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# EBU Members' Newsletter

## Number seven, August 2020.

## OUR CAMPAIGNS

### Marrakesh Treaty

It is now confirmed by WIPO that Belarus joined the Marrakesh Treaty.

### Accessible lifts

On 8-9 July, EBU participated in a meeting (online) of CEN/TC 10/WG 7, the EU standardisation body’s working group that is revising the accessible lifts standard. Reminder: this was an extraordinary invitation, likely resulting from complaints from EBU and partners ANEC and EDF that our concerns had not been sufficiently heard in a tentative revision in 2018, namely in a related EBU paper to the European Commission in February 2019.

Ahead of that meeting, a joint paper of ANEC and DPOs, based on a first EBU draft, was sent to WG 7, to present our recommendations.

Disappointingly, no agreement was found on any of the important issues raised in our paper, but only on minor points. Importantly, however, the meeting identified matters that WG 7 nevertheless needs to address under the current revision. These include contrast issues (the primary object of this revision, yet not the one raising more difficulties) and Braille. Other issues of concern to BPS persons were also discussed: touch screens; marking of glass doors; destination control systems. Interestingly, the chair of WG 7 acknowledged Braille as one of the more important issues.

We expect to be invited again to the next meeting of the same group on 6-7 October, in Helsinki tentatively.

### Creative Europe/MEDIA

On 30 June the actual start of the campaign was announced to our members in the EU, with our German member DBSV as campaign leader. We attached a draft EBU position paper, inviting comments or amendments, and expressions of expertise/interest to be involved more closely in the campaign. We warned our members, though, that we had already needed to circulate the draft as such, for lobbying purposes, in order not to miss out on developments.

In fact, as early as on 1st July, we issued a first action request, as the new German presidency of the EU resumed discussions on the proposed Regulation on the Creative Europe programme for 2021-2027. We invited our members in the EU to:

send the (draft) position paper to their ministries of culture and relevant advisers at their country’s permanent representation to the EU, and express support for some key amendments proposed by the European Parliament in its first reading position; and inform of our position and action the key MEPs on this file, urging the European Parliament to stand firm on its amendments.

### Miscellaneous

* We participated in early July in a series of European Disability Strategy Consultation meetings for DPOs: first around Commissioner Dalli on 1 July 2020, and then around her cabinet member responsible for disability policy, Nora Bednarski, on 6 July, to discuss in depth our views and proposals for the future strategy.
* We participated in a Strategic Dialogue Meeting on "Digital Education Action Plan", on 8 July, around Emmanuelle GRANGE, Head of Unit "Disability and Inclusion", DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.
* After a first meeting on 25 June, we participated in a second brainstorming meeting with MEP Katrin Langensiepen, on 2 July, to inform her report to the European Parliament’s EMPL committee on "Implementation report on the Employment Equality Directive in light of the UNCRPD". In the context of these exchanges, we submitted the following two relevant documents: the [EBU-ONCE report](http://www.euroblind.org/sites/default/files/documents/once_ebu_employment_report_en.pdf) on the situation of visually impaired persons regarding employment in Europe; and the recent publication “[Making the future of work inclusive of persons with disabilities](http://www.euroblind.org/sites/default/files/documents/making_the_future_of_work_inclusive_of_persons_with_disabilities_vf.pdf)”, developed by Fundación ONCE and the ILO Global Business and Disability Network (ILO GBDN), which analyses the megatrends of the future of work from the perspective of disability and identifies 5 five key objectives and specific actions for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment.
* We replied in early July to two public consultations by the European Commission, respectively [on the Digital Education Action Plan](http://www.euroblind.org/sites/default/files/documents/response_to_consultation_on_digital_education_action_plan_july_2020.pdf) (as updated due to the COOVID-19 crisis), and [on the final evaluation of European statistical programme 2013-2020](http://www.euroblind.org/sites/default/files/documents/response_to_consultation_on_european_statistical_programme_2013-2020_july_2020.pdf). We also circulated to our members a [consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/11896-Evaluation-of-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-and-with-reduced-mobility-PRM-when-travelling-by-air/public-consultation) on the evaluation of the air Regulation (EC/1107/2006) on the rights of people with disabilities/reduced mobility when travelling by air, to which EBU will also reply in due time.

At the end of August, we circulated to our members the third of our series of ‘How To’ campaigning tips memos, focusing on how to adapt the strategy to the context.

## The 24th EBU Access Cast is now online!

Welcome to the August number of the [EBU Access Cast](https://ebuaccesscast.libsyn.com/ebuaccesscast-24).

If you follow our Twitter account you probably noticed that last month was unusually busy for us, because we were looking for new contributors for our podcast. After a set of interviews and selection of the applications which we received from you, we are slowly starting to introduce new members of our expanded team. This time for you Xavier Ciscar and David Ciscar from Barcelona joins us for almost 2 hours of very cool debate and exchange of opinions about the news from assistive tech industry. We prepared for you something really special at the end of the show, and that is the exclusive demo of Miele WDD 131 Guideline washing machine which is accessible to blind people.  
Special thanks goes to Tanja Kleut who prepared a very nice demo of the product.

We would like to remind you that from the previous Episode our podcast Comes with the transcript, so if you have any problems with getting our audio content, you are more than welcome to read it. All this and more in the [24th EBU Access Cast!](https://ebuaccesscast.libsyn.com/ebuaccesscast-24)

Watch this space for the next episode where we'll be sure to deliver even more exciting news. Meanwhile, feel free to reach out with your thoughts and suggestions through our [Email](mailto:ebuaccesscast@euroblind.org%20) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/EBUAccessCast/).

For more on this and much more useful information, go to [the podcast page](https://ebuaccesscast.libsyn.com/ebu-access-cast-20)!

## The EBU guidelines for UNCRPD Alternative Reporting

EBU can now make available this guidance document which sets out to provide practical information to support civil society in participating in the review process by submitting an Alternative Report in relation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Monitoring the proper implementation of the UNCRPD is essential to enhance blind and partially sighted citizens’ social inclusion in society. National visual impairment organisations have a key role to play in the matter. We do hope these guidelines will support you in defining your own UNCRPD alternative reporting process and contribute to each national disability council’s work. In particular, this publication is expected to help your organisation prioritise the work and plan the necessary resources for the full completion of the process. When going through the various steps, always bear in mind that the end result is not only a report, but a contribution to achieving equal rights for ALL!

The document is available in [.doc](http://www.euroblind.org/sites/default/files/documents/ebu_guidelines_for_uncrpd_alternative_reporting_20200804.docx) and [pdf](http://www.euroblind.org/sites/default/files/documents/ebu_guidelines_for_uncrpd_alternative_reporting_20200804.pdf) formats

## Hungary - Why TÁVSZEM? – TÁVSZEM vs. Be my Eyes

Although there has been an app very much like TAVSZEM (Remote Eye) widely available for years, called Be My Eyes, we found there was a great need for a more professional service. The point either in Be Me Eyes or in TÁVSZEM is the same, namely to provide assistance to a visually impaired person in cases simple to overcome for a Sighted, while unsolvable for a Blind.

The most important difference in the case of TÁVSZEM is that the remote assistance is provided not by volunteers, but by professional helpers called “operators” who have passed an exam after a serious, 270-hour training course. They can explain to a blind user not only how to hold the phone and what lighting conditions are needed to make the camera show a right picture, but they are also aware of the data protection and privacy regulations in force. This way, a Visually Impaired user feels safe, even if it comes to an issue related to his or her personal living conditions or personal data. TÁVSZEM services are not provided by courtesy; the visually impaired users can expect and are entitled to a professional, quality service.

During the development of the application, the latest and most useful experience-based features and functions have been incorporated. TÁVSZEM operators can capture the camera image on their own monitor, a rather useful feature especially when a longer letter or a handwritten test is to be read out. To help create appropriate light conditions, the flashlight of the phone can be activated by a single click within the app, while partially sighted users can see on their phone display the same screen as shown on the operator’s monitor. Any discussion and information between an operator and a user can be even replayed in a user-friendly way for 30 days. As the official launch was preceded by a public test period of more than 6 months, the users’ experiences, ideas, and suggestions could be built in the final version.

## UNESCO’s newly launched project titled "Story for Development"

We are pleased to share with you UNESCO’s newly launched project titled **"Story for Development"**which invites persons with disabilities from all over the world to tell and share their stories in order to identify and to explore the enabling factors and facilitators for persons with disabilities around the world to be empowered and what supported them in their efforts.

This project aims to demonstrate before government authorities, legislators, decision-makers, and key stakeholders that persons with disabilities from all age groups and backgrounds can be and are ‘empowered,’ act as active agents, and contributing members to the creation of wealth in our societies. In other words, the online platform aims to mainstream a shift of perspective on disability-issues, demonstrating that removing barriers to participation can enable persons with disabilities to achieve their potential and contribute to development. The collection of stories will constitute an essential set of case studies and data from persons with disabilities to develop informed policies and encourage community action. The platform has a forum tool and promotes the creation of an online community of collaboration identifying common barriers and facilitators for inclusion.

**We kindly invite you to share your inspiring Story using the following website:**[**https://story4development.org/our-stories**](https://story4development.org/our-stories) **and disseminate information about this project with your colleagues and partners.**

Evaluating and defining what ‘empowerment’ involves varies contextually and in connection to multiple factors, UNESCO developed a comprehensive methodology to identify and to explore the enabling factors for persons with disabilities to be empowered, as well as the common barriers encountered. Different ‘Categories of achievements’ have been identified, including education, laws, policies, institutions, accessible communication, healthcare, and rehabilitative services, advocacy, etc., to gather statistical information for the consideration of governments, policy-makers, and other decision-makers.

**Further, we would like to share with you the Call for Nominations - 2020/2021 UNESCO/Emir Jaber al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.**

The aim of the Prize is to reward the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations that promote inclusion and the enhancement of the lives of persons with disabilities in society through the effective, innovative and inclusive application of digital solutions, including an immediate response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please find all information about the Prize here: [**https://en.unesco.org/news/call-nominations-2020-2021-unescoemir-jaber-al-ahmad-al-jaber-al-sabah-prize-digital**](https://en.unesco.org/news/call-nominations-2020-2021-unescoemir-jaber-al-ahmad-al-jaber-al-sabah-prize-digital)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact   
[ict-pwd@unesco.org](mailto:ict-pwd@unesco.org) .  
We hope to publish and share as many stories as possible from all over the world, helping UNESCO and all relevant stakeholders, including decision-makers to build new data for more inclusive public policies as well as mainstream a shift of perspective on disability-issues.

## The 18th edition of the International Conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND (REHA).

The Chance for the Blind Foundation would like to invite you to the world meeting of the blind, partially sighted, their families and friends organized within the 18th edition of the International Conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND (REHA).

In era of Covid-19 epidemic there are 3 possible forms of participation in the event:  
• As organized beneficiaries groups of the project „The great meeting of the blind, partially sighted and people with all disabilities - REHA FOR THE BLIND® IN POLAND 2020” (4 days stay in Warsaw with night's logging in Mazovian hotels with full board package),  
• As non-organized participants,  
• Via Internet; all substantive elements of the conference will be broadcast via Internet.

Within our possibilities the Foundation will help you to arrive to Warsaw. We have some funds available for financing travel and stay expenses of conference guests. You can also consider your online participation. We can connect with you via Internet. We can play recordings you send us or organize remote speeches, presentations or discussion panels.

For more information, go to <http://www.szansadlaniewidomych.org/index.php/xviii-edition-reha-for-the-blind-in-poland-2020/>. To participate in the conference in person, write to: [reha\_in\_poland@szansadlaniewidomych.org](mailto:reha_in_poland@szansadlaniewidomych.org)

To participate in the conference virtually, fill in the registration form: <https://form.jotform.com/202242383380347>

## Survey - accessibility of insulin pumps for people who are living with diabetes and sight loss

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) advocacy team is conducting research about the accessibility of insulin pumps for people who are living with diabetes and sight loss.

As part of our research, we are launching a survey that will help us better understand the accessibility issues people face when administering insulin.

We welcome responses from people living with diabetes and sight loss, their caregivers, medical professionals, people working in the insulin device industry and anyone who has a connection to sight loss and diabetes. If you have diabetes and sight loss but currently administer insulin through a method that is not a pump, we would also like to learn more about your experiences through this survey.

Although CNIB is a Canadian organization, we also welcome responses from people living outside of Canada so that we can get a complete picture of how this issue is affecting the international community.

Information about the survey and how the information collected will be used to advocate for change is included in the link to the survey below:

[https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/Y5H5LPC](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.ca%2Fr%2FY5H5LPC&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cfcadab0ab02444d4883408d82d8e360c%7Cfbd8a8d99ca948378d3ba5982af51080%7C0%7C0%7C637309436092799514&sdata=zjGfGp%2FVtPxWJunVaSq1SQPyC%2FPBsiLL9L5r53n4p4Q%3D&reserved=0)

We thank you in advance for your participation and for joining the international movement to make insulin pumps more accessible for people who are blind or partially sighted.

ENDS.

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