



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

Annual report 2018

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1 Preface

Every turn of the year is an invitation to look back, what took place but at the same time, an invitation to see the plans for the coming year. The annual report on which these matters are discussed is the means for ICEVI-Europe to be accountable to the members of the association. That is why I would like to offer the 2018 annual report to your attention.

The Board has met once in April 2018 in Birmingham. One of the main points discussed was the plans for the next four years, i.e. Until 2021 when the first forthcoming European conference is scheduled and the General Assembly. Through the website you have already been able to get acquainted with the current state of affairs regarding the organisation of regional conferences. A conference for Eastern European countries has already taken place in October 2018 in Saratov, Russia, while a conference for the Balkan countries will be held in October of this year in Sofia, Bulgaria. For the other regions, ICEVI-Europe works together with GPEEA for the French speaking countries and VBS for the German speaking countries.

Another important fact is the realization of professional interest groups. The mission of ICEVI-Europe is "Sharing information and knowledge in the field of education and rehabilitation of people with visual impairment." There is no better setting in which this can be achieved, than within a network of professional colleagues working in the same field of interest. Professional interest groups offer new opportunities to get to know fellow colleagues in Europe. In the new year, conferences of certain professional interest groups will be held on education, with the theme of mathematics and on rehabilitation with the theme "Expanding Independence in all Ages." It is the wish of the board that before the 10th European Conference in Israel, conferences or workshops of all of the professional interest groups will be held, with the goal to hold follow-up meetings of the professional interest groups during the 10th European Conference.

Of course, many other issues have also been raised. The board will be happy to keep you informed via the Newsletter and via the Website, and at the same time, warmly invites you to enrich our Newsletter Issues with your contributions by publishing articles, materials, and/or announcements of any special projects, events and activities of importance in the field of education and rehabilitation of people with visual impairment within your countries.

Have fun reading this annual report. It is our hope that this will inspire you to cooperate with fellow colleagues in and beyond Europe. Perhaps we meet at one of our conferences, otherwise, certainly at our milestone conference, the tenth European Conference in Jerusalem in August 2021.

A good opportunity to remind you to pay your annual membership contribution. Your membership fee is crucial to the work of ICEVI Europe. Membership fees are the organization's lifeblood and they enable us to continue to promote international cooperation in broadening the knowledge and skills of professionals working in the education and rehabilitation of persons with visual impairment.

The board would like to thank all of you who have contributed and given shape to ICEVI-Europe activities in 2018. We hope you will continue to participate in 2019 with the goal of improving the quality of services to people with visual impairments.

This Annual Report was sent to all of the National Representatives, being that they are members of the General Meeting, asking for their agreement. We have made some textual changes to the Annual Report, as per the feedback provided by the National Representatives, and it was approved by them.

On behalf of the Board,



Hans Welling
President

www.icevi-europe.org

2 Report from the board

ICEVI-Europe aims to support persons with visual impairment achieve their desire to actively participate as full members of the society.

Making an annual report is therefore an excellent opportunity to look back and see how it is shaped.

Communication with members is of course very important. As usual, in 2018 we also took care of newsletters for members and interested parties, 3 in total and keeping the website up to date, but also Facebook. In addition, the board members seek to keep contacts in their own region.

ICEVI-Europe was pleased to launch a new website in June 2018. Its new website was created with a modern graphical design and new structure and is accessible to people with visual impairment.

The board came together once in Birmingham. Prior to the board meeting, the Programme Committee of the Conference 2021 met for the first time.

In addition to the preparations for the European Conference in 2021 in Jerusalem, the action plan for the coming years was central. The Board had decided to make such a programme at its meeting in 2018 in Helsinki. Central to this action plan are organising regional conferences and conferences of professional interest groups.

In 2018, the eighth ICEVI conference for Eastern European countries took place in Saratov Russia. There were more than 200 participants. In the December 2018 Newsletter issue, an article was published on this successful conference. In the same newsletter a report was made of the 7th Conference On Psychology and Visual impairment held in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The program was central to 2019.

-A French Speaking ICEVI-Day: 1 Day Workshop for French-speaking members in Paris with the theme, "Visual impairment and inclusive education. What's new."

-A two-day conference of the Professional Interest group, Teaching and Teacher training with the theme, "What is good can always be better. Wondering how to improve the mathematical performances of blind students. "

-A two-day conference of the Professional Interest group, Rehabilitation with the theme, "Expanding Independence in all Ages."

-A Conference of the Balkan countries in Sofia. It is the Seventh Balkan conference.

-A conference of the of the Professional Interest Group, Early Intervention is in preparation, as well as, that of the Professional Interest Group, Vocational Training and Employment-rehabilitation.

-ICEVI-Europe collaborates with GPEAA in France and VBS in Germany to prepare regional conferences there.

In this way, the board of ICEVI-Europe gave concrete substance to the objective of the association.

We encourage you to visit the website of ICEVI-Europe www.icevi-europe.org for further information.

The President of ICEVI-Europe attended the meetings of ICEVI-World and continued his role as Regional Development Advisor of ICEVI-World in connection with the Regional Chairs/Presidents of the ICEVI regions, which entails discussing with the regions the process of making constitutions and registering themselves as legal entities. He attended the EXCO Meeting of ICEVI-World on 15 October 2018 in Manila, The Philippines. He also attended, as a Keynote Speaker, a seminar with the title, "Inclusion of the Visually Impaired in the mainstream Education schools and the Role of the Visiting Teacher in this process" organized by the Lithuanian Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired in October 2018 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

3 ICEVI-Europe activities in 2018



Report from the Baltic and Nordic countries by Anne Kristine Grosbøll

Region: Nordic-Baltic region
Period: 2018

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | <p>Finland: Consulting teacher Tuija Piili-Jokinen from Valteri participated in Nordic Braille Meeting in Oslo, Norway on October 18th-19th 2018 Theme, 1. day: Early intervention for Braille Literacy, 2. day: Braille music</p> |
| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | <p>Finland: Päivi Lång and Misa Möller from Valteri attended MDVI Euronet Annual Meeting in National Center of the Lega del Filo d'Oro, Osimo, Italy on June 4 – 6. 2018. The subject of the meeting was “Good practices among MDVI students”.</p> <p>Consulting teacher Riitta Kangasaho from Valteri Onerva attended the Learning Media Assessment – seminar in Stockholm, Sweden on November 20 - 21.2018</p> <p>Psychologist Elina Lehtinen from Valteri attended the 7th ICEVI European Conference on Psychology and Visual Impairment in Thessaloniki, Greece on November 1. – 2. 2018.</p> <p>National training days for multiprofessional staff working with children with visual impairment was organized on December 3 – 4.2018. This annual meeting offers a great possibility for the specialists as teachers and rehabilitation workers to hear the latest situation with the services and trends on the area and naturally discuss and change ideas.</p> |

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| | <p data-bbox="563 230 1347 300"><u>ERASMUS + Project "JNCL and Education" 2014-2017</u></p> <p data-bbox="563 304 1347 1032">Tarja Eskonen, Consulting teacher and Marja-Leena Forssas, Mobility and Orientation specialist, Valteri Centre for Learning and consulting, Onerva The Valteri Centre for Learning and Consulting, Onerva was involved in the three-year (2014-2017) ERASMUS + project. The project was called "Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis and Education". In addition to Finland, Norway, England, Scotland, Germany received project funding from EU. The Danish Family supporting association and Batten disease support and research association, US were involved in the project with their own funding. From each of the project countries includes visual impairment schools, learning and consulting centres and parental associations. Finland's project co-operation partners were also the Finnish Federation for the Visually Impaired and the Finnish JNCL Family Supporting Association. The project was coordinated by Bengt Elmerskog from Stadped Heimdal, Norway. The working language was English.</p> <p data-bbox="563 1037 1347 1402">The first formal project meeting was held in Oslo in December 2014 and the last formal one in June 2017 in Jyväskylä, Finland. The project meetings consisted of contact persons from each country (1-2 persons) and representatives of parents' associations. At the meetings the Valteri Center for Learning and Consulting, Onerva was represented by Marja-Leena Forssas and Tarja Eskonen and Finnish Federation for the Visually Impaired was represented by Maria Liisa Punkari.</p> <p data-bbox="563 1442 1347 1733">The target group in this project included Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (JNCL) children, young adults, their families, local networks, teaching staff (basic education, special education and vocational education) and other specialists and professionals in the field (eg speech therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, mobility and orientation specialist and low vision specialist.)</p> <p data-bbox="563 1774 1347 2018">The purpose of the project was to compile a non-medical book that compiles existing knowledge and information obtained during the project and experiences. The material was also compiled into an educational material package, educational tools that can be to share in educational meetings, seminars, conferences, etc. Lifelong learning and quality life was</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| | <p>the guiding idea of the project. During the project a study was conducted involving parents, teachers and other professionals. The survey was made through a questionnaire and a few of the target groups were selected for a deep interview. The research material was handled at the University of Oslo psychology department under Professor Stephen von Tetzchner.</p> <p>The new coming book is called:” Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis, Childhood Dementia and Education, - Intervention, education and learning strategies in a lifetime perspective.” edited by Stephen von Tetzchner, Bengt Elmerskog, Anne-Grethe Tøssebro and Svein Rokne. The book is currently being printed and it will be published in January 2019. The book can be inquired / buy from coordinator of the project, Statped Heimdal, Norway and its project partners.</p> <p>Sweden:</p> <p>A NOVIR-seminar was held the 20-21 of November 2018 in Stockholm with the theme Learning media Assessment. NOVIR - Nordic Visual Impairment Network is a Nordic co-operation in the field of visual rehabilitation. The network consists of national vision rehabilitation institutions from Denmark, The Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The seminar was arranged by the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools/ Resource Centre Vision.</p> <p>Norway:</p> <p>Statped has arranged workshops in different regions of Norway in the use of VoiceOver on iPhone/iPad for educators working with adults with blindness or highly visual impairment. These workshops have been arranged together with the Centers for adult education and/or aid centers in the regions.</p> <p>Statped has also arranged workshops in accesibility on PC and in reading for educators working with students and adults with visual impairment.</p> <p>Statped has during fall 2018 produced videos about accessibility on iPhone and iPad for visual impaired. These are available on YouTube and during spring</p> |

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| | <p>2019 will be used as a part of a learning resource on the webpage statped.no.</p> <p>Statped arranges yearly a seminar about CVI, and in 2018 it was streamed for the first time to all the regions in Statped. The participants were educators and parents of children with CVI. In every region there were visual therapists that supported the participants in discussions, tasks and answering questions.</p> <p>Capacity building: The Project «JNCL and Education was implemented and concluded during the reporting time</p> <p>Denmark:</p> <p>Danish Pre-employment Program, PEP The Pre-employment Program, PEP, has been developed and tested by Ph.D. Karen Wolffe in different English-speaking countries with a good effect. IBOS and the socio-economic company All Ears TM A/S are adapting the PEP-material to Danish language and conditions. The PEP program consists of 15 special VIP designed one-day modules. After a 4-day workshop with Karen Wolffe, May 2018, we could offer the first free trial run for 9 job ready and seeking adults with a visual impairment. 2nd PEP trial will be terminated Jan. 2019.</p> <p>Documentation of the participant's assessment of their self-efficacy before and after PEP, plus their written and oral evaluations show a positive empowering effect. So far three out of nine have found employment, two are doing practice in an organization, two will start a new education and two are still looking for a job. The participants will be followed for a year to document their results.</p> <p>The idea is that participants go to work, except that their work in PEP is to prepare themselves to look for work. How to analyze your own dreams and competencies and find out which companies has the in-teresting jobs, match the jobs to your abilities, decide when to disclosure your disability to an employer, learn what the expectations at a workplace are, build a job seekers portfolio, train and perform a job interview, get feedback, etc. The purpose of the program is to boost the participants own capability to find themselves a job, so</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| | <p>that the number of people with a vision impairment, included in the labour market and who can earn their own income, will increase.</p> <p>Two more PEP rounds will be offered around the country May and Oct. – Nov. 2019</p> <p>The PEP-project has been funded by the Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment (STAR) 2017 - 2020.</p> <p>Link to more info on PEP in Danish: www.ibos.dk/pep</p> <p>Project manager: Dorthe Marie Degn, Development and Project Consultant, IBOS, ab8e@kk.dk</p> <p>Poland, Lithuania and Denmark:</p> <p>EchoProVIP – echolocation for professionals working with persons with a visual impairment.</p> <p>The Regional Development Foundation, FIRR, Krakow, is managing a two-year (Dec. 2017- 2019) EU Erasmus+ K2 project, where IBOS and the Communication Centre, Reg. H. will teach 12 Polish and Lithuanian O&M instructors how to develop their echolocating skills and teach individually adjusted Echolocation.</p> <p>The project results will be disseminated in a European Curricula, a Compendium and at national conferences and in recommendations for integrating echolocation into mainstream O&M education of Instructors and vision impaired persons.</p> <p>Project Manager Anna Rozborska, FIRR, Poland, anna.rozborska@firr.org.pl</p> <p>IBOS: Dorthe Marie Degn, ab8e@kk.dk</p> |
| Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | <p>Denmark and Sweden:</p> <p>The final report was published in January 2018 from a two-year project investigating the situation in Braille teaching and literacy in nine European countries. Sweden was one of the countries involved with a representative in the steering group. The project was led by the Danish Association of the Blind for the European Blind Union, EBU, and involved Braille users working with ICEVI, service providers and others with an interest in supporting the use of Braille.</p> <p>Download the final report from the EBU webpage</p> <p>Norway:</p> |

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| | <p>Informal meeting with NBHP (National treatment on hearing loss and mental health), discussing if this also should concern visual impairment.</p> <p>Meetings with National association of the Blind and Partially Sighted</p> <p>The Norwegian University of Science and technology, five courses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Educational principles and teaching methods of people who use braille. Credits 20, two semesters. 2: Mobility learning of visually impaired children, youth, and adults. Credits 20, two semesters 3: Educational technology for the visually impaired. Credits 20, two semesters 4: Introduction to Visual impairment and the work of teacher of the visually impaired. Credits 20, two semesters 5: Special educational needs in teaching and (re)habilitation of students with VI. Credits 20, two semesters |
| <p>Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website</p> | <p>Norway:</p> <p>The book «Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis, Childhood Dementia and Education» (600 pages) was concluded in late 2018.</p> <p>Master thesis: Marianne Wang Fallang (2018) Annual report 2007 (Low vision in the lower secondary school – One former student's stories about experience of inclusion)</p> <p>Master thesis: Lene Marie Knudsen (2017?) En kvalitativ studie av selvregulering for en elev med blindhet som erfarer «TIL-modellen». - En didaktisk modell for tilpasset opplæring (A qualitative study of self-regulation for a student with blindness who experiences the "TIL model". - A didactic model for custom training)</p> <p>Denmark:</p> <p>Booklet about nervousness at ADL and O&M IBOS have published a booklet about nervousness for persons with visual impairment when doing Activities of Daily living and Orientation and mobility. The publication is in Danish and can be downloaded here:</p> |

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| | <p>https://www.ibos.dk/fileadmin/IBOS_publicationer_pdf/Nervesitet v ADL og O M 2108 2018.pdf</p> <p>Contact information's: Psychologist Maria Krøl, maria.krøl@kk.dk</p> <p>Podcasts IBOS is producing a series of podcast in collaboration with Synscenter Refsnæs and Landsforeningen for Forældre til Blinde og Svagsynede. The aim of all the podcasts is to make relevant professional knowledge available for parents and young adolescents. IBOS is producing 12 different podcasts with different themes as e.g. social competences, the first job and flirting. The podcasts (in Danish) will be uploaded to https://www.ibos.dk/omibos/podcast/foraeldrekurser.html as they get produced. Current available themes: Videregående uddannelse, Fritidsjobs og fritidsaktiviteter, Romantik og flirt og Overgangen til voksenlivet. Please listen with us – and please share!</p> <p>Podcast Celebrating IBOS 50 years Jubilee Nov. 2018 Dep. Manager Jarle Jellestad talks (In Danish) about the development and life at IBOS from 1968 till today. https://www.ibos.dk/omibos/nyheder/visning/podcast-ibos-50-aars-jubilaum.html</p> |
| Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | <p>Finland:</p> <p>Valteri Centre For Learning and Consulting, Onerva, Finland organizes The NOVIR – seminar (for The Nordic Countries): Studying Mathematics for Blind Pupils. The seminar will be held in Valteri Onerva, Jyväskylä, Finland on 11 – 12. 2019.</p> <p>Denmark:</p> <p>Vision and brain Nordic conference on sight and all kinds of brain influences. The items are e.g. Post Commotio, whiplash injuries, stroke, cerebral thrombosis - combined with visual effects. The conference will consist of professional presentations and workshops and will take place on September 4th and 5th 2019.</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| | <p>Vision and inclusion Nordic conference on inclusion of people with visual impairment at all levels - from kindergarten to education for leisure and work. The conference is set to September 2020.</p> <p>For more information or input, please contact: Annemarie Enevoldsen, annemarie.haack.enevoldsen@kk.dk Lea Johanne Sarfelt, lea.johanne.sarfelt@kk.dk</p> |
| Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | <p>Finland:</p> <p>School readiness of a blind or severely visually impaired child: Evaluation of skills and need of support. Licentiate thesis Author: Elina Annikki Lehtinen elina.lehtinen@valteri.fi</p> <p>The evaluation method is named SoLa according to the target group (Finnish: <u>S</u>okeat - means blind and <u>L</u>apset – means children). The SoLa form, developed during the research is meant for evaluation of blind or severely visually impaired children and information transfer during the pre-school year and when a child is moving from pre-school to school. It can be used for example by the pre-school education staff and others working with children. To improve the usability of the SoLa form, a manual should be drawn up, containing familiarization with the evaluation of a blind or severely visually impaired pre-school-aged child's skills and needs.</p> <p>Education of special psychologists in developmental and educational psychology University of Jyväskylä, Department of Psychology April 2017 The outright report is available in Finnish at the address: https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/55278</p> <p>Valteri Centre for Learning and Consulting has six units in different parts of Finland. During the academic year 2018 – 2019 Valteri Onerva organizes training for teachers and rehabilitation workers in other Valteri units. The focus in this training is teaching pupils with low vision.</p> <p>Sweden:</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| | <p>Kim de Verdier, PhD, psychologist at the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools/Resource Centre Vision defended her theses “Children with blindness: Developmental aspects, comorbidity and implications for education and support” in August 2018 at Stockholm University. The overall aim of this research is to deepen the knowledge about developmental aspects, comorbidity and implications for education and support provision, regarding children with blindness. Special focus is directed towards children with blindness and autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Read more at: http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1206093&dsid=-5923</p> <p>Norway:</p> <p>The Project “JNCL and Education” included a comprehensive research part and identification of best educational practices. These facts and advices are presented in the book «Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis, Childhood Dementia and Education»</p> <p>On-going projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children who will be learning braille: Early intervention for braille literacy in the kindergarten. - Learning environment and inclusion of persons with visual impairment. <p>For more information: https://novir.net/fileadmin/Newsletters/NOVIR_newsletter_2018.pdf</p> <p>Denmark:</p> <p>RETEPP™-test <i>The RETEPP™-test consists of a story part and a picture part. The story part is the most central part when it comes to assess the reduction of the executive functions.</i></p> <p>The history part is one of the two tests, IBOS’ neuro psychological consultant Tom Andersen has developed, that places persons with a visual impairment on an equal footing with seeing persons regarding the text (the other is “the red box” or the NVO-test (Non-Visual Orientation)).</p> |

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| | <p>The Monography about the <i>RETEPP™-test</i> can be found online at Tom Andersons homepage: http://reallifetests.dk where you can also find a Danish layman version for blind at www.retepp.dk</p> <p>Research in the effects of Neuro Technology Training</p> <p>IBOS, as the only place in Scandinavia, offers a dynamic Neuro Vision Training, NVT, to persons with a brain damage - often stroke related - that has affected their vision. A research protocol has therefore during 2017 been set up in cooperation with Herlev University Hospital and external reviewers, to measure the effects of NVT. The Ethic Committee has given their accept of the research design. Approximately a third of those referred from hospitals to take the tests passes the researchers exclusion criteria. Currently eight persons have passed the program. Danish Eye Doctors are participating as partners, if a control group is set up. So, we are currently trying to fundraise extra for this, as it prolongs the project, but also make the results more interesting.</p> <p>Project manager at IBOS: Anne Marie H. Schaarup, occupational therapist and Team Manager, ab7n@sof.kk.dk</p> <p>Link to the research article: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5849800/</p> |

This report is submitted by Anne Kristine Grosbøll and Dorte Marie Degn, Denmark in cooperation with Päivi Toikkanen, Finland, Tonje Lundervold, Norge and Anders Rönnbäck, Sweden

Date 15.01.19



Report from the English speaking countries by Steve McCall

Region: English speaking region

Period: 2018

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | <p>The June meeting of the ICEVI Europe Board was hosted by The University of Birmingham. Board members stayed at the University's Conference Park and the Board sessions were held at the School of Education. The meeting coincided with the residential weekend of the training programme for teachers of the visually impaired and the Board members were able to observe the training sessions offered to almost 100 teachers at the weekend. For further information about training and research in visual impairment at the University of Birmingham go to: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/education/research/victar/index.aspx</p> <p>The final day of the meeting was hosted by Queen Alexandra College, a further education institution for students with visual impairment and students with other disabilities including autism. The Board members received a presentation on the College's provision for students with visual impairment and were given a guided tour of the College by the principal, Mrs. Bev Jessop. For further information about the College go to https://www.qac.ac.uk</p> |
| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | <p>Israel The 2021 ICEVI European Conference will be held in Israel. Representatives from the Host Committee attended the ICEVI Board meeting that took place in Birmingham in May 2018. Among the topics discussed at the meeting were the venues for the conference and the conference accommodation. The upcoming ICEVI Board meeting will be hosted by the organising committee at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in February 2018. It will coincide with the first meeting of the Conference Programme Committee.</p> <p>England</p> |

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| | <p>VIEW, the professional association for teachers of the visually impaired, held its annual conference in Birmingham in March. It was attended by 144 qualified teachers of the visually impaired from across the UK. Speakers included researchers from Great Ormond Street Hospital in London who presented on visual assessment. For full details please go to https://victarnews.wordpress.com/2018/06/11/view-2018-conference/</p> <p>The conference was a great success and details of the 2019 conference can be found on https://viewweb.org.uk/the-professional-association-of-the-vision-impairment-education-workforce/conference/</p> <p>Teachers, researchers and exhibitors from Europe will be very welcome to attend.</p> <p>Ireland ChildVision the National Education Centre for Blind Children www.childvision.ie organised a series of training seminars and workshops on education and visual impairment for parents and professionals throughout 2018. For information on the 2019 programme see http://childvision.ie/site/whats-on/workshopsevents/</p> <p>Scotland John Ravenscroft (Professor of Childhood Visual Impairment, Institute for Education, Teaching and Leadership, University of Edinburgh) met the programme committee of ICEVI Europe at the Board meeting in Birmingham. John is the ICEVI representative for Scotland.</p> <p>Wales: The Annual Wales Eyecare Conference was held in Cardiff and attracted a range of professionals from health, education and rehabilitation. The Welsh Association of Vision Impairment Educators (WAVIE) group continued its role in keeping VI educators across the country informed and in touch with current national matters, contributing to the national consultation on children with Additional Learning Needs https://twitter.com/WAVIEWales</p> |
| Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | <p>England</p> <p>Professor Graeme Douglas, head of research in VICTAR presented his inaugural lecture at the School of Education in Birmingham. Among the invited audience were members of the ICEVI Europe Board.</p> <p>Rory Cobb, the long serving RNIB Principal Officer for Inclusive Education retired from his post at the end of 2017 but continues his involvement VI through in his role as Chair of VIEW, the professional association for</p> |

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| | <p>teachers of the visually impaired and ICEVI representative For England.</p> <p>Scotland Professor John Ravenscroft recently gave his inaugural lecture as Professor of Childhood Visual Impairment at the Institute for Education, Teaching and Leadership, University of Edinburgh.</p> |
| Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | <p>Insight Magazine is a free online publication produced by the RNIB for professionals working with children with visual impairment. It contains practical advice and ideas for teaching children of all abilities across the school and preschool curriculum. In the archive you can also access the best articles from previous Insight publications which cover a wide range of useful and relevant topics. To see the resource, go to:</p> <p>https://www.rnib.org.uk/insight-online</p> |
| Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | <p>England VICTAR (the Visual Impairment Centre for Teaching and Research) at the School of Education, University of Birmingham lists on its website details of research carried out in 2018, https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/education/research/victar/index.aspx</p> <p>Scotland The Institute of Education at the University of Edinburgh also lists details of research publications in visual impairment and education. These include collaborative work with ICEVI members. For a list of publications see: https://www.research.ed.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/john-ravenscroft(df10489-2902-42d5-b3c6-eab51472497e)/publications.html</p> |

This report is submitted by:

Steve McCall - ICEVI Europe representative of the English speaking region



Report from French speaking countries by Nathalie Lewi-Dumont

Region: French speaking

Period: 2018

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | <p>Belgium:</p> <p>April, 28th: Brussels. Conference: ICT and learning. Presentation of the digital Library NUMABIB https://www.numabib.be</p> <p>The platform has been open on April for the children with reading disabilities</p> <p>April, 26-28th. Namur. Salon Autonomies</p> <p>June, 4th: Brussels. Conference IRSA upon Erasmus + project "Cerebral visual impairment" - http://www.cvipproject.eu/</p> <p>From Sept 9th: Louvain. Université Catholique de Louvain - Institut Royal pour Sourds et Aveugles (UCL/IRSA). Training on sensorial loss upon children and youngsters</p> <p>October, 1st and 2nd: Sommet mondial du tourisme accessible (2nd world congress of accessible tourism);</p> <p>Oct., 18-20, Brussels: BrailleTech 2018 (technical aids exhibition)</p> <p>November 27th: Ligue Braille, Brussels: Press conference: results of a survey on employment for people with VI https://www.braille.be/fr/a-propos-de-nous/actualites/2018/11/emploi-encore-trop-de-freins-pour-les-personnes-aveugles-ou-malvoyantes</p> <p>France:</p> <p>April, 3rd, Besançon: « Digital tools, disability and access to learning: the case of students with visual impairment ». Meeting of Young Researchers in Computer Environments for Human Learning</p> <p>May 5- to 8th: Paris. Internal Congress of ophthalmologists</p> <p>May 7th : Ariba Conference : "Impact of aging on cognitive abilities of people with VI"</p> <p>May, 16-17th Paris. Conference :« Motherhood, parenthood and visual impairment ».</p> <p>June 1st: Musicora Paris. Grande Halle de Villette: "Teaching music to people with disabilities"</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| | <p>https://www.musicora.com/fr/enseigner-la-musique-aux-personnes-en-situation-de-handicap</p> <p>June 12-14th: Paris. Salon Autonomic.</p> <p>June, 13-15th: Paris. 19th handicap Conference</p> <p>June, 22-23. Bordeaux. Visual assessment of children (0-6)</p> <p>June 26-27: Saint Mandé. Fisaf: Accessibility and disabilities: for a better work together (users, public authority, service providers)</p> <p>10 au 30 Septembre 2018 (association Valentin Haüy) Lyon, Lille et Paris. Festival audiovision</p> <p>October 11_12th: GPEAA. Paris. Inja. "You adapt, I adapt"</p> <p>November, 9-10 Ariba Autumn conference "Visual perception and inclusion"</p> <p>October 18-19th. Paris. International insight on inclusive education</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjcV9PGUII75u4GnCr8MM-jxD2cbKjbRi</p> <p>October, 12-13: FAF. Paris. Language, prereading, representations.</p> <p>https://www.aveuglesdefrance.org/actualites/prelecture-langage-et-representations-2018</p> <p>November 15th: Toulouse. Learning, visual impairment and digital access: points of view from researchers and professionals</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxwo0cce2oI</p> <p>21-23 November. Paris. Fisaf Conference: "Learning and cognition,: the contributions of fundamental research and applied research in the field of sensory impairments and language and learning disabilities"</p> <p>November, 22nd. Paris. "From yesterday to tomorrow. Libraries and users prevented from reading: what access for people with disabilities or at the hospital?"</p> <p>-</p> |
| Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | France: Légion d'honneur Nathalie Lewi-Dumont (July 14 th) asked by the Minister of Education as an "expert on the education of blind and partially sighted students". |
| Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the | Switzerland: Publication of "The eyes of Bianca", book + educational kit to educate the children in the class of student with a VI |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|---|---|
| viewers of ICEVI website | https://editionslep.ch/les-yeux-de-bianca France: Report on the national Institutes for the Blind and for the deaf. ("Scénarios d'évolution des instituts pour les jeunes sourds et les jeunes aveugles" http://www.igas.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2017-069R.pdf |
| Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | January 17th, Lyon: Braillet: National meeting about accessible digital books https://www.braillet.org/rencontres-nationales-livre-numerique-accessible/ February, 8 th : Suresnes, INSHEA. With INJA and ICEVI Europe. "Visual Impairment and Inclusive education: what's new?" April, 16-18 th . Suresnes, INSHEA ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Group: "What is good, can always be better; wondering how to improve the mathematical performances of blind students?" |
| Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | Belgium: European project: "Cerebral visual impairment" - http://www.cvipproject.eu/ Laws increasing inclusion of students with SEN and support. 07/12/2017 https://www.gallilex.cfwb.be/document/pdf/44807_000.pdf 19/09/2018 http://enseignement.be/index.php?page=26823&do_id=7075 Switzerland: - Development of an accessible digital educational library. Fondation Asile des Aveugles (FAA), Lausanne. - Computer skills curriculum for inclusive school, FAA, Lausanne. - Creation within the FAA of "Portails". Plateforme pour l'orientation, la recherche de travail et le développement d'apprentissages intégrés liés au domaine de la santé visuelle (Platform for orientation, job seeking and development of integrated learning related to the field of visual health). France: Beginning of a research about reading and writing in contracted Braille and Braille grade 1 and uses of reading for adults and youngsters. 4 Phd thesis in preparation in the field of students with VI: |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| | <p>INSHEA (education): Mathieu Gaborit: L'inclusion des collégiens déficients visuels: l'impact des aides techniques sur les interactions d'aide (inclusion of middle school students with VI: impact of technical aids on help interactions)</p> <p>Florence Janin: Analyse des interactions enseignant-élève lors de la guidance de lecture d'images tactiles (Teacher-student interactions analysis while guiding tactile pictures reading)</p> <p>University of Toulouse (psychology):</p> <p>Laetitia Castellan: Improving accessibility of digital textbooks for students with VI</p> <p>Carolane Mascle: Interactive pictures in the books for children with VI</p> |

This report is submitted by Nathalie Lewi-Dumont, Juliette Boudru and Lucien Panchaud

Date: February, 11, 2019



Report from the South European countries by Ana Isabel Ruiz López

Region: Southern European Countries -Spain
Period: 2018

We haven't got any response from any of the contact persons in our region. We can only answer for Spain.

| Area of Reference | Description |
|--|---|
| Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | SPAIN: Not any regional or sub regional meetings |
| Global campaign activities, if any | SPAIN: none |
| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | SPAIN: none |
| Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | SPAIN: none |
| ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | SPAIN: none |
| Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | SPAIN: none |
| Human interest stories from the region as a result of ICEVI initiatives | SPAIN: none |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|---|---|
| Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | SPAIN: The <i>Spanish journal</i> on blindness and visual impairment. |
| Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | SPAIN: none |
| Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | SPAIN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language improvement camps (English), CRE of the ONCE in Pontevedra. 4 Italian and 1 Portuguese student. - Exchange between ONCE and the NCBI of Dublin, Ireland. Total participants: 20 (11 Spanish students and 9 Irish students) - Participants in different exchange programs: 9 Irish, 11 French and 24 English students - Participation in the ONCE Physiotherapy University School Course 2018/19: DEGREE IN PHYSIOTHERAPY: 2 Students from Portugal MASTER'S DEGREE IN PHYSIOTHERAPY OF THE MUSCULO-SKELETAL SYSTEM: 1 International student |

This report is submitted by Ana Isabel Ruiz López and Elena Gastón
Date: January 31, 2019



Report from the German and Dutch speaking countries by Kathleen Vandermaelen

Region: German and Dutch speaking region

Period: 2018

| Area of Reference | Description |
|---|---|
| Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | Belgium On 28th of September Eliane Bonamie retired. She is a pioneer in early intervention. She has a lot of competences and a big heart for children and youngsters with a visual impairment and their families, an engaged professional far beyond our service centre. She has been the ICEVI-Europe National Representative of Dutch speaking Belgium for many years. We thank Eliane for her years of dedication and excellent work for ICEVI-Europe and welcome Stefanie Van Passen who will replace Eliane as the new ICEVI-Europe National Representative of Belgium (Dutch speaking) |
| Global campaign activities, if any | Luxembourg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sensitization of different professional groups in Luxembourg - regular school teachers - SEN people participating in national elections (tactile voting cards) Austria Austrian workshop in April 2018 with the financial support of VBSÖ |
| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | Luxembourg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops for primary teachers - Workshops for specialized teachers - Lots of different trainings (ICVI, Basics of the education of SEN people, I-Pad use for specialized teachers, ...) Austria Austrian workshop in April 2018 with the financial support of VBSÖ Belgium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher training weeks in October in Centrum Ganspoel |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intervision and joint workshops from Spermalie and Visio (Rotterdam) about Braille didactics and tactile profile - Preventive projects about social and emotional development |
| Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | <p>Austria Meeting on a private base with organizations in India with the help of the ICEVI south east president Bhushan Punani. Thanks to him. We met people, saw their problems and their big commitment.</p> |
| Human interest stories from the region as a result of ICEVI initiatives | <p>Austria Meeting with Sabrye Tenberken, a German blind very initiative person in Kerala, India. She founded the education system in Tibet and helped a lot of persons with blindness to a good life and many of them became entrepreneurs.</p> |
| Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | <p>Luxembourg New publications can be found on the following website www.wiki.idv.lu</p> <p>Belgium Manual 'Get the feel': "A survey of suitable materials and working methods for comprehensive sexuality education for children, youngsters and young adults with visual impairment" For more information: accent@de-kade.be</p> |
| Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | <p>Austria Planning of a big conference from VBS with collaboration of ICEVI in Marburg, Germany August 2020</p> <p>Luxembourg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grundlagen der Blinden- und Sehbehindertenpädagogik - Formation sur les troubles neurovisuels - Jaws for specialized teachers (Introduction til perfection) <p>Sensitization on visual impairment for regular school teachers</p> |
| Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | <p>Luxembourg New laws on special education with new opportunities and additional missions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of the age range, now from 0-99 years - Early childhood promotion - Job guidance and adjustment of the workstation - Reeducation, diagnosis and support for all SEN people (0-99 years) |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| | Research: - 5 Erasmus projects, one being finalized in January 2019 - Output: www.opeye.eu |

This report is submitted by:

Kathleen Vandermaelen - ICEVI Europe representative of the German and Dutch speaking region

Gerti Jaritz - ICEVI Europe contact person - Austria

Frank Groben - ICEVI Europe contact person - Luxembourg

Stefanie Van Passen - ICEVI Europe contact person - Belgium



Report from East European countries by Vladimir Ruchin

Region: East European Countries

Period: 2018

| Area of Reference | Description |
|--|--|
| Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | <p>Russia -East European countries ICEVI Regional meeting. The meeting was held at the Saratov State Technical University and was devoted to the regional specifics of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. During the discussion, it was confirmed - the principle of integration involves dialogue between different systems of social order to ensure an accessible environment and reduce social inequality. -VIII ICEVI East European Conference «Accessible environment for people with disabilities». The aim of the conference is to search for technological and social means of rehabilitation and mitigation of barriers of inequality for people with visual impairments and other disabilities.</p> <p>Azerbaijan ICEVI members of the Azerbaijan took part in the discussion of the Program on Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities. This Program was included in the Development Concept "Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future", as well as in the "State Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan".</p> <p>Belarus Conference in Minsk «Psychology and Vision Impaired».</p> <p>Kazakhstan Astana hosted a conference on affordable environment. The main problem is the attitude of the state towards people with disabilities, which determines the degree of its civilization. The task is to improve the accessibility of infrastructure facilities for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Armenia</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|---|---|
| | <p>The representative of Armenia made a report at the VIII ICEVI East European Conference «Accessible environment for people with disabilities» with a detailed report on work with children with visual impairment.</p> <p>.</p> |
| Global campaign activities, if any | <p>Belarus International contacts with specialists in Vision Impaired problems: Dario Salerni (Italy) and George Dimitradopolos (Greece).</p> <p>Georgia Contacts with German specialists are growing, and contacts with the Swedish system of inclusive education are expanding. The volume of digitizing audio literature is growing.</p> <p>Armenia Collaboration continues with the Czech Republic on computer support for schools for visually impaired children.</p> |
| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | <p>Russia Festival for people with limited vision in Nizhny Novgorod in the framework of the social project “Learning to Inclusion”. This project is aimed at improving the conditions of inclusive higher and secondary vocational education for the visually impaired in Russia.</p> <p>Azerbaijan The “Program for the Development of Educational Organizations for Children with Disabilities” was launched in three pilot projects. These projects took place in 15 general education schools and 13 pre-school educational institutions. A total of 268 children with disabilities were involved.</p> <p>Belarus - Interaction together with Institute of Special Education of BSPU. Implementation the Belarusian speech synthesizes into the education process of Molodechno special school. - 15 students from Special School take part in the excursion to the planetarium of Belorussian State Pedagogical University, the students were informed about the rules of the admission to BSPU;</p> <p>Georgia</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|--|---|
| | The work on advising parents and children by specialists from a non-governmental organization representing ICEVI in Georgia is being improved. Such work contributes to the revitalization of schools for visually impaired children. |
| Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | Russia The WBU website posted information about the VIII ICEVI East European Conference, which attracted new participants, including those from other countries. |
| ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | Russia The Ministry of Science and Education of Russia together with ICEVI became a co-organizer of the conference. |
| Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | Russia ICEVI members who participated in the preparation of VIII ICEVI East European Conference were awarded prizes by the regional Ministries of Education and University management. |
| Human interest stories from the region as a result of ICEVI initiatives | Belarus -Activities together with Association of Parents of Vision Impaired children in Minsk. -Activities together with Association of Parents of Vision Impaired children in Minsk -Organize the special GSM system with oral navigation through the smartphone in the cell phone for the Vision Impaired in Brest region. Russia Significant role was played by non-governmental organizations, which during the VIII ICEVI East European Conference (in the evening and then after the end of the conference) provided assistance to people with disabilities: parents and children. Azerbaijan In the 2018 academic year, 17 specialized classes were opened in 8 schools with integrated education. In general, 889 children with disabilities in general education institutions were involved in education in specialized classes. |
| Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | Russia Preparation of the article in the newsletter on the results Of the VIII ICEVI East European Conference. |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|---|--|
| Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | Russia Planned joint project with the association RoboBraille (Denmark). The project involves services for people with limited vision for higher education organizations based on RoboBraille. |
| Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | Azerbaijan Order of the Ministry of Education on the creation of a working group for the preparation of issues related to the implementation of the state program of inclusive education for persons with disabilities, drafts of prepared documents, organizing discussions on the results of the research. |

This report is submitted by

Ruchin Vladimir representative of Eastern European countries (Russia)

Hajiyeva Malahat, national representative of ICEVI (Azerbaijan).

Makiashvili Mariam, national representative of ICEVI (Georgia).

Losik GV, national representative of ICEVI (Belarus).

Rakisheva Karlygash, national representative of ICEVI (Kazakhstan).

Ahoronyan Alexan, national representative of the ICEVI (Armenia).

Date 7.12.2018



Report from the Balkan countries by Andrea Hathazi

Region: Balkan Region

Period: 2018

| Area of Reference | Description |
|---|--|
| Global campaign activities, if any | Cyprus <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Web-accessibility directive 2. Ratification of Marrakesh Treaty 3. European Accessibility Act |
| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | Bulgaria <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International conference in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2018, on Multiple disabilities and deafblindness, whereas key speakers were invited prof. V. Argyropoulos, prof. A. Hathazi, prof. M. Tzvetkova-Arsova, D. Udovicic, as well as other western European professionals in this area. 2. National conference with international participation entitled “Scientific and practical aspects of Inclusive Education” organized for the jubilee of the Department of special education and speech therapy of Sofia University, held in October 2018 in Sofia – over 80 participants. Conference proceedings in Bulgarian language published as a hard copy. Croatia <p>During reporting period, Mali dom’s Education Center continued with various Education programs and in 2018 educated a total of 144 experts within following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and Therapeutic Procedures in the Activities of Feeding, Eating and Drinking for children with Developmental Disabilities – February 2018, 12 participants • Cerebral visual impairment in early infancy – April 2018, 16 participants. • Early Developmental Support – since September 2018 (9 modules, until May 2019), 12 participants • Low Vision Assessment and Rehabilitation – October – December 2018, 13 participants |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| | <p>In cooperation with PROPECTUS Association and International Save the Children organizations, the following training sessions were organized for the experts of the Centers for the Development of Inclusive Practices in Cazin and Bihac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of Art activities in Rehabilitation, Therapy and Integration – February 2018, 16 participants • Physiotherapeutic Assessment – March 2018, 14 participants • Course in Braille – June 2018, 15 participants • Systems of Alternative and Augmentative Communication – June 2018, 16 participants • Cerebral visual impairment in early infancy – June 2018, 18 participants <p>We also held three tailor – made programs for different institutions in Mali dom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating optimal support in Early Intervention – March 2018, for 4 experts from Crna Gora • Study visit and education for 5 experts from School Vladimir Nator from Sarajevo, May 2018 • Study visit and education for 3 experts from School Pod Goro from Slovenia, May 2018 <p>In 2017 together with UNICEF Croatia, Mali dom-Zagreb has developed the project "Strengthening Expertise for the Development of Early Interventional Program" for employees of Special hospital for children's chronic diseases Gornja Bistra. This year, with the support of Perkins International, Mali dom-Zagreb continued to co-operate with Special hospital Gornja Bistra with the aim of further strengthening the competencies of hospital staff.</p> <p>Therefore, from March to June 2018, a project called Development of Teams for Creating Individualized Support Programs has been implemented. The project encompassed 8 staff members of Special hospital, comprised in 2 interdisciplinary teams (nurse, caregiver, physiotherapist and physician). Each team in the education process was guided by their mentors through educational meetings in Special hospital Gornja Bistra as well as through mentoring program in Mali dom.</p> <p>A total of 16 educational sessions were held, with Functional assessment carried out for 12 children from the hospital, and 8 mentoring sessions within which</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| | <p>functional profiles were created as well as individual maps with plans for all 12 children.</p> <p>Center for Rehabilitation SILVER, Zagreb, Croatia</p> <p>STAR PROCESS – An Introduction to the STAR Frame of Reference. STAR Assessment and Treatment Model, Clinical Reasoning, November 29th-30th, 2018</p> <p>Center Silver marked the 10th anniversary and together with the Academy for Developmental Rehabilitation organized the 2-Day Workshop STAR PROCESS that was conducted by well-known international experts from the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder (USA) who are specialized in work with children and adults with sensory processing disorder. STAR PROCESS workshop – a model of work in sensory integration therapy will bring to the participants detailed insight into the work methods of experts from STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder, which includes comprehensive and clinical approach in SI therapy. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to gain the latest knowledge and scientifically based work methods in this field through the STAR Assessment and Treatment Model.</p> <p>The workshop was intended for all professionals who work with children with developmental difficulties and people with disabilities, and who have an interest to upgrade their knowledge – pediatricians, rehabilitation worker, psychologists, speech therapists, social workers, teachers, educators, pedagogues, physicians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, sensory integration therapists, nurses, students and all other interested persons.</p> <p>Workshop topics:</p> <p>Theoretical Assumptions Underlying the STAR PROCESS Treatment Model</p> <p>Regulation, Relationships and Sensory Processing</p> <p>Sensory Subtypes, thinking dimensionally about sensory processing challenges – video</p> <p>Research – the biological basis for sensory processing</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| | <p>challenges and treatment effectiveness Nested Environments and Sensory Processing Challenges Sensory Processing and ASD/ ADHD/Anxiety across the lifespan – videos Therapist Qualities, STAR PROCESS in action – videos</p> <p>Cyprus First Aid seminar for the staff of the St. Barnabas School, -Seminar on Ophthalmological innovation for the staff -Awareness raising for various public sector organization on dealing with the VI population (medical professionals etc.) -Seminars / workshops for parents on how to help their children with VI become independent -Study skills workshop for elementary school children with VI</p> <p>Greece</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity building programme: PrECIVIM (Promoting Effective Communication for Individuals with a Vision Impairment and Multiple Disabilities) was approved by the Erasmus+ Programme in relation to Key Action 2). 2018 is the second year of the project, University of Thessaly, Greece (Coordinator), Babes Bolyai University, Romania/Roehampton University, UK/Amimoni - Panhellenic Association of parents and friends of visually impaired people with additional handicaps, Greece/ Special School for the Deafblind, Greece/ Liceul Special pentru Deficienti de Vedere Cluj-Napoca, Romania/Whitefield Academy Trust, UK/ St Barnabas School for the Blind, Cyprus, and TRAPEZA PLIROFORION & PERIEHOMENOU A.E., Greece. 2. One-day conference entitled “Children with Sensory and Multiple Disabilities: Issues of Evaluation and Intervention”. Department of Special Education in collaboration with ELEPAP (Rehabilitation for The Disabled) 8/12/2018, University of Thessaly. 3. Workshop entitled "Procedures for detecting tactile behaviors through unstandardized tools for people with disabilities and multiple disabilities". <i>Seminar entitled "Children with Sensory and Multiple Disabilities: Issues of Evaluation and Intervention". Department of</i> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| | <p><i>Special Education in collaboration with ELEPAP 8/12/2018, University of Thessaly.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. One-day conference for the 25year celebration of AMIMONI. The title of the event was: "The state of blindness and multiple disabilities in Greece and Europe", 2nd of November, Goethe-Intsitut Athens 5. In-service workshop within the framework of the project PrECIVIM- Promoting Effective Communication for Individuals with a Vision Impairment and Multiple Disabilities. 28th of June, AMIMONI, 2018, Athens. 6. Seminars for World Deaf-Blind Week, 27th of June- 2rd of July 2018. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens- Annual Training Program in Special Education and Laboratory of Speech Therapy, Panhellenic Association of Deafblind- Parents of Deafblind Children "ILIOTROPIO". 7. 1st Festival entitled: "Reflection of Disability in Art» (R.o.Di.)", December 2018, organized by University of Macedonia (UoM), the Department of Educational and Social Policy (UoM) and the Department of Music Science and Art (UoM). <p>Romania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office for Students with Disabilities from Babeş-Bolyai University, in collaboration with the Association of Alternative Methods of Social Integration (AMAIIS) organized May the workshop about" SOUND & ECOLOCATION". At the workshop was attended students with and without visual impairment, and the main purpose was to present the methods of orientation and mobility of blind people by using sounds from the environment. Workshop exercises aimed at developing the issues regarding the identification of obstacles, objects, their position and identifying the features of shapes and textures, etc. • In May, the students from Babes-Bolyai University have participated to a presentation of the Office for Students with disabilities about the OrCam MyEye for the blind. The presentation was supported by Ms. Andreea Neagu and Ms. Cristina Vuşcan (ANJO Web Design). In this presentation the blind students along with their colleges have been able to experience facilities of OrCam MyEye and how this technology can contribute to increasing the degree of independence of movement and other activities of blind people. |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the occasion of the month of Helen Keller, the Department of Special Education and the Office for Students with Disabilities, in collaboration with Sense International Romania, organized an information campaign regarding deafblind people. The event also coincided with the award diploma for Prof. Vasile Adamescu, deafblind person. Prof. Vasile Adamescu he died in December. We thank for all the contribution. Vasile Adamescu was graduated at Babes-Bolyai University. The Special Education Department and the Office for Students with Disabilities from Babeş-Bolyai University in collaboration with the Traveling Book Foundation from Focsani, organized movies screenings with audio description in June and November. At the screenings were attended blind students and people without disabilities. The Special Education Department and the Office for Students with Disabilities from Babeş-Bolyai University in collaboration with the Traveling Book Foundation from Focsani, organized movies screenings with audio description in June and November. At the screenings were attended blind students and people without disabilities. In November, at the invitation of the Office for Students with Disabilities from Babeş-Bolyai University, Dr. Lars BALLIEU CHRISTENSEN (RoboBraille Inventor) and Ms. Tanja STEVENS (International RoboBraille Coordinator) from Sensus ApS Denmark they held the lecture "Empowering students with print disabilities in higher education" for the students of university. The main object of the lecture was to present the RoboBraille platform and new methods to create accessible materials for an inclusive education of students with visual impairment in the university. The events were organized in collaboration with The Special Education Department. On December 3, the Department of Special Education and the Office for Students with Disabilities organized the concert "Talent knows no limits!". The purpose of the concert was to mark the International day of people with disabilities and to promote people with disabilities in community and university. On the programs was students were blind and students with other disabilities from the special schools in Cluj-Napoca |
| Collaborative activities and | Cyprus |

| Area of Reference | Description |
|---|--|
| meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | Participation of members of the Pancyprrian Organization of the Blind to the conferences of the European Blind Union for low vision (Slovenia June 2018, Gender awareness Vienna November 2018). |
| ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | <p>Greece</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5th IASSIDD Europe Congress 2018. Diversity & Belonging: Celebrating difference, July 18 - 20, 2018, Athens, Greece 2. 7th ICEVI European Conference on Psychology and Visual Impairment, 1-2 November 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece <p>Romania</p> |
| Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region | <p>Bulgaria</p> <p>Prof. Vladimir Radoulov was given in 2018 the Badge of honor with blue ribbon of Sofia University – the highest honor for a professor in Sofia university.</p> <p>Cyprus</p> <p>Nomination by the European ~Blind Union of Maria Kyriacou for the Her Abilities award (honoring achievements of women with disabilities in the field of Health / Education)</p> |
| Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website | <p>Bulgaria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conference proceedings in Bulgarian language published as a hard copy of the national conference with international participation entitled “Scientific and practical aspects of Inclusive Education” organized for the jubilee of the Department of special education and speech therapy of Sofia University, held in October 2018 in Sofia. 2. Two issues of the national journal in Bulgarian language “Education and Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired”. <p>Greece</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Papadopoulos, K., Koustriava, E., & Koukourikos, P. (in print). Orientation & mobility aids for individuals with blindness: verbal description vs. audio-tactile map. Assistive Technology. doi: 10.1080/10400435.2017.1307879. 2. Papadopoulos, K., Barouti, M., & Koustriava, E. (2018). Differences in Spatial Knowledge of Individuals With Blindness When Using |

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| | <p>Audiotactile Maps, Using Tactile Maps, and Walking. <i>Exceptional Children</i>, 84(3), 330 –343.</p> <p>3. K. Miesenberger and G. Kouroupetroglou (Eds) "Computers Helping People with Special Needs-Part II", Proceedings of the 16th International Conference, ICCHP 2018, Linz, Austria, July 11-13, 2018. Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) vol. 10897, part of the 'Information Systems and Applications including Internet/Web and HCI' book sub series (LNISA). ISBN 978-3-319-94273-5, DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-94274-2 (568 pages)</p> <p>4. K. Miesenberger and G. Kouroupetroglou (Eds) "Computers Helping People with Special Needs-Part I", Proceedings of the 16th International Conference, ICCHP 2018, Linz, Austria, July 11-13, 2018, Proceedings. Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) vol. 10896, part of the 'Information Systems and Applications including Internet/Web and HCI' book sub series (LNISA). ISBN 978-3-319-94276-6, DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-94277-3 (654 pages).</p> <p>5. Papazafiri, M. & Argyropoulos, V. (2018). Assistive technology and special education teachers: The case of students with multiple disabilities and vision impairment. <i>Proceedings of EDULEARN18 Conference</i>, 2nd- 4th July 2018, Palma, Mallorca, Spain, 5485- 5492.</p> <p>6. Argyropoulos, V., Paveli, A. & Nikolaraizi, M. (2018). The role of DAISY digital talking books in the education of individuals with blindness: A pilot study. <i>Education and Information Technologies</i>, 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-018-9795-2</p> |
| Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | <p>Bulgaria In October 2018 in Sofia the 7th ICEVI Balkan conference will be held. The Scientific Committee includes: prof. Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova- chair, prof. Andrea Hathazi, prof. Vassilis Argyropoulos, prof. Daniela Dimitrova, prof. Emine Aiyldiz, prof. Aleksandra Grbovic, Mrs.Darija Udovicic. Chair of the local organizing committee: prof. Vladimir Radoulov.</p> |
| Any other information such as research, | <p>Croatia A meeting was held in Zagreb at the Croatian Standards Institute on 13.12.2016.</p> |

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| best practices, etc., from the region | <p>The Director Centra Silver dr. Sc. Marijan Alfonzo Sesar was elected President of the European Committee CEN / TC 452 'Assistance Dog & Guide Dog Teams' Standards and Instructor Competences'. It is important to point out that Croatia for the first time since its independence has become the host for the creation of a European standard, so we are particularly pleased that this is a norm in the field of action dog helper. It is important to note that the creation of norms from that area at Central The European standardization body in the Brussels standard becomes mandatory in the EU for members of CEN.</p> <p>Cyprus Teachers of the St. Barnabas School participated in the Erasmus Plus KA 1 mobility, Job shadowing. Three colleagues visited for one week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Royal VISIO The Netherlands - Valteri Centre in Finland -School for the Blind "Helios" Thessaloniki Greece <p>The St. Barnabas School is a partner at the Erasmus Plus PrECIVIM project. On November 8 – 11, 2018 the School hosted the 3rd transnational partner meeting. Adults participating in the adult training programme of the School participated in a number of cultural and sports activities such as marathons, cycling events (with tandem bikes).</p> |

This report is submitted by

Assoc.Prof.Dr Andrea Hathazi – ICEVI Europe Balkan representative

Research Assistant Dr. Marian Padure, Romania

Prof. Dsc Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova – ICEVI Europe contact person -Bulgaria

Darja Roberta Mlć, Tatjana Ličina, Marijana Konkoli Zdešić - ICEVI Europe contact person – Croatia

Maria Kyriacou – ICEVI Europe contact person - Cyprus

Assoc.Prof.Dr.Vassilis Argyropoulos – ICEVI Europe contact person - Greece

Date. 15.01.2019



Report from the Central European countries by Beata Pronay

Region: Central Europe region

Period: 2018

| Area of Reference | Description |
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| Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any | <p>Czech Republic National representative wrote: I have no information, who is member of ICEVI in our country, so I send all news to all schools, resource centres, universities, no individual contacts</p> <p>Slovenia TIFLO section, a section within Association of Special Pedagogues of Slovenia, which is a group member of ICEVI and assembles professionals working in the field of education for children and young people with visual impairment, successfully continued its mission in 2018 playing an important role in providing new knowledge and information for the professionals in the field. There were two meetings in 2018: in June and August. The first one dealing with Daisy format of books and the second one setting some guidelines for printing enlarged materials for the partially sighted pupils and students. There are also four commissions working under the umbrella of TIFLO section. The section was active within the umbrella association on different levels as well.</p> |
| Global campaign activities, if any | <p>Slovenia Active participation in several international projects and preparing new applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opeye (Open and portable software library for rapid eye tracking) Erasmus+, KA2 Erasmus+ project, coordinated by Institut pour Déficients Visuels from Luxembourg continued its work in 2018. They are in the final year of the project and |

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| | <p>in November, a project meeting was held in Ljubljana.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SMILE! A new Erasmus+ KA1 project started in autumn 2018 with the first training event taking place in Belfast, at Jordanstown school, in November. A team from The Centre IRIS actively participated. The project deals with socialisation issues of children and young people with visual impairment. The plan is to upgrade it into KA2 project with up to 10 partner organisations from different European countries in 2019 as socialisation is considered a vital competency within extended curriculum for successful inclusion in the labour market and society in general of the target group. |
| Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period | <p>Czech Republic Our professionals attended ECPVI in Thessaloniki 4 people Early intervention EDA had poster presentation about crisis intervention in families with visually and multiply impaired children</p> <p>Hungary <u>School for the Blind: Erasmus + projects:</u> I EXPRESS I. project: January 2018, Budapest (dissemination meeting). I EXPRESS II.: March 2018 submission of the KA2 application for the continuation of the collaboration coordinated by V ISIO from the Netherlands. SMILE project: February 2018 submission of the KA1 project (grant received.). Hungarian Association for the Blind was celebrating its 100 years anniversary. During the centenary year several events were held. Beside other important events to mention some examples are: the Braille-books library was renewed and renamed, there were 100 new volumes introduced to the members. An application helps people to access the talking library since November 2018. A new project called “TeleEye” started its services mostly for blind individuals. The project gave 800 cell phones to potential testers. The test period runs for 8 months and help is available for 24 hours in any subject e.g. reading up labels when shopping etc. during this period.</p> <p>Poland “The darkness lab” – series of workshops conducted in Warsaw, raising awareness of challenges connected with visual impairment. Workshops provider: PZN (Polish Association of the Blind) <u>September 2018</u> New trends in mobility and orientation instruction” – seminar organized in Warsaw</p> |

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| | <p>by FIRR Fundacja Instytut Rozwoju Regionalnego) and UTILITIA – for 45 O&M instructors.</p> <p>Centrum Rozwoju Inicjatyw Społecznych CRIS (Civil Initiatives Development Center) based in Rybnik, Upper Silesia. A series of workshops raising understanding of visual impairment. Addressees of the workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - schools, employees of fiscal offices, doctors and nurses from local hospitals - clergy (“Disabled person in the church”) - police, public prosecutors and administrative staff of public prosecutor departments of the Silesia region about communicating with disabled victims, witnesses and accused. As an outcome of this project 26 recommendations were made for institutions participating in this project which will facilitate communication between jurisdiction and persons with disabilities including those with blindness. They have been sent to politicians and to the commissioner for human rights. <p><u>October 2018 “REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND “.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Conference and Exhibition. <p>A very important event, organized annually by the Chance for the Blind Foundation. It is the biggest event of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe and has earned the status of a world- wide event. The exhibition and accompanying conference attract the attention not only of persons with a visual impairment but also of professionals and persons who want to know more about the latest technology developed for overcoming the challenges caused by blindness. Each year “REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND” gathers several thousand visitors from different, sometimes very distant countries.</p> <p>“Eye Care Conference”- Warsaw</p> <p>“A Classroom without a blackboard” – a permanent exhibition accompanied by workshops for sighted children building a positive image of persons with a visual impairment. Provider: KUL CAN (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin Centre for Promoting activeness of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>Marek B. (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin) “The Hungry Fingers Way to Tactile Graphics. Simple tools for Explaining Complex problem”. A series of workshops for children with a visual impairment and training for teachers in introducing raised line drawings offered in twelve VI centres in</p> |
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| | <p>Australia and at Jyothi Seva Home for Blind Children in Bangalore (India)</p> <p>Marek B., Szubielska M., Niestorowicz E.</p> <p>“Congenitally blind children drawing for the first time: Lessons for practitioners and researchers” Paper presented at Round Table on Information Access for Persons with Print Disability. Sydney 5-8 May 2018.</p> <p>Marek B. “Developing skills for confident use of tactile drawings, diagrams and maps”. Paper presented at Round Table on Information access for Persons with Print Disability. Sydney 5-8 May 2018</p> <p>TO BYM DAŁA DO PUBLIKACJI</p> <p>Slovakia</p> <p>1. 3rd International RoboBraille conference: 23. - 24. October 2018, Bratislava.</p> <p>The conference was aimed at sharing good practice with the application and use of the RoboBraille system (both the recognition of documents and the RoboBraille library). Conference participants were from several European countries = Romania, UK, Czech Republic, Hungary.</p> <p>2. 7th conference on accessing culture by blind and partially sighted - the importance of Braille in the 21st century and its perspective. 24. - 25. October 2018, Bratislava.</p> <p>This conference was oriented mainly at various usage of the Braille - at education, in museums and in the library. Speakers mostly from Slovakia and the Czech Republic presented their perspectives on Braille alphabet and Braille literacy. The conference spectatorship was made-up from professionals representing organizations of visually impaired, cultural and educational institutions promoting inclusive teaching / access to culture.</p> <p>Slovenia</p> <p>Most children and young people with visual impairment are being educated in inclusive forms of education, therefore we still consider empowering professionals in mainstream schools our primary task. The Centre IRIS – Centre for Education, Rehabilitation, Inclusion and Counselling for the Blind and Partially Sighted, as a partner in the national project, delivers programmes in different forms e.g. one or several-day courses, workshops either at the Centre or at schools/pre-schools where VI/MDVI children are educated, which have been well accepted and the system of counselling, tailored to the needs of schools, is more and more established in the system.</p> |
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| | <p>- The annual two-day conference of Association of Special Education Teachers of Slovenia entitled, The meaning of social inclusion of SEN children, young people and adults was held in March in Portorož with active participation of our members.</p> |
| Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level | <p>Hungary ENVITER board meeting: January 2018, Budapest School for the Blind “Blue Sky” meeting: planning the future projects under the ENVITER umbrella, June 2018, Budapest School for the Blind (4 colleagues participated).</p> <p>Poland Participation of Polish delegates in the third meeting of the „Beyond Barriers and Borders” project in Vienna. Project involving Poland, Belgium and Austria financed by Erasmus. Duration of project: 2017 – 2018 FIRR (Fundacja Instytut Rozwoju Regionalnego) “Echolocation for persons with a visual impairment” – an Erasmus strategic project in partnership with Denmark and Lithuania FIRR (Fundacja Instytut Rozwoju Regionalnego) “Applications and Web Content Accessibility Training” AWCAT- an Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnership project involving Austria, Bulgaria and Poland. Project aiming at developing a blended learning course for students of computer science and informatics with a view to improving accessibility of digital media to persons with a visual impairment in Europe.</p> <p>Slovenia There are four commissions working under the umbrella of TIFLO section where experts from universities, people from the Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Slovenia representing the interested public, and professionals working in the field of education join their efforts to solve important questions that arise.</p> |
| ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region | <p>Hungary LÁRESZ is collaborating with FSZK (Equal Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities Non-profit Ltd) through FSZK its close connection with the Ministry of Human Resources. As an umbrella association LÁRESZ is also cooperating with many NGOs and governmental organizations working for the rehabilitation and support of VI individuals.</p> <p>Poland (1) June 2018 (2) Participation of Polish delegates in „Low Vision” conference organized by FBU of Slovenia. Conference devoted to exchange of good practice</p> |

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| | <p>and raising standards of support for persons with low vision.</p> <p>(3) June 2018</p> <p>(4) Wrocław - Seminar on cataract with exhibition of optical aids</p> <p>(5) July 2018</p> <p>PZN (Polish Association of the Blind) Consultations for Warsaw Public Transport Office. Evaluation of accessibility of new models of buses and trams</p> <p>July 2018</p> <p>Work on Government Bill on accessible websites and mobile applications (Participants included several NGOs, among others PZN (Polish Association of the Blind), FIRR (Fundacja Instytut Rozwoju Regionalnego), CRIS (Civil Initiatives Development Centre)</p> <p>September 2018</p> <p>„To see rehabilitation of persons with a visual impairment” Conference organized by the Parliament of the Republic of Poland</p> <p>“Accessibility plus” 2018 - 2025 – implementation of Government programme focusing on accessibility in the following areas: architecture, digital, education and health.</p> <p>Continuation of the “Active Warsaw” project (started in 2016). Aim: support for families of persons with a visual impairment.</p> <p>October 2018 ‘Active Graduate’ – project supporting active presence on the job market of college and university graduates with a visual impairment. Start of project:</p> <p>Slovenia</p> <p>Ongoing national projects at the Centre IRIS, especially the first two importantly supporting inclusive education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Z roko v roki poMOČ” – providing professional development and counselling for mainstream teachers. - A four-year national project of implementing Centres of expertise for different areas of SEN children and financed partially by European structural and investment funds. The Centre IRIS is acting as the Centre of expertise for the fields of visual impairment and specific learning difficulties. <p>In this way inclusive forms of education are supported on one side by providing knowledge for the professionals and on the other by supporting all partners in the process: children or young people, their families and mainstream (pre)schools.</p> |
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| | <p>A project encouraging social inclusion of the target group in the local environment: within its different modules opens new possibilities for young people with VI/MDVI entering the labour market e.g. providing qualifications for masseurs, creating post in a hostel, etc. Thus, it creates a link between education and labour market and empowers young people with VI for better quality of life</p> |
| <p>Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region</p> | <p>Hungary Ms. Ágnes Somorjai (director of the School for the Blind) was nominated and appointed to be the ENVITER coordinator.</p> <p>Poland (6) Each year the Chance for the Blind Foundation rewards individuals and institutions supporting the blind and visually impaired. In 2018, The Maria Grzegorzewska University of Special Education won the first prize "IDOL" in the category of a friendly university for the blind.</p> <p>Slovenia Within Association of Special Pedagogues of Slovenia three awards were given to our members in 2018. Anja Pečaver and Gašper Tanšek are teachers of physical education, promoting PE for VI/MDVI children and young people in mainstream schools, they are active members in different projects and responsible that children and young people with visual impairment participate in national and international sport events. Tanja Tajnikar has been working for several years as itinerant teacher, introducing new practices into her work.</p> |
| <p>Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website</p> | <p>Czech Republic New brochure for parents of visually impaired children published by EDA. cz, topic is CVI at preschool and school age</p> <p>Poland Szubielska, M. "People with sight impairment in the world of visual arts: does it make any sense?" Open access article: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09687599.2018.1480261 Szubielska, M., Zabielska-Mendyk, E. (2018). Mental rotation of figures explored by touch: a study of congenitally blind and sighted individuals. Roczniki Psychologiczne / Annals of Psychology, 21(1), 35-51. doi: 10.18290/rpsych.2018.21.1-3. https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=699903 Szubielska, M., Zabielska-Mendyk, E. (2018). Memorizing 2D tactile right-angle-shapes by congenitally blind and sighted adults. Studia</p> |

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| | <p>Psychologica, 60(3), 137-149. doi: 10.21909/sp.2018.03.758 http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.element.cejsh-d6686d10-778e-40c5-bee7-5451778b9ecd Treger A., Treger B. (2018). Special Education Vocabulary In use. Poltext Sp.z o.o. www.potext.pl PZN (Polish Association of the Blind): Publication of periodicals in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic). Monthly magazines: For children: "Promyczek", "Światelko", "Hello English" For adults: „Pochodnia”, "Biuletyn informacyjny 'Pochodni'" For parents of children with a visual impairment: Quarterly „Our children"</p> |
| Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months | <p>Czech Republic Meeting of Association of Low vision therapist in February 2019 Hungary School for the Blind: visiting a new potential ENVITER member in Turin, Italy in January 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMILE project meeting: February 2019 in Prague, the Czech Republic • MDVI Euronet meeting: March 2019 in Ljubljana, Slovenia • Blue Sky meeting: May 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark • visiting some schools in Romania, spring, 2019 with the leadership – under planning phase <p>(7) 9-12 May 2019 International Symposium on Physical Activity and Individuals with Visual Impairments or Deafblindness, University of Edinburgh and: The Scottish Sensory Centre Edinburgh, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 11th May Keynote with Judit Gombas, PhD, Hungary <p>31st May-1st June 1st Rehabilitation Conference: Expanding Independence in All Ages, LÁRESZ Association, Budapest, MOHA Ház, Hungary Poland 27 – 28 February 4th Forum of Heads of University and College Offices for Students with Disabilities. Organizer: BON (Office for students with disabilities) at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań and "Ad Astra" (students with a disability circle) Slovenia The Centre IRIS – Centre for Education, Rehabilitation, Inclusion and Counselling for the Blind and Partially Sighted, (ex Institute for the Blind and</p> |

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| | <p>Partially Sighted Children Ljubljana) is celebrating 100th anniversary.</p> <p>Different events will be held in 2019 to name a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An international conference covering all main aspects of education of children and young people with visual impairment such as holistic approach in education, lifelong learning of the target group and socialization issues. (16th and 17th May) - International Sports Games (31st May - 3rd June) - MDVI Euronet meeting of the steering group (29th and 30th May) - A formal event in honour of 100th anniversary (19th September) <p>The beginning of 2019 is important as some pieces of legislation are being introduced having a major impact on lives of people with visual impairment of all ages to mention a few</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act Regulating the Integrated Early Treatment of Preschool Children with Special Needs - Act on Social Inclusion for People with Disability <p>Personal Assistance Act</p> |
| Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region | <p>Czech Republic</p> <p>Tactus competition in developing tactile books, activities of Association of parents and friends of blind and low vision children</p> <p>Hungary</p> <p>Dick Lunenburg (Bartimeus, the Netherlands) visited the School for the Blind and ELTE Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education in November and gave lectures on ICT usage and MDVI students. After closing its two important EU supported projects in 2015, the National Institute for Blind People is committed to maintain its new services for visually impaired people. Accordingly, the Institute is offering rehabilitation services with residential possibilities in Tata, basic rehabilitation services in different Hungarian countries and complex examination possibilities in its centre in Budapest. The Institute is also organizing further training programs for professionals in many different topics.</p> <p>LÁRESZ Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted survey about the needs of Hungarian VI individuals concerning rehabilitation in all age groups. • Published in electronic format the Hungarian translation of the book: Joseph Cutter: Independent Movement and Travel in Blind Children. The promotion model. Originally published in the Critical Concerns in Blindness |

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| | <p>series – by the Research Institute on Blindness Louisiana Tech Uni and IAP Publisher, USA</p> <p>Poland</p> <p>Opening of a new strabismus clinic in Wroclaw</p> <p>Szubielska, M. “The ability of mental majorization in people of different ages who are congenitally blind and sighted” – research project financed by the National Centre for Promotion of Science grant.</p> <p>(8) FIRR – Fundacja Instytut Rozwoju Regionalnego</p> <p>(9) “Pomocne oko” (“Helpful eye”) - Introduction of application for remote support of persons with a visual impairment. Sighted consultants offer on-line help in difficult everyday situations</p> <p>(10) “Echovis” – research programme implemented by two companies: Utilitia and Transition Technologies. Project aiming at creating a mobile application for developing the skill of echo location. „Touch the picture, hear the shape, feel the space” – project implemented at Special Needs Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities in Dąbrowa Górnicza. Project financed by the Ministry of Culture within the “Edukacja Kulturalna” programme.</p> <p>“Accessible culture” – project implemented by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage aiming at making visual art accessible for persons with a visual impairment. Meetings, seminars and exhibitions organized throughout the country.</p> <p>“Look at me” – a theatre performance involving blind actors directed by Adam Zijski. The Silesia Theatre performance received the main prize of the jury and Grand Prix of the audience at the 54th Kontrapunkt Theatre Festival 2018</p> <p>Slovenia</p> <p>Good cooperation of the Centre IRIS with organisations in the region and wider continues in various forms: cooperation of professionals, children and young people taking part in sport events or art camps, successful project applications, etc.</p> |
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This report was submitted by Beata Pronay from subregion Central European countries 03 02 2019 via the reports of the following national representatives: Marketa Skalicka, Czech Republic, Judit Gombás, Hungary; Grazyna Walczak and Bogusław Marek, Poland; Timea Hokova, Slovakia; Marija Jeraša, Slovenia;

4 Financial report 2018

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| <u>Balance</u> | <u>31-12-2017</u> |
| | 37,510.11 € |

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| Cash | 0 € |
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|--------------|--------------------|
| Total | 37,510.11 € |
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| <u>Profit and loss</u> | <u>31/12/2018</u> |
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Income

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Membership Contributions | 8,670.00 € |
|--------------------------|------------|

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| Donations | 1,000.00 € |
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| Project Work | 3,218.73 € |
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| Total Income | 12,888.73 € |
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Expenditure

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| Administration Costs | 9,300.00 € |
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| Bank fees | 188.03 € |
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| Travel and Accommodation | 933.11 € |
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| Total Expenditure | 10,421.14 € |
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| RESULT | 2, 467.59 € |
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| Balance as per 31.12.2018 | 39,977.70 € |
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5 Estimate 2019

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| <u>Balance</u> | <u>31-12-2018</u> |
| | 39,977 € |
| Cash | 0 € |
| Total | 39,977 € |
| <u>Profit and loss</u> | <u>31-12-2019</u> |
| Income | |
| Membership Contributions | 10,100 € |
| Donations | 4,200 € |
| Total Income | 14,300 € |
| Expenditure | |
| Administration Expenses | 8,000 € |
| Bank fees | 250 € |
| Travel and Accommodation | 2,400 € |
| Project Expenditure | 4,000 € |
| Total Expenditure | 14,650 € |
| RESULT | (350 €) |
| Balance as per 31.12.2019 | 39,627 € |

6 Looking to the future

The character of an association is that the members determine the content and the course of the association. This also applies to an association like ICEVI-Europe. The spread of members across Europe and Israel is an extra challenge to indicate content here. This is an important focus for the board but at the same time for the members themselves. They can take also initiatives to activities.

Fortunately, the number of members grows and the board is also able to support some activities to some extent financially. This is currently the case for the professional interest groups.

The promotion of European networks of professionals in addition to regional conferences is of great importance. The motto is share your experiences and learn from each other. Learn to find each other if you have questions.

This year and perhaps also in 2020, there will be professional interest group conferences. At the European Conference in 2021, the opportunity was also given to follow up on this.

As we approach two and a half years before our milestone conference- the 10th European Conference of ICEVI-Europe- takes place, the board looks forward to working closely with the Israeli Host Committee in order to lay the foundation for a successful conference, giving shape and structure to it. It is the board's sincere hope that all members, supporters, fellow colleagues and stakeholders join us as conference participants at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel on August 8-12, 2021 (with August 13 -14, 2021 as Optional days for excursions) to festively celebrate our milestone conference. Save the Date and follow the news on the ICEVI-Europe website!

7 Members of the Board as of December 31st 2018

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Mr. Hans Welling, <i>President</i> wellingja@yahoo.com</p> |  |
| <p>Mrs. Andrea Hathazi, <i>Vice-President representing the Balkan countries</i> ahathazi@yahoo.com</p> |  |
| <p>Mr. Steve McCall, <i>Treasurer representing the English speaking countries</i> s.mccall@bham.ac.uk</p> |  |
| <p>Mrs. Kathleen Vandermaelen, <i>Secretary representing the German and Dutch speaking countries</i> kathleen.vandermaele@ganspoel.be</p> |  |
| <p>Mrs. Nathalie Lewi-Dumont, <i>representing the French speaking countries</i> nathalielewi@gmail.com</p> |  |
| <p>Mrs. Anne Kristine Grosbøll <i>representing the Baltic and Nordic countries</i> AKG@ibos.kk.dk</p> |  |
| <p>Mrs. Beata Pronay, <i>representing the Central European countries</i> pronaybea@gmail.com</p> |  |
| <p>Mrs. Ana Isabel Ruiz López <i>representing the South European countries</i> airl@once.es</p> |  |









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| Mr. Vladimir Ruchin <i>representing the East European countries</i> r-vl@yandex.ru |  |
| Mr. Francis Boé Advisor of ICEVI-Europe to GPEAA francis.boe@free.fr |  |
| Mrs. Darija Udovicic Mahmuljin Advisor of ICEVI-Europe Darija.Udovicic@Perkins.org |  |
| Mrs. Betty Leotsakou † Immediate Past President <i>July 2013- January 6, 2017</i> |  |







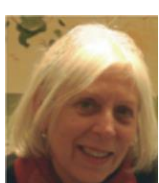
Martha Gyftakos
 Executive Assistant to the Presidency of ICEVI-Europe
mgyftakos@yahoo.com

8 ICEVI REGIONS of Europe

Baltic and Nordic Countries


| | |
|---|---|
| Denmark Mrs Dorthe Marie Degn , ab8e@sof.kk.dk |  |
| Estonia Mrs Monica Lõvi , monica.lovi@tek.tartu.ee |  |
| Finland Mrs Päivi Toikkanen , paivi.toikkanen@valteri.fi |  |
| Iceland Mr Benjamín Júlíusson , benjamin.juliusson@midstod.is |  |
| Latvia Mrs Ligita Geida , ligitageida@inbox.lv |  |
| Lithuania Mrs Grita Strankauskiene , grita.stran@gmail.com |  |
| Norway Mrs Beate Heide , beate.heide@statped.no |  |
| Sweden Mr Anders Rönnbäck , anders.ronnback@spsm.se |  |

English speaking Countries






| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Ireland Mrs Audrey Farrelly AudreyFarrelly@childvision.ie</p> |  |
| <p>United Kingdom, Wales Mrs Sarah Hughes qtvisarah@gmail.com</p> |  |
| <p>United Kingdom, England Mr Rory Cobb rorycobb.view@gmail.com</p> |  |
| <p>United Kingdom, Scotland Mr John Ravenscroft John.Ravenscroft@ed.ac.uk</p> |  |
| <p>Israel Mrs Nurit Neustadt-Noy nuritnoy@gmail.com</p> |  |

French speaking Countries








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|---|---|
| <p>Belgium Mrs Juliette Boudru, triangle.bruxelles@gmail.com</p> |  |
| <p>France Mr Francis Boé, francis.boe@free.fr</p> |  |
| <p>France Mrs Marie Renée Hector, mrhector@noos.fr</p> |  |

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|--|---|
| France Mrs Michelle Collat (French speaking) , michele.collat@orange.fr | |
| Switzerland Mr Lucien Panchaud cphv@fa2.ch |  |



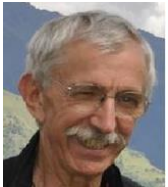


South European Countries

| | |
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| Italy Mrs Maria Mencarini , mencarinimaria@gmail.com copy to archivio@irifor.eu |  |
| Italy vacancy | |
| Portugal vacancy | |
| Spain Mrs Elena Gastón López , egl@once.es |  |
| Spain Mrs Ana Isabel Ruiz López , airl@once.es |  |
| Andorra Mrs Mariona Carbonell del Castillo , mariona.carbonell@gmail.com , school: eensm@andorra.ad |  |
| Malta Mr Francis Turchett socblindmalta@gmail.com |  |
| Monaco vacancy | |
| San Marino vacancy | |



German and Dutch speaking Countries



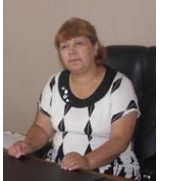


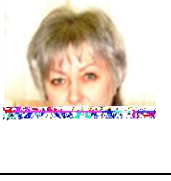
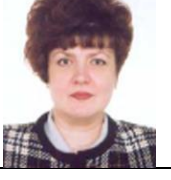

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| Austria Mrs Gertrude Jaritz , gerti.jaritz@hotmail.com |  |
| Belgium Mrs Eliane Bonamie , Eliane.bonamie@de-kade.be |  |
| Germany Mrs Elke Wagner , wagnerluke@aol.com |  |
| Germany vacancy | |
| Germany vacancy | |
| The Netherlands Mr Peter Verstraten , pverstraten@robertcoppes.nl |  |
| Switzerland Mr Christian Niederhauser , c.niederhauser@blindenschule.ch |  |
| Lichtenstein vacancy | |
| Luxembourg Mr Frank Groben , frank.groben@ediff.lu |  |
| South Tirol (Italy) Mrs Elisabeth Gitzl , info@blindenzentrum.bz.it |  |

Central European Countries







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| <p>Czech Republic Mrs Marketa Skalicka, marketa.skalicka@ranapece.eu</p> | |
| <p>Hungary Mrs Judit Gombas PhD, gombas.judit@barczy.elte.hu</p> |  |
| <p>Poland Mrs Graszyna Walczak, grawal20@wp.pl</p> |  |
| <p>Poland Mr Boguslaw 'Bob' MAREK, forblindkids@gmail.com, kulcan@kul.pl</p> |  |
| <p>Slovak Republic Ms Tímea Hóková, hokova@unss.sk</p> |  |
| <p>Slovenia Mrs Marija Jeraša, marija.jerasa@center-iris.si</p> |  |




East European Countries

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|---|---|
| <p>Armenia Mr Aleksan Aharonyan, specschoool14@yandex.ru</p> |  |
| <p>Azerbaijan Mrs Melahet Hacıyeva, melahet.haciyeva@gmail.com</p> |  |

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|---|---|
| Belarus Mr George Losik , georgelosik@yahoo.com |  |
| Georgia Mrs Mariam Mikiashvili , Mariam.miki@gmail.com |  |
| Kazakhstan Mrs Karlygash (Klara) Rakisheva , Klara_help@mail.ru |  |
| Moldova vacancy | |
| 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 , imna2002@gmail.com |  |
| Russia - Southern Federal District, North-Caucasian Federal District, Volga Federal District Mrs Irina Sumarokova , irasu@list.ru |  |
| Ukraine Mrs Evgeniya Synyova , ev_sineva@hotmail.com |  |
| Ukraine Mrs Vira Remazhevskaya , lewenia@hotmail.com |  |
| Tajikistan Mr Tengniev Kholmakhmad Ahmadovich , tbu-tajiknet@mail.ru |  |

Balkan Countries

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|--|---|
| Albania Mrs. Zhaneta Muca shvsh@shvsh.org.al | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Azur Kuduzović azurkuduz@gmail.com |  |
| Bulgaria Mrs. Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova miratz@abv.bg |  |
| Croatia Mrs Marijana Konkoli Zdesic , marijana@malidom.hr |  |
| Cyprus Mrs Maria Kyriacou , m.kyriacou@cytanet.com.cy |  |
| FYROM Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Mrs Elena Hristova , hristova_e@yahoo.com | |
| Greece Mr Vassilis Argyropoulos , vassargi@uth.gr |  |
| Montenegro vacancy | |
| Romania Mrs Andrea Hathazi , ahathazi@yahoo.com |  |
| Romania vacancy | |

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|---|---|
| <p>Turkey Mrs Songül Atasavun Uysal, songula@hacettepe.edu.tr</p> |  |
| <p>Turkey Mr. Onder Islek, islekonder@hotmail.com</p> | |
| <p>Turkey Ms. Emine AYYILDIZ, ayyildizemine@yahoo.com</p> |  |
| <p>Serbia Mrs Aleksandra Grbović, sgrbovic@ptt.rs, alexandragrbovic@gmail.com</p> |  |