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Welcome to the EBU Newsletter.

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

EU update

The European Commission, the EBU and librarians take a firm stance in favour of strong EU Marrakesh Treaty legislation

At a hearing yesterday in the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee the European Commission, European Union President and libraries spokesperson all took strong positions against the weakening of the Marrakesh Treaty legislation by introducing compensation, commercial availability or authorized entity registration clauses into the Regulation and Directive now being considered.

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Announcements

New e-books to help relate to blind and partially sighted people.

Perkins School for the Blind (USA) has released two new e-books that encourage more interaction between the sighted public and people who are blind.

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Sad news from ICEVI-Europe - Farewell our Beloved Betty- "Always in our Thoughts, Forever in our Hearts"

On January 6, 2017, our beloved President of ICEVI-Europe, Mrs. Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou, tragically passed away at the young age of 45.

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Snapshot

Let's work! – towards employment!

In May 2016, in Tirrenia, Italy, the European Blind Union (EBU) organized a course on job-seeking skills and employment of young visually impaired people with all the challenges and possibilities. We were the two participants from Finland, Susanna Halme and Anniina Latikka, and we found our four days in Italy very useful so we started to make plans about how to spread the word in Finland. The idea of Let's work! events was the result!

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VISAL at De Vlasborch in the Netherlands

The following experience was gained from the 5 full VISAL courses organised in 2016 in De Vlasborch.

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National news

Estonia – Accessibility Manual

In 2016, the Estonian Federation of the Blind compiled a manual of accessibility of the built environment.

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Romania – A Literary Achievement

The Romanian Academy, the highest cultural forum in our country, as in all other European countries in fact, decided to give an award to Radu Sergiu Ruba for his novel “A never fading summer”

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Feature

Potential hazards and benefits of Electric and Electric Hybrid vehicles for blind and vulnerable road users

This article reflects on the impacts of the increase of silent motor vehicles for the daily lives of blind and partially sighted European pedestrians. The growing number of electric vehicle (EV) and electric-hybrid vehicles (EHV) is a fundamental concern to our target group.

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