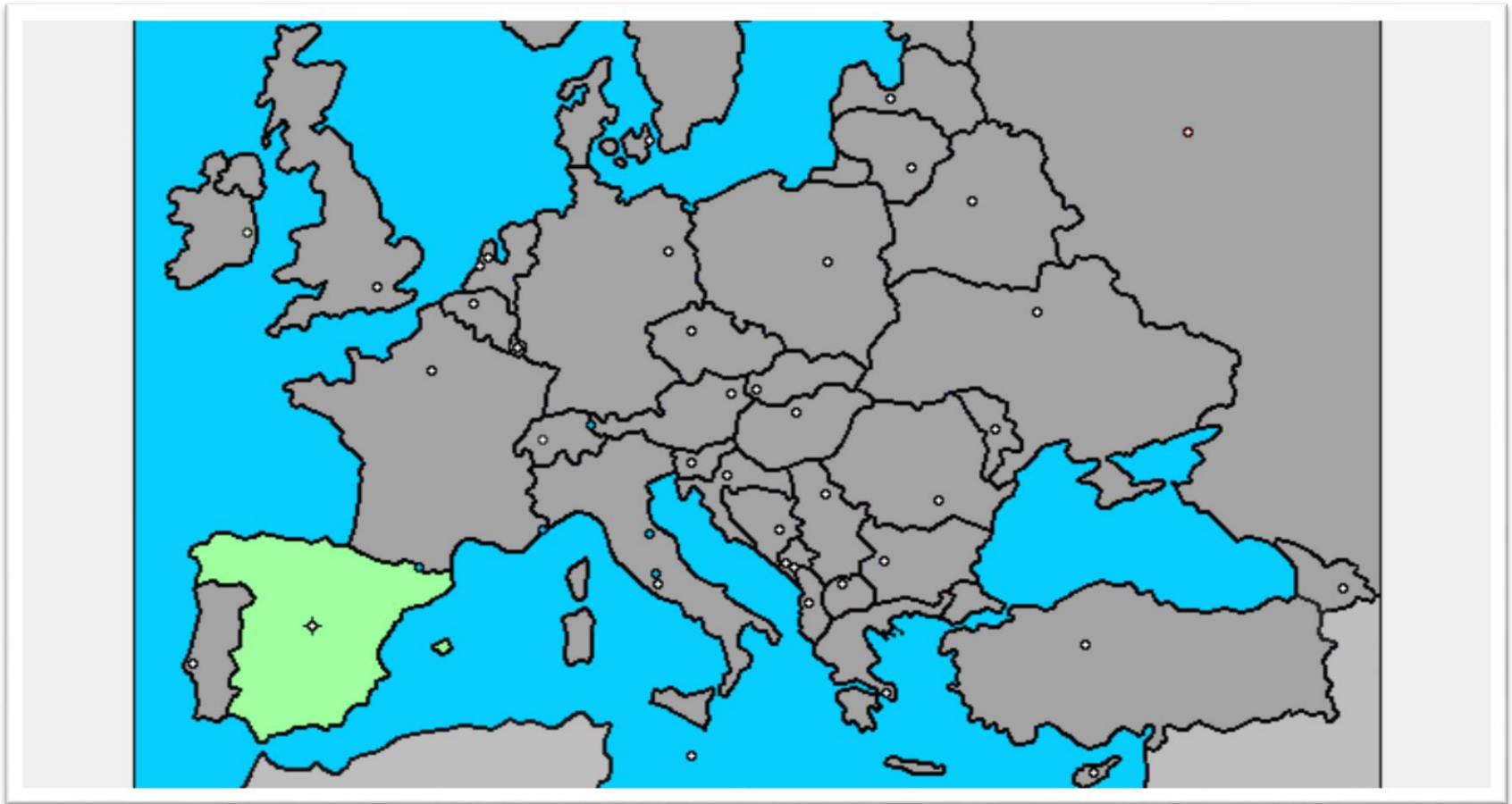
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“Ageing people with sensory disabilities-  
Quality of services and their impact”


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Rehabilitation of people with visually impairment



# MADRID, SPAIN





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OUTPATIENT  
CLINIC FOR  
DEAF  
PEOPLE

# INTRODUCTION

- Some facts about disabilities in Europe
    - EUROSTAT data in 2001
    - SHARE data in 2006. “Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe” 28’5%
- <http://www.share-project.org>



# INTRODUCTION

- Deaf population
  - Classification of hearing impairment
  - Medical description
  - Socio-cultural perspective. Meadow-Orlans and Erting (2000)
- Elderly People and elderly Deaf people



Social interactions from the earliest age influence the cognitive development, the growth and maturation of the brain. (Allan Schore)



# “Typical” Deaf lifetime

Fritschy, O. (2001)

- 0-4 Years: Discovery of deafness
- 4-18 Years: School time, Institution life
- 18-65 Years: Adult life
- Above 65 Years: Old age



# Growing up in the past (and still)

- Oral education
- Incomprehensible hearing world
- Stimulus-response
- Early separation
- Special education
- Boarding school







# Negative results

- Lack of incidental learning
- Learned helplessness
- Emotional stagnation
- Dependence



# Risk factors

- Weak and limited social network
- Isolation and loneliness
- Services and resources for the elderly not accesible for deaf people
- Lack of trained professionals.  
Misdiagnosis



# Working with deaf elders

Two types of problems:

- Problems linked to deafness
- Geriatric problems appearing differently with deaf person.



# Contact

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Thank you for your attention

GRACIAS

