



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

# **Annual report 2016**

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# 1 Preface



Beloved President of ICEVI-Europe  
July 2013 - January 6, 2017

Herewith the Board presents the annual report 2016 of ICEVI-Europe. 2016 has been a year in which ICEVI-Europe has engaged in the exchange of knowledge and expertise regarding the education and rehabilitation for people with visual impairments in a variety of ways and through various activities.

Even though 2016 was a positive year for ICEVI-Europe, it ended on a devastating note. Towards the end of the year, the beloved President of ICEVI-Europe, Mrs. Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou became severely ill and tragically passed away on January 6, 2017. Words cannot express the depth of sadness, sorrow and distress we all feel for the undeserved and untimely death of our beloved Betty. From 2004 - 2013, Betty held the position of Board Member of ICEVI-Europe, representing the Balkan Countries. In July 2013, at the General Assembly of ICEVI-Europe in Istanbul, Turkey, Betty was elected as President of ICEVI-Europe, a position which she would have held until July 2017, but was tragically cut short. From early on in her career, Betty was devoted to the rights of people who are blind, partially sighted and/or had additional disabilities. Her main purpose in life was to improve the quality of life and the education and rehabilitation services for people with visual impairments. She fought with great conviction, diligence, integrity and passion to break down the barriers for the visually impaired and the disabled. For us at ICEVI-Europe, her loss leaves an irreplaceable void. In the short period of her administration as President of ICEVI-Europe, Betty was committed to realizing its mission and goals. She was a dynamic and charismatic leader who inspired her fellow colleagues with her fruitful thoughts and ideas in endeavoring to achieve ICEVI-Europe's aims and objects. It is with great energy, creativity and diligence that she approached the aims of the organization and with a profound sense of consideration and professionalism that she interacted and cooperated with her colleagues. She was truly a special individual who believed in and strove to make a real contribution to society, especially for persons with visual impairments. We have nothing but fond memories of cooperating and collaborating with Betty for the successful organization of ICEVI-Europe Board Meetings and Conferences. Betty's involvement and work with ICEVI-Europe will be greatly missed by all. We wholeheartedly thank her for her tireless efforts and for all of her achievements.

On a positive note, 2016 was a very successful year for ICEVI-Europe. It is always interesting to read about what activities have taken place in the various countries and sub regions. ICEVI-Europe enhanced its cooperation with the European Blind Union by accepting an invitation to participate as a Partner in the EBU's project entitled: Training and Propagation of Braille. The purpose of this project is to collect good practice in the area of Braille teaching, as well as, evidence of the importance of Braille literacy. The project will be over two years (2016/2017). In addition to this development, ICEVI-Europe continued its good work and participation in various European Projects with a focus on the visually impaired.

The Board is delighted to report that new members- both individuals and organizations- have joined our membership network. We would like to encourage individual professionals and organizations in the field of education and rehabilitation of visual impairment to apply for membership to ICEVI Europe as a personal or a member organization. The more members ICEVI-Europe has, the more ICEVI-Europe can achieve in the improvement of services for visually impaired people all over Europe. Therefore, please encourage your colleagues, and motivate schools, services, centres, associations and institutions to join ICEVI Europe! Please visit the website of ICEVI-Europe for further information, including the Application Form and a list of membership benefits.

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

The board would like to thank all who have contributed to ICEVI activities in 2016 and we hope you will all continue to participate in 2017.

On behalf of the Board,



Nathalie Lewi-Dumont  
Vice-President

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

## 2 Report from the board

### Report from the Board

ICEVI-Europe is a nonprofit, non-governmental association of professionals- individuals and organizations- that promotes education and rehabilitation opportunities for people with visual impairment through sharing, networking, cooperating, and advocating, among its members and stakeholders. Our target group are people who are totally blind or who have low vision, including those with additional disabilities.

ICEVI-Europe aims to help blind and visually impaired people achieve their desire to actively participate as full members of society. The organization of Conferences is an integral part of the ICEVI-Europe's networking and advocacy work in order to achieve this aim.

In Graz, Austria, the VBS (Verband für Blinden und Sehbehindertenpädagogik e. V./ The Association of Pedagogy for the Blind and Visually Impaired), in close cooperation with the Host (Local) Organizer, Odilieninstitut Graz, the University of Graz and ICEVI-Europe, organized the thoroughly successful **36th Convention of Pedagogy for the Blind and Visually Impaired** on August 1-5 2016. The theme of the congress was "Perspectives in Dialogue." ICEVI-Europe participated as a European Co-operation Partner of VBS for the organization of the congress. Over 600 international participants were in attendance at the congress, which included representatives of universities, politics and regional administration.

In Tbilisi, Georgia, the **7th ICEVI Eastern European Conference** was held on December 14 -17, 2016 at Tbilisi State University. The theme of the conference was Partnership: Parent professional cooperation in the process of education of visually impaired children. The conference was successfully organized by ICEVI-Europe with the Non-Governmental Organization Mariani and with the valuable support of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sports and Youth in Georgia. Approximately 100 representatives (including the volunteers) from 4 countries were in attendance at the conference. This regional conference brought forth how constructive and cooperative approaches to partnership between specialists and parents of children with visual impairment can play an enormously positive role in the development and education of children with visual impairment. A special thank you was extended to the Sponsors of the conference for their most generous donations and contributions: The President's of Georgia Fund & President's Administration, The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia and the Mac-lein Association for Children of Georgia, MAC Georgia.

In 2016, the Board of ICEVI-Europe in close cooperation with the Belgian Host Committee (Blindenzorg licht en liefde, Spermalie and Centrum Ganspoel), focused their efforts on the preparations for the organization of the **9th ICEVI European Conference**, which will take place on July 2 to July 7, 2017 at Sint-Lodewijkscollege in Bruges, Belgium. The theme of the 9th ICEVI European Conference in Bruges is "**Empowered by Dialogue,**" based on the **Quality of Life Framework** by Dr. Robert Schalock. The program of the conference will be based on the Quality of Life Framework and its eight domains that provide an indication of an individual's quality of life in three broad yet related areas: Independence, Social participation and Well-being.

Each domain of the framework will function as an invitation for lectures, workshops or dialogue sessions and serve as a classification topic for Papers. For further information regarding the theme, program, registration etc. please visit our conference website at <http://www.icevi-bruges2017.be/> The European Conference will offer the opportunity to meet fellow colleagues throughout Europe and actively take part in the exchange of knowledge and expertise and sharing of best practises within a network of people and institutions to improve the quality of life of individuals with visual impairments.

ICEVI-Europe has participated in various European Programs and engaged in fruitful collaborations with organizations promoting the rights of people with visual impairments throughout 2016.

As previously mentioned, ICEVI-Europe is participating as a Partner in EBU's project entitled **Training and Propagation of Braille**. The purpose of this project is collecting good practice in the area of braille teaching as well as evidence of the importance of braille literacy. Mrs. Tarja Hännikäinen from Finland is a member of the Steering Committee of this project, representing ICEVI-Europe. The project is run in two phases by the steering group with members from Denmark, Sweden and Finland- the latter being the ICEVI - Europe link. The project will screen and analyze the various situation and solutions in all Nordic countries during the phase one, and then widespread the screening to Estonia, Austria, Italy and France during phase two. Phase 1 was completed in 2016, wherein a workshop with pedagogues from Nordic Countries in Denmark took place and a questionnaire was developed, disseminated to Nordic Countries and results were assessed.

The European Blind Union and ICEVI-Europe have launched a common project entitled **Erasmus+ Mobility of Students with visual impairment** on the accessibility of mobility programs for students with visual impairment in Europe. EBU and ICEVI-Europe have set up a working group (WG) responsible for conducting a study on how the EU could promote inclusion at university and how students with visual impairment could get equal chances to gather experiences in foreign countries. Mrs. Krisztina Kovacs is a Member of the Working Group representing ICEVI-Europe. This project has two phases. In 2015, a state-of-the-art report on the accessibility of exchange programs for students with visual impairment conducted by ELTE University, Budapest was produced. In 2016, the project was in phase two, whose purpose was to focus more specifically on the participation rate of students with disabilities and in particular those with visual impairment in the Erasmus programme, as well as, the support services which universities can offer to these students within the preparation and during their stay abroad. An online questionnaire was prepared and disseminated to disability coordinators and Erasmus coordinators at higher education institutions who deal with incoming or outgoing Erasmus students with or without disabilities. In 2016, a report on obstacles to the accessibility of Erasmus based on the survey and two focus group meetings with blind and partially sighted students and graduates of universities in Bratislava (Slovak Republic) and Budapest (Hungary), who had studied at foreign universities within the Erasmus mobility programme, conducted by Comenius University, Bratislava was finished.

ICEVI-Europe continued its work as a Partner in the Erasmus+Project entitled **BaGMIVI - Bridging the Gap Between Museums and Individuals with Visual Impairments**. The BaGMIVI project aims to address the following objectives:

- To enable the museum members become aware and update their knowledge regarding the disabling barriers that impede the access of visitors with visual impairments to museums and the techniques that can enhance the access and inclusion of individuals with visual impairments to the museums.
- To create learning, cultural and social opportunities for individuals with visual impairments and enable them acquire self-advocacy skills regarding their rights as museum visitors and the requirements of an inclusive museum.
- To promote the collaboration between museums, schools and associations of individuals with visual impairments.
- To point out the best practices and guidelines for the development of an accessible and inclusive museum for visitors with visual impairments.

The beloved President of ICEVI-Europe, Mrs. Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou represented ICEVI-Europe in the BaGMIVI Project. Two Transnational Meetings took place in 2016, one in March (Budapest, Hungary) and one in October (Sofia, Bulgaria), wherein all of the Project Partners gathered in order to discuss the progress of the project and the status of the Intellectual Outputs they were responsible for. The Intellectual Outputs that ICEVI-Europe was responsible for, specifically, Output 4: The Collection of Videos from Museum Staff Training and Output 5: Videos from the development of differentiated and accessible Museum Programmes have both been completed. The last Output that ICEVI-Europe is responsible for is Output 9: Policy Recommendations and Guidelines Report, which remains to be completed.

Further information about the above mentioned European Projects can be found on the websites of the ICEVI-Europe and the European Blind Union.

In continuation of its ongoing, productive cooperation with the European Coalition for Vision (ECV), ICEVI-Europe has had the pleasure of announcing that in 2016, it endorsed the the **Second Edition of the Your Eyes Manual**, produced by the European Forum Against Blindness (EFAB), a member of ECV, an organization comprised of professional bodies, patient groups and European NGO's, which aims to raise the profile of eye health and vision. The Your Eyes Manual aims to encourage early diagnosis in blindness prevention and highlight the issues of vision loss. We encourage you to visit the ECV and ICEVI-Europe website in order to download and read the manual.

In this report, you will read that several conferences, workshops and meetings for the purpose of improving the education and rehabilitation opportunities for people with visual impairments have taken place in 2016.

In Vienna, Austria, The **Zero Project Conference 2016** organised by the Essl Foundation in partnership with the World Future Council and the European Foundation Centre was held from February 10-12, 2016 at the United Nations Office. The conference celebrated and awarded 98 Innovative Policies and Innovative Practices concerning Inclusive Education and/or ICTs from around the world. The conference gathered more than 500 innovators, including education stakeholders, opinion leaders, and policymakers from more than 70 countries. The President of ICEVI-Europe, Mrs. Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou was invited to join the conference as an expert and speaker of the Policymaker Forum on Inclusive Education and the use of ICT in Greece. We are proud to mention that Mrs. Ana Isabel Ruiz López, Director of

Education, Employment and Cultural Promotion of the ORGANIZACIÓN NACIONAL DE CIEGOS ESPAÑOLES was also present at the Zero Project Conference representing ONCE, which was awarded with the noteworthy Zero Project Award on Innovative Policies and Innovative Practices on Inclusive education and ICT.

In Orlando, Florida, (U.S.A.), the **WBU/ICEVI Joint Assemblies 2016**, hosted by the National Federation of the Blind (U.S.A.) took place on August 18-25 2016 at the Rosen Centre Hotel. The Joint Assemblies were organized with great success and were attended by many participants interested in its content from various countries throughout the world. An ICEVI Day was organized within the Joint Assemblies with the theme “Education for All Children with Visual Impairment: Beyond 2015”. The theme highlighted the United Nations 2000-2015 education Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education for All (EFA) goals that have guided global and national efforts to achieve universal primary education and gender parity by 2015.

In Jyväskylä, Central – Finland, a productive and successful meeting of the Baltic and Nordic National Representatives of ICEVI-Europe took place on September 22-23, 2016, organized by Mrs. Tarja Hännikäinen, Board Member of the Baltic and Nordic Countries subregion, and generously hosted at the Valteri – Onerva, Center for Learning and Consulting. During this fruitful meeting, several topics of importance were discussed including the situation in each country concerning the support in education and rehabilitation services for persons with visual impairment and the role and tasks of the National Representatives within ICEVI-Europe. Especially noteworthy, was the joint collegial day held with the NOVIR - Nordic Visual Impairment Network – representatives, in which the critical issue of how to support and maintain professional development in the field of visual impairment was discussed.

In Budapest, Hungary, the **6th European Conference on Psychology and Visual Impairment (6th ECPVI)** with the theme “Psychological Survival Skills in a Sighted World,” took place on November 10-12 2016. It was successfully organized by the European Network for Psychologists and related professions working in the field of Visual Impairment (ENPVI) of ICEVI-Europe, in close cooperation with the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE). The 6<sup>th</sup> ECPVI in Budapest was hosted by the Eötvös University Faculty of Special Education Needs and by the Foundation for the Development of Special Education Needs. Approximately 88 participants from 17 different countries were in attendance at the conference. The presentations were held in two plenary sessions and the conference offered a place for two workshops and also for poster presentations. All presentations and posters can be visited on the website <http://enpvi.net/budapest-2016/>.

GPEAA (Groupement de Professeurs et Educateurs d'Aveugles et d'Amblyopes) held the **52<sup>nd</sup> Pedagogical Days of the GPEAA** on October 6-8 2016 in Paris, France at the National Institute of the Blind. The theme was “Mental representations and visual impairment.”

Within a series of conferences about “Sensory issues and disability” (“Olfaction, memory and learning” in 2009, and “Listening, acting, music and brain plasticity” in 2011), INS HEA (Institut national supérieur de formation et de recherche pour l'éducation des jeunes handicapés et les enseignements adaptés- National higher institute for training and research on special needs education - <http://www.inshea.fr>)



organized a successful **international conference on the sense of touch**, in Paris, 17-19 March 2016. This event was organized in partnership with Universcience and took place at the Science Museum in Paris, a museum which aims to be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Three issues of the newsletter were published in 2016 and important information could also be read on the website of ICEVI-Europe [www.icevi-europe.org](http://www.icevi-europe.org)

The following noteworthy event has also taken place in 2016:

**15 December 2016**

**II International Academic Competition of pupils and students “Social and cultural inclusion” &**

**International Inclusive Youth Games in Kazan, Russia**

Website of the International Centre for Inclusive Education of Kazan Innovative University: [www.icie.ieml.ru](http://www.icie.ieml.ru)

### 3 ICEVI-Europe activities in 2016



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

Region: Nordic-Baltic Sub-region

Period: 2016

This report is submitted by Tarja Hännikäinen, Finland in cooperation with Monica Lovi, Estonia, Marie Fasmer, Denmark, Huld Magnusdottir, Iceland and Anders Rönnbäck, Sweden

Area of Reference	Description
Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any	<p><b>Finland</b> ICEVI Nordic and Baltic sub-regional two-day-meeting took place in September 2016, at Valteri Onerva, Jyväskylä, Finland. This meeting offered a unique possibility to combine one joint day with the annual NOVIR, Nordic visual impairment network meeting. Participants came from <u>Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia.</u> Participants had a possibility to share organisational and professional views among Nordic and Baltic countries. Key topics were: How to maintain professional skills and development on the area of visual impairment? The coming workshops and trainings in each country; On-going projects; How to share knowledge and how to maintain the special skills in education and rehabilitation for visual impairment?</p>
Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period	<p><b>Finland:</b> Annual meeting for persons working on the area of education and rehabilitation of pupils with visual impairment took place at Helsinki. Over 100 participants - students, parents and professionals from rehabilitation, education, associations etc. – gathered together for two days and shared information and experiences. One of the main themes was to find the best practices for cooperation in order to support education and rehabilitation of children and young persons.</p> <p><b>Finland:</b> Valteri – Onerva, Center for Learning and Consulting organized an in-service training for the professional educational staff in Tartu Emajoe School, Estonia. Training started October 2016 and will be in final</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>on March 2017. Six phases have been implemented through two contact sessions and multiple Skype sessions.</p> <p><b>Iceland:</b> On 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 the National Institute for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deafblind in Iceland conducted a workshop about cerebral visual impairment (CVI) for teachers in mainstream schools and special units. The aim was to introduce teachers to the basic concepts of cerebral visual impairment. The main discussion points were introduction into the structure and function of the visual system, relation between visual system and areas of the brain, the basic definition of cerebral visual impairment, and the main characteristics and manifestation of CVI. 37 teachers and professionals from different schools and units participated at the workshop.</p> <p><b>Sweden:</b> On November 10-11, 2016, a meeting of the Nordic braille authorities was held in Stockholm, Sweden. Topics for the meeting were Impacts of digitalization on tactile reading and Current research on braille reading.</p>
<p>Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level</p>	<p><b>Denmark:</b> Together with The Danish Union for the Blind IBOS are working on a project called “Rethinking the Future”. The project provides young people with visual impairment the opportunity to participate in a specialized visual clarification process towards education and/or employment. The project combines handheld, visual expertise with network-building and motivational activities. Participants gets assigned to a visual professional mentor who supports through motivational and counseling sessions, educational counseling and other activities such as internships and workplace visits. The target group is young people in the age of 18 to 30 year old with severe visual impairment. It is also a requirement the participant prior to the project is on training help/assistance or comparable services and that the participant has no or limited education. Finally, participants may not have other significant disabilities that overshadow their visual impairment. The project started in 2015 and runs until September 2017.</p> <p><b>Finland:</b> Danish Association of the Blind runs the two-year-project, financed by EBU, in cooperation with ICEVI – Europe. Representatives from Denmark, Sweden and Finland are participating in the project steering group. The project will view the various situations and proper solutions for children and young persons using braille. The main focus is on screening and analyzing of the use and availability of braille, the impact of modern technology, the</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>best practices and materials in training braille, and the availability of trained and skilled educators in braille. Phase one collects the information from Nordic countries, and phase two will widespread the screening to some other European countries. The target group is limited for the children and young persons under the age of 18 years and who do not have a severe additional disability apart from the visual impairment. The result of a project will bring up the focal points of observations registered in the different countries.</p>
<p>ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region</p>	<p><b>Estonia:</b> Cooperation between representatives from special schools for the children with visual impairment Tartu Emajoe School, Helen’s School, Estonian Federation of the Blind, Support Center of the Deafblind and Estonian Ministry of Education and Science for working out the strategy of the education of blind/visually impaired and MDVI children as a part of general policy of education of children with special educational needs.</p>
<p>Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region</p>	<p><b>Sweden:</b> Harry Svensson, the former vice president of ICEVI, received the International leadership award at the ICEVI General assembly in Orlando, USA. The motivation for the prize was “For outstanding contribution to the global efforts to ensure equal educational opportunities for blind and low vision children and youth.</p>
<p>Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website</p>	<p><b>Iceland:</b> The TEACH CVI project partners developed together teacher training materials related to cerebral visual impairment. The material contains four chapters, and the first chapter has information about the project, general information about the visual system, definitions and characteristics of cerebral visual impairment (CVI), guideline of CVI, screening lists for the detection of children with CVI, and information about the assessment of CVI. The second chapter includes information about basic and higher visual functions – characteristics and some advices for materials to be used. Chapter three includes a literacy profile and chapter four ideas and resources for literacy for teachers who are working with children with CVI. The package will be ready for professionals in each partner country, as a first draft after training in May 2017 in Dublin, Ireland. Upon completion of the project, the documents will be available on the project website <a href="http://www.teachcvi.net">www.teachcvi.net</a></p>
<p>Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months</p>	<p><b>Estonia:</b> Finishing the further training course for the teachers of blind/visually impaired from Tartu Emajoe School in cooperation with Valteri Onerva Centre from Finland. Being a project partner in a project on Braille initiated by EBU and Danish organization of visually impaired?</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p><b>Sweden:</b> The Tactile Reading conference will be held in Stockholm 5–7 April, 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden. It will be an important conference about braille and graphics for children and youth. The conference will bring together people working with children and youth with visual impairments and blindness, academics in various research areas, vendors and game changers. This will be a great experience and opportunity to exchange knowledge with about 300 delegates. The conference is arranged by the Swedish Agency for Accessible Media and the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools in Sweden.</p> <p><b>Norway</b> June 2017: (in English): Nordic preschool conference: Let’s play together.</p>
<p>Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region</p>	<p><b>Estonia:</b> Estonian Ministry of Education and Research has carried through a research on the inclusive education of children with special needs <a href="http://www.centar.ee/case-studies/haridusliku-erivajadusega-opilaste-kaasava-hariduskorralduse-uuring/">http://www.centar.ee/case-studies/haridusliku-erivajadusega-opilaste-kaasava-hariduskorralduse-uuring/</a></p> <p>Estonian Federation of the Blind has compiled a manual of accessibility of constructed environment. This manual gives detailed instructions on how to ensure that environment (both indoor and outdoor) is accessible for blind and visually impaired people. The manual is available in Estonian <a href="http://www.pimedateliit.ee/juhttee/projekteerimisjuhend">http://www.pimedateliit.ee/juhttee/projekteerimisjuhend</a>.</p> <p>An assessment toolkit of workability of blind visually impaired people is now available as a project outcome conducted by the Support Centre of the Deafblind 8in Estonian).</p> <p><b>Denmark:</b> We are working on more structured formats for best practices, and we are currently using some efforts and resources in building a practice for power measurement. In 2016, we have developed an accessible note reader for blind musicians. Our plan is that we in 2017 will try to gain funding for further development so that we can public an English-speaking version.</p> <p><b>Sweden:</b> Making Mathematics Accessible. A study of how paraeducators work with adaptations By Ulrika Vanhoenacker, special education teacher, National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools, SPSM Sweden The aim of the study was to highlight how paraeducators work with adaptations in mathematics for 7-9 year old braille reading students in primary school. It was a qualitative</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>study and data were collected through video observations and stimulated recall interviews. This is a method where the interviews are based on sequences from the video recorded material. Three paraeducators were observed and interviewed.</p> <p>Results: All three paraeducators showed tactile material or whispered to the student at the same time as the class teacher explained mathematics for all students, including the student with blindness. The paraeducators' explanations to this phenomenon were poorly planned lessons, the lack of time and the fact that the student wanted to know what the classmates were working with. Some of these simultaneous activities would easily have been avoided if the class teacher had verbalized her teaching, named the objects, rather than using expressions like "this" or "that". All three respondents stated good planning as a prerequisite for being able to adapt the teaching, both planning of the actual lesson and planning of production of tactile material. As the students with blindness did not have time to finish all tasks, a priority of the mathematical tasks needed to be done in advance based on the student's knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class teacher and paraeducator need to plan the teaching in advance, together.</li> <li>• Class teachers need to verbalize the mathematical teaching.</li> <li>• Paraeducators should not introduce tactile materials during class teacher's instructions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sweden: "Art does not have to be visual"</b>  Students with visual impairment and their art teachers about motivation in art  By Anneli Embe, Special education teacher at National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools, SPSM Sweden.</p> <p>The aim of this study was to shed light on what may be motivating in art studies for young people with blindness or severe visual impairment, in inclusive education, grades 7–9. Questions for the study were:  What are the students' experiences of art studies with focus on their motivation?  What are the art teachers' ideas on lesson planning with focus on creating motivation in inclusive art education?</p> <p>The study was conducted with semi-structured interviews analyzed with a phenomenological approach. Observations of the students were conducted in order to get an impression of the students in the art class.</p> <p>The study included four students and their art teachers, which resulted in eight interviews and four observations.</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>Three of the students had blindness and one had severe vision loss with a visual acuity of 0.05. All acquired vision loss before birth.</p> <p>What motivated the students most was creating together with sighted classmates, no matter how difficult the task was.</p> <p>In art, the differences become especially clear. Demands on planning and adapting are high and it is difficult to fully customize.</p> <p>Tactile experiences constituted strong memories that stayed with the student for many years.</p> <p>To make art meaningful for a student with visual impairment or blindness the lessons for the entire class need to be planned with focus on open tasks with different choices. Knowledge without demands on the visual sense is crucial and so is the creation with three-dimensional and tactile techniques.</p>



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

Region: French speaking

Period: 2016

Area of Reference	Description
Global campaign activities, if any	<p><b>Policy: Belgium:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oct 19th: several organizations for the VI call on Parliament members of the French speaking Belgium about accessibility (culture, tourism, leisure), inclusive education, deafblindness, support of people over 65, guide dogs).  <a href="http://amisdesaveugles.org/images/sitefr/edit/Actualites/Sensibilisation-parlement-wallon/Interpellation-parlementaires-wallons-ADA-19.10.16.pdf">http://amisdesaveugles.org/images/sitefr/edit/Actualites/Sensibilisation-parlement-wallon/Interpellation-parlementaires-wallons-ADA-19.10.16.pdf</a></li> <li>- Nov: European petition about guide-dogs  <a href="https://leblogdesamisdesaveugles.wordpress.com/2016/11/09/une-petition-europeenne-pour-laces-des-chiens-dassistance/">https://leblogdesamisdesaveugles.wordpress.com/2016/11/09/une-petition-europeenne-pour-laces-des-chiens-dassistance/</a></li> <li>- Déc 12<sup>th</sup>: long films who get government subsidy must provide audio description  <a href="http://amisdesaveugles.org/films-belges-audiodescription.html">http://amisdesaveugles.org/films-belges-audiodescription.html</a></li> <li>- From march 7<sup>th</sup> to march 22<sup>nd</sup>: Ligue braille campaign on VI: “la malvoyance, il faut la vivre pour la comprendre” “Visual impairment, one has to live with it to understand it” Very impressive ads in newspapers, television, etc.  <a href="http://www.braille.be/fr/a-propos-de-nous/actions-et-campagnes/semaine-de-la-ligue-braille/2016">http://www.braille.be/fr/a-propos-de-nous/actions-et-campagnes/semaine-de-la-ligue-braille/2016</a></li> </ul>
Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period	<p><b>Belgium:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>June 6<sup>th</sup>: Visionomie exhibit (2<sup>nd</sup> year); deuxième édition du salon Visionomie, about VI: for persons with VI, their family and professionals. The aim is to discover accessibility and autonomy for people with VI.</b> <a href="http://ona.be/salon-visionomie/">http://ona.be/salon-visionomie/</a></li> </ul>



Area of Reference	Description
	<p>- On January 4th (world day of Braille), the Ligue braille, every year, put a blind student outfit to the Manneken Pi) (with a white cane and a guide-dog- in Brussels to make people sensitive to the cause of the Blind.</p> <p>-Nov, 15<sup>th</sup>: Chaire UCL (Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve) –IRSA (Institut Royal pour Sourds et Aveugles) Conférence Grand Public IPSY (Institut de recherche en sciences psychologiques – Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve) « <i>Perdre et retrouver la vue, prodige et vertige de l'étonnante plasticité du cerveau</i> » par Olivier Collignon – chercheur qualifié FNRS et professeur UCL: “<i>Losing and recovering sight: the amazing brain plasticity</i>”. <a href="http://dailyscience.be/2016/11/11/une-breve-perde-de-la-vue-reorganise-profondement-le-cerveau/">http://dailyscience.be/2016/11/11/une-breve-perde-de-la-vue-reorganise-profondement-le-cerveau/</a></p> <p>- Oct 10<sup>th</sup>: Conference: deafblindness: Usher syndrome and communication tools Presentation of Deafblindness in French speaking Belgium and presentation of the « deafblindness Platform » and of Usher syndrome. Different means of supporting people with deafblindness By Jean-Charles Kaens</p> <hr/> <p>- from 15/10/2016 to 03/12 2017. Training Formation sur les déficiences sensorielles chez l'enfant et l'adolescent (training on sensory impairment among children and youth)._Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve dans le cadre de la Chaire UCL/IRSA</p> <p>L’objectif de cette formation est de sensibiliser les participants aux principales déficiences sensorielles (déficiences auditive et visuelle) sur le plan médical, cognitif, développemental et pédagogique. Les participants développeront des connaissances théoriques de base sur les troubles sensoriels ainsi que des connaissances sur les outils permettant de mieux comprendre la déficience sensorielle. Les bases sur le polyhandicap et la surdicécité seront également introduites. Il s’agit d’une formation pluridisciplinaire abordant divers aspects de la déficience sensorielle. Objective: to raise awareness among participants about the main sensory impairments (auditory and visual impairments) at a medical, cognitive,</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>developmental and pedagogical level. Participants will develop basic theoretical knowledge about sensory disorders as well as knowledge about tools which enable to understand sensory impairment better. The basics on MDVI and deafblindness will also be introduced. It is a multidisciplinary training addressing various aspects of sensory impairment.</p> <p><b>Switzerland:</b>  Certificate of advanced studies (CAS) Pédagogie spécialisée: option "Déficience visuelle" (special education Visual impairment)  This training is headed by the Haute école pédagogique of Vaud district (Lausanne) and focuses on children and youth with VI from 0 to 20. It started Sept 2016 and will last until 2019. However, it is possible to start it with delay in Sept 2017. See the link below.  Cette formation mise sur pied par la Haute école pédagogique du canton de Vaud (Lausanne) est centrée sur l'accompagnement d'enfants et de jeunes de 0 à 20 ans en situation de déficience visuelle. La formation a démarré en septembre 2016 et se poursuivra jusqu'en 2019. Il est cependant possible de bénéficier d'un démarrage différé en septembre 2017; avis aux intéressés.  Informations complètes sous:  <a href="https://candidat.hepl.ch/cms/accueil/formations-continues/formation-postgrade/offre-de-formations-postgrades/cas-certificate-advanced-studies/cas-devi-special-def-visuels.html">https://candidat.hepl.ch/cms/accueil/formations-continues/formation-postgrade/offre-de-formations-postgrades/cas-certificate-advanced-studies/cas-devi-special-def-visuels.html</a></p> <p><b>France:</b>  - 2016 (from: Professor José Sahel. High level series of conferences on visual disabilities and research open to the public: "Still seeing: Perspective on visual restoration". Collège de France (Paris)  <a href="http://www.college-de-france.fr/site/jose-alain-sahel/course-2015-2016.htm">http://www.college-de-france.fr/site/jose-alain-sahel/course-2015-2016.htm</a></p> <p>- March 17-19th: INS HEA conference "Sensory Issues and disabilities. Touch to learn, touch to communicate. Paris, Science Museum  <a href="http://inshea.fr/fr/content/retour-sur-le-colloque-international-ins-hea-toucher-pour-apprendre-toucher-pour-communiquer?utm_source=DV+INSHEA&amp;utm_campaign=959e1dabe0-">http://inshea.fr/fr/content/retour-sur-le-colloque-international-ins-hea-toucher-pour-apprendre-toucher-pour-communiquer?utm_source=DV+INSHEA&amp;utm_campaign=959e1dabe0-</a></p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p data-bbox="563 230 1340 302"><a href="mailto:EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2016_12_02&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_term=0_63cd61a399-959e1dabe0-4564393">EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2016_12_02&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_term=0_63cd61a399-959e1dabe0-4564393</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="563 338 1305 488">- May 9th: 20e Colloque de Printemps ARIBa (“representative Initiatives in low vision francophone association”). Paris, Palais des Congrès <a href="http://www.ariba-vision.org/node/106">http://www.ariba-vision.org/node/106</a></li> <li data-bbox="563 524 1289 629">- June 18<sup>th</sup>: day of the adherents of ALFPHV (psychologists’ organization for persons with visual impairment): clinical sharing (rare diseases). Paris.</li> <li data-bbox="563 636 1340 779">- March 30<sup>th</sup>-april 12<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> audiodescribed movies festival, organized by Valentin Haüy Association, Paris <a href="https://www.avh.asso.fr/fr/voir-le-cinema-autrement-avec-le-7e-festival-audiovision">https://www.avh.asso.fr/fr/voir-le-cinema-autrement-avec-le-7e-festival-audiovision</a></li> <li data-bbox="563 815 1337 1032">- May 21<sup>th</sup>, Lyon. SARADV <i>Familles, professionnels: Co-construire le projet de vie du jeune déficient visual. Families, professionals: Building together the young visually impaired’s life project.</i> <a href="http://www.ctrdv.fr/index.php/item/207-3eme-journee-d-etudes-saradv-21-mai-2016">http://www.ctrdv.fr/index.php/item/207-3eme-journee-d-etudes-saradv-21-mai-2016</a></li> <li data-bbox="563 1068 1321 1328">June 28<sup>th</sup> : International conference, Paris : <i>Jacques Lusseyran (1924-1971) entre cécité et lumière (Jacques Lusseyran, between blindness and light)</i> <a href="http://www.vues-interieures.eu/post/2016/07/02/Colloque-Jacques-Lusseyran-(1924-1971)-Entre-cecite-et-lumiere-Regards-croises">http://www.vues-interieures.eu/post/2016/07/02/Colloque-Jacques-Lusseyran-(1924-1971)-Entre-cecite-et-lumiere-Regards-croises</a></li> <li data-bbox="563 1364 1340 1547">- May 30<sup>th</sup>: 10<sup>th</sup> forum about digital accessibility “e-Accessibility in a connected world » (Cité des sciences, Paris) <a href="http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/evenements/colloques/colloques/89_index_en.html#contenu">http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/evenements/colloques/colloques/89_index_en.html#contenu</a></li> <li data-bbox="563 1583 1284 1697">- October 6-8<sup>th</sup>: GPEAA conference (teachers and educators for VI): <i>Mental representations</i> <a href="http://gpeaa.fr">http://gpeaa.fr</a></li> <li data-bbox="563 1733 1137 1769">- Nov. 4-5<sup>th</sup>: 11<sup>th</sup> Ariba congress, Nîmes.</li> <li data-bbox="563 1805 1332 1919">- Nov 14-15: FAF workshop on Prereading, language, representation (young blind prereaders understanding of books, literacy), Paris.</li> <li data-bbox="563 1955 1340 2022">- Nov 16-18: 38<sup>th</sup> Fisaf national congress: about coworking, families, persons, professionals (Arcachon)</li> </ul>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p data-bbox="563 230 1340 302"><a href="http://www.fisaf.asso.fr/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=175&amp;Itemid=309">http://www.fisaf.asso.fr/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=175&amp;Itemid=309</a></p> <p data-bbox="563 338 1273 450">- Dec, 5-6 Fédération des aveugles de France: 5<sup>th</sup> workshop on ICT for people with VI (Cité des Sciences, Paris)</p>
<p data-bbox="217 492 523 667">Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website</p>	<p data-bbox="563 492 743 521"><b>Switzerland</b></p> <p data-bbox="563 528 1326 815">- An article about a new service of professional counselling for visually impaired people by the Centre pédagogique pour élèves handicapés de la vue (CPHV): Gyger, J., Schütz, F., Vevopoulou, V. &amp; Rodriguez, D. Tactuel. Revue specialise du handicap de la vue et de la surdicécité. <i>Formation professionnelle: nouvelles perspectives et développements en Suisse romande</i>. 1/2016. Lausanne: UCBA. <a href="http://www.tactuel.ch/fr/des-idees-pour-ameliorer-la-vie-des-personnes-atteintes-de-surdicecite/">http://www.tactuel.ch/fr/des-idees-pour-ameliorer-la-vie-des-personnes-atteintes-de-surdicecite/</a></p> <p data-bbox="563 822 1331 1144">Tactuel: 4 issues per year</p> <p data-bbox="563 965 1219 1037">- Downloadable brochure. "Vision and hearing screening for a better care"</p> <p data-bbox="563 1043 1331 1144"><a href="http://ucba.ch/fileadmin/pdfs_fr/recherche/Fachstudie-Leitsa_tze-FZ-v07-Anpassung-barrierefreies-PDF-interaktiv.pdf">http://ucba.ch/fileadmin/pdfs_fr/recherche/Fachstudie-Leitsa_tze-FZ-v07-Anpassung-barrierefreies-PDF-interaktiv.pdf</a></p> <p data-bbox="563 1189 671 1218"><b>France</b></p> <p data-bbox="563 1225 1251 1328">- Dec 2015: A new online magazine about visual impairment, <i>Lumen</i>: <a href="http://www.lumen-magazine.fr/magazine/">http://www.lumen-magazine.fr/magazine/</a></p> <p data-bbox="563 1373 663 1402">March:</p> <p data-bbox="563 1408 1305 1624">- Lewi-Dumont, N. (Ed.)(2016). <i>Enseigner à des élèves aveugles et malvoyants</i>. Lille and Suresnes : Canopé and INS HEA ("Teaching students with blindness and partial vision"). <a href="https://www.reseau-canope.fr/notice/enseigner-a-des-eleves-aveugles-ou-malvoyants.html">https://www.reseau-canope.fr/notice/enseigner-a-des-eleves-aveugles-ou-malvoyants.html</a></p> <p data-bbox="563 1668 1342 1843">- Research from French National research agency: about a new font for partially sighted: (article published online) <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4830533/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4830533/</a></p> <p data-bbox="563 1888 703 1917"><b>Belgium:</b></p> <p data-bbox="563 1924 1305 1986">Documentary short film "Derrière les yeux" ("Behind the eyes") , from Julien Gentens (2015) won several</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	prizes in 2016: <a href="https://fr-fr.facebook.com/derrierelesyeux/?rc=p">https://fr-fr.facebook.com/derrierelesyeux/?rc=p</a>
Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months	<p><b>France:</b>  Take part in the International Tactile-Illustrated Book Prize Typhlo &amp;Tactus  <a href="http://www.tactus.org">http://www.tactus.org</a></p> <p>-Jan 26-27: Les entretiens des aveugles (blind people’s talkings. Conference, FA. Unesco (Paris)</p> <p>- May 8th Spring conference of Ariba. (“representative Initiatives in low vision francophone association”). Paris, Palais des Congrès: Childhood and VI  <a href="http://www.ariba-vision.org/sites/default/files/ARIBa%2008%20mai%202017_21e%20colloque%20printemps.pdf">http://www.ariba-vision.org/sites/default/files/ARIBa%2008%20mai%202017_21e%20colloque%20printemps.pdf</a></p> <p>- May 11, 12, 13<sup>th</sup>: Congress ALFPHV (psychologist’s organization for persons with visual impairment): “Et pour le désir, il reste une place?” “And for desire, there is still room? Marseille <a href="http://www.alfphv.net">http://www.alfphv.net</a></p> <p>- From June 6<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> audiodescribed movies festival, organized by Valentin Haüy Association, <u>Paris and Lyon</u> (Lyon: new this year)</p>

This report is submitted by Nathalie Lewi-Dumont  
Date: March 9th, 2017



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

Region: Southern European Countries (ITALY)  
 Period: 2016

Area of Reference	Description
Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any	There hasn't been any meetings of the sub-regional committee in 2016
Global campaign activities, if any	There haven't been any Global campaign activities during 2016. There are no countries involved in it.
Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period	<p><b>Italy:</b> Irifor organized several workshops and teacher training seminars/courses for teachers and educators dealing with visually impaired students at different levels of school.            In particular:            - in April in the city of Urbino "Braille, luce di chi non vede: dalla tavoletta al digitale" (Braille, light for those who cannot see: from stylus to digital)            - in June in the city of Rome, Irifor presented at the National Senate the results of a research conducted by University of Siena (Medicine) about "Neurological Aspects of Glaucoma)</p> <p><b>Spain:</b> ONCE organized a National Early Intervention Workshop for more than a hundred professionals, with an active intervention of all of them and a round table of experts in Neurology and Psiquiatrics.            As usual many training courses have taken place during 2016 for our supporting professionals.</p>
Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other	<p><b>Spain:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Director of Education, Employment and Cultural Promotion attended and presented a paper on the Side Event: Inclusive Education and ICTs for All: Towards Accessible and Sustainable Societies organized by the Permanent Mission of</li> </ul>

Area of Reference	Description
organizations at the regional level	Austria & the International Disability Alliance, together with the Permanent Missions of Australia, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain and Thailand, in United Nations in Ginebra, in March 2016
ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region	Irifor maintained a constant relation with the Ministry of Education, University and Research about the inclusion of the visually impaired in Italian schools
Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region	<b>Spain:</b> ONCE was awarded with one of the Zero Project Prizes 2016 on Inclusive Education and ICT: Innovative Policies and Practices for Persons with Disabilities, and attended to the Zero Project Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, from 10-12th February 2016, presenting a paper on: Teaching blind students in regular school classes
Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region	<p><b>Italy:</b> Developing and implementation of CLI – Centro Linguistico Irifor (Irifor Linguistic Centre): a linguistic centre for all, inclusive, but specialized in foreign language learning and teaching for the visually impaired, created in April 2016 (cli@irifor.eu; www.iriforcli.eu)</p> <p>CLI is also Cambridge English Exams Preparation Centre</p> <p>A post-grad course in Inclusive Teaching for students with sensorial deficit at University of Urbino</p> <p>Several Rehabilitation Camps</p> <p><b>Spain:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Despite some other from Ecuador, ONCE has a Portuguese student in second grade of its Physiotherapy College</li> <li>- There were 4 Italian students between 12 and 17 years in our English summer camps, from August 1-12<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>



## **Report from the German and Dutch speaking countries by Patrick Temmesfeld**

ICEVI-Europe continues to maintain a close working relationship with Verband für Blinden und Sehbehindertenpädagogik e. V./ The Association of Pedagogy for the Blind and Visually Impaired, (VBS) in the German Speaking Countries. VBS is an organization that plays an important role in the education, training, and sharing of information for the education of people with visual impairment.

Although, ICEVI-Europe does not have direct activities in the German & Dutch Speaking Countries sub region, it works together with VBS for this purpose. ICEVI-Europe continues to engage in a productive collaboration and cooperation with VBS, as VBS is a strong organization in the field of the education of people with visual impairment, which has successfully organized many conferences and training seminars. ICEVI-Europe works together with VBS via the efforts of Mr. Patrick Temmesfeld, ICEVI-Europe Board Member representing the German & Dutch Speaking Countries, who holds the position of member of VBS and in collaboration with the efforts of the former, ICEVI-Europe Board Member representing the German & Dutch Speaking Countries, Mr. Dieter Feser, who holds the position of Chairman of VBS. In August 2016, ICEVI-Europe proudly participated as a Co-Operating Partner of VBS for the successful organization of the 36th Convention of Pedagogy for the Blind and Visually Impaired "Perspectives in Dialogue," which took place August 1-5, 2016 in Graz, Austria, where the President of ICEVI-Europe, Mrs. Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou, attended as a representative of ICEVI-Europe and delivered a welcome speech. The 36th Convention of Pedagogy for the Blind and Visually Impaired "Perspectives in Dialogue" was considered to be not only the largest congress in the German-speaking countries, but also the largest Europe-wide. ICEVI-Europe gratefully values its close relationship and productive cooperation with VBS and looks forward to continuing it in the future to come.

The VBS currently has the highest number of members since foundation in 1873. Nearly 1670 people from the field of blind and visually impaired pedagogy work here together.

The magazine "blind sehbehindert" has been optically renewed / new designed and sent to all members in A4 format in 4 color printing.

There is a new project group "Migration", which deals with the topic of refugees with visual impairment, first conference in October 2017.

The VBS congress 2016 was the highlight - the report with further information was published in the ICEVI newsletter.



In the board elections, the old executive committee was re-elected with one exception: Gudrun Lemke-Werner, deputy chairwoman will retire in 2017; instead Heike Sandrock director at the Blindeninstitut Würzburg was elected new.

The next congress will take place in August 2020 in Marburg (near Frankfurt).  
**It would be very welcome if the ICEVI Europe could be a partner again.**

It was also a great pleasure that there is a new professor at the University of Berlin: Prof. Dr. Dino Capovilla and Dr. Holzapfel will continue the important work

## **Federal Law on Participation**

It was the exciting topic 2016 in Germany - here the right to participation and its financing should be brought to a new way.

The blind and visually impaired people were actively involved direct from the beginning. The DBSV (German Blind and Visually Impaired) was mainly active here. Informations, additions and wishes, we worked out, should and could be added.

The first information about the new law was terrible. If that would be decided, there will be a lot of serious disadvantages for the blind and visually impaired people – especially for the pupils.

As a result, many protests, letters and e-mails took place from summer 2016 onwards. Spectacular was "We go swimming" - blind and visually impaired people went to the river near the German Bundestag in Berlin – there was a great media echo.

Because of perseverance and many discussions with the responsible politicians the disadvantages could be averted. But, instead of a much-anticipated new law, nearly nothing new has emerged.

So far we in Germany can be happy at the moment about the fact that blind and visually impaired people do not experience disadvantages.

2018 will be the next revision - we wait for it.

## **Region: Belgium-Flanders**

**Period: 2016-2017**

<b>Area of Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>
Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months	<b>ICEVI congress:</b> ICEVI-Europe in cooperation with the Belgian Organizing Committee, BLL (Blindenzorg licht en Liefde), Centrum Spermalie and Centrum Ganspoel, have prepared <b>the 9th ICEVI European Conference</b> , which will be held from July 2 to July 7, 2017 at Sint-Lodewijkscollege in Bruges, Belgium. The theme of the conference is "Empowered by Dialogue," centered on the Quality of Life Framework by Dr. Robert Schalock. The program of the conference will be based on the Quality of Life

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>Framework and its eight domains that provide an indication of an individual's quality of life in three broad yet related areas: Independence, Social participation and Well-being. Each domain of the framework will function as an invitation for lectures, workshops or dialogue sessions and serve as a classification topic for Papers. The Conference will open with a Keynote Speaker who will introduce the Quality of Life Framework and continue with invited Keynote Speakers who will further address the domains and their indicators. For further information on the leading theme of the conference, please visit our conference website at <a href="http://www.icevi-bruges2017.be/">http://www.icevi-bruges2017.be/</a></p>
<p>Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region</p>	<p><b>Course: Orientation and Mobility Instructor.</b></p> <p>In cooperation with Centre Spermalie, Centre Ganspoel, Blindenzorg Licht en Liefde and Vives University College Bruges the educational programme 'Postgraduaat Oriëntatie- &amp; Mobiliteitsinstructeur' <u>is organised</u>. The target group are attendants who (like to) work with people with a visual impairment to teach them how to orientate and to transfer safely and independently in their residential-, working- and human environment. It is a practical educational programme with a strong theoretical base, designed by experts from various expert organisations. Due to this, uniformity is intended in the orientation- and mobility techniques. Planned: September 2016- June 2017.</p> <p><b>Teach CVI.</b></p> <p>The aim of the project and partnership is to create collaborative tools for teachers and health care professionals. To build a bridge between the teacher/educator and a health care so they can work together to benefit the target group: children with cerebral visual impairment, hereby referred to as CVI. This is done by: making a tool for health care professionals and educators to screen for CVI, creating a common database of tools for CVI detection, producing resources for teachers to support their work in the assessment of CVI, making teaching methodologies to enable the child's access to literacy, which includes training and teaching materials for teachers/educators of children with cerebral visual impairment.</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>There will be news and updates on the Teach CVI website</p> <p><u>Project partners:</u> The National Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Iceland (coordinator), Child Vision, Ireland, Positive Eye, UK, State Diagnostic Centre, Iceland, The Royal Blind , Scotland, KU Leuven, Belgium Professor Els Ortibus - Janssens Eva (scientific researcher ) with the support of Centrum Ganspoel, Agency for special needs education and schools, Sweden</p>

This report is submitted by Patrick Temmesfeld and Eliane Bonamie



## Report from East European countries by Vladimir Ruchin

**Region: Sub region of the East European Countries**

**Period: 2016**

Area of Reference	Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelorussia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine
Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any	<p><b><u>Azerbaijan</u></b> -Cooperation with ICEVI representatives of CIS countries on issues of inclusive education.</p> <p><b><u>Byelorussia</u></b> - Meeting ICEVI leadership and representatives of the sub-region on the conference (Minsk)</p> <p><b><u>Georgia</u></b> - Preparation 7th ICEVI Eastern European Conference (Tbilisi)</p> <p><b><u>Kazakhstan</u></b> - Cooperation with ICEV representatives of CIS countries on issues of inclusive education.</p> <p><b><u>Russia</u></b> - <b>Conference</b> «Pre-school, general, inclusive education. - Cooperation with ICEV representatives of CIS countries on issues of inclusive education</p> <p><b><u>Ukraine</u></b> The Ministry of Education of Ukraine approved the arrangements for the implementation of inclusive education in pre-school and general educational institutions Cooperation with ICEV representatives of CIS countries on issues of inclusive education</p>
Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period	<p><b><u>Azerbaijan</u></b> Collaboration Professionals Inclusive Education of Azerbaijan and Germany Approved program on Inclusive Education: - "Azerbaijan 2020: Look into the Future"; - "National Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan"; - "State Program on development of inclusive education for persons with disabilities in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2016-2023 years".</p>

	<p>- Heydar Aliyev Foundation has implemented a program to strengthen the material-technical base and training schools for children with disabilities.</p> <p><b><u>Kazakhstan</u></b>  Participatory seminar NGO "Arnika" (Czech Republic) and the organization "Eco Museum" (Republic of Kazakhstan) on the theme "Enhancing the effectiveness of the civil society in solving local problems people with disabilities."  Trainings "Kinaestnetiks" on "The Science of the treatment of touch: the perception of the proper motion. Holder: Fund "Caritas "(Germany).  Joint seminars with regional NGOs, representatives of the authorities on the issue of "Prevention of domestic violence of women"</p> <p><b><u>Russia</u></b>  1. 26.10.2015 – the First All-Russian Congress of Pathologists (Special Teachers)"Special children in society"  2. <b>Nizhniy Novgorod</b>, Non-Profit Organization <b>"Perspective"</b>: 1) project "Protection of rights - the way to equal opportunities"; 2) Summer Camp for the Blind Schoolchildren; 3) project "Again about Inclusion";  3. <b>Special Computer Center for the VI People</b>: 1) courses for the blind university students "Using computer technologies by the Blind and VI people"; 2) new textbooks printed in Braille were prepared for the VI university students  <b>Moscow</b>, Non-Profit Organization <b>"Rainbow World"</b>: releasing CD-discs with fairy tales for the Blind and VI children</p>
<p>Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level</p>	<p><b><u>Azerbaijan</u></b>  - A joint project of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF, "The introduction of inclusive education at the primary level of education" to attract children with disabilities in general education.</p> <p><b><u>Byelorussia</u></b>  <b>International Conference "Inclusive processes in education» UNICEF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Armenia</u></b>  UNICEF conference on Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities (Yerevan)</p>

	<p><b><u>Kazakhstan</u></b> Meeting under the auspices of the UN. Members: the organization of inclusive education and representatives of local authorities of the republic of Kazakhstan on the issue "laws on human rights and access to information."</p>
ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region	<p><b><u>Georgia</u></b> The 7<sup>th</sup> ICEVI Eastern European Conference was held on 14-17 December 2017 on the theme, Partnership – Parent professional cooperation in the process of education of a visually impaired child</p>
Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region	<p><b><u>Kazakhstan</u></b> Awarding organization honorary awards of the republic: the sign "Star Quality" and the Order of "Glory to the nation."</p>
Human interest stories from the region as a result of ICEVI initiatives	<p><b><u>Azerbaijan</u></b> Events charity: "Charity Ball", "White Cane", "Great New Year's events."</p>
Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months	<p><b><u>Ukraine</u></b> All-Ukrainian scientific and practical seminar "Psychological, educational and ophthalmologic support for inclusive education of visually impaired children", Kyiv, March 2016. The 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of the All-Ukrainian nongovernmental professional organization "Association of the typhlopedagogues of Ukraine", Kyiv, June 2016</p>
Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region	<p><b><u>Kazakhstan</u></b> Seminars and workshops with training elements for parents and teachers on the topics: 1) "Psychological safety of children with disabilities", 2) "Aggression in Children." Formation of short-stay groups of children to support mothers.</p> <p><b><u>Russia</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Saratov Special School for the Blind and VI Children – Preschool program for the Blind and VI Children (age 3-7).</li> <li>2. National Research Saratov State University - Home Visits to the families with Blind and VI Children (age 0-3). First visit is made by the Teacher of VI Children (PhD, University Teacher), the following visits are made by the students of the Special Needs Education Chair, Department of Psycho-Pedagogical and Special Education. The Teacher and students work as volunteers. Mutual benefit: families</li> </ol>

	<p>have special help, students obtain experience in forming Individual Education Plan, teaching VI kids.</p> <p>Nizhniy Novgorod – non-profit organization “Perspektiva” – classes for the Blind and VI kids (age 0-7), organizing leisure for VI children and children with multiple disabilities (age 3-18),</p> <p><b><u>Ukraine</u></b></p> <p>The study being carried out by the Department of Typhlopedagogy, Faculty of Corrective Pedagogy and Psychology of the National M.P. Dragomanov Pedagogical University on psychological and pedagogical support and rehabilitation for individuals who lost their vision during military operations in the east of Ukraine.</p>
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This report is submitted **by Vladimir Ruchin**  
Date 8 February 2017



## Report from the Balkan countries by Andrea Hathazi

**Region: Balkan Region**

**Period: 2016**

<b>Area of Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>
Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any	No meetings
Global campaign activities, if any	<p><b>Bulgaria</b> New Regulation for Inclusive education of the Ministry of Education was passed and officially put into practice in November 2016. Prof. Vladimir Radoulov was official member of the committee working on the Regulation.</p> <p><b>Cyprus</b> The Pancyprian Organization of the Blind was involved in the various campaigns of the European Blind Union (mainly on the Marrakesh Treaty and the Website Accessibility Campaign)</p>
Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period	<p><b>Bulgaria</b> The Ninth National seminar for resource teachers of VI and MDVI – held in Varna in June 2016.</p> <p><b>Cyprus</b> The St Barnabas School for the Blind conducted various seminars and trainings (in September) for professionals, in elementary and secondary level, that have a visually impaired student in their classroom. Also, a workshop on the use of the RoboBraille Service was conducted in September for teachers working with students with visual impairments or learning disabilities. The School also organized a number of capacity building workshops for students with visual impairments attending regular education on promoting self-awareness and empowerment.</p> <p><b>Romania</b></p>



Area of Reference	Description
	<p>An International Summer School with the title Alternative and Augmentative Communication in Multiple disabilities took place in September 2016 at the Special Education Department, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca.</p> <p>In October 2016 a National Conference within the BAGMIVI project took place at the Special Education Department in Cluj-Napoca, Representatives of National Authorities participated, representatives of NGO's and Institutions for People with Visual Impairment.</p>
<p>Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level</p>	<p><b>Cyprus</b> No meetings were conducted on a regional level although collaboration was done using various mailing lists.</p> <p>A meeting took place between representatives of ICEVI Europe, ICEVI Romania, ICEVI Bulgaria, ICEVI Greece and EBU within the BAGMIVI project meeting that was organized in October 2016 in Sofia, Bulgaria</p>
<p>Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website</p>	<p><b>Bulgaria</b> Radoulov, VI. The History of Education of Blind in Bulgaria, Phenomenon printing house, Sofia, 2016. (in Bulgarian language).</p>
<p>Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months</p>	<p><b>Bulgaria</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Tenth National seminar for resource teachers of VI and MDVI – to be held in Varna in June 2017.</li> <li>2. Radoulov, VI. History of Education of Visually Impaired, Phenomenon printing house, Sofia, in print. (in Bulgarian language).</li> </ol>
<p>Any other information such as research, best practices, etc., from the region</p>	<p><b>Bulgaria</b> BaGMIVI Project of the Erasmus+ program – partners from Bulgaria are Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski and Bulgarian Association for Education of Visually Impaired Children. Prof. Vladimir Radoulov and prof. Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova are participants in it. Duration: 2014-2017.</p> <p>Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training for Learners with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Project of the Erasmus+ program – partner from Bulgaria is Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski. Prof. Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova is a participant in it. Duration: 2016-2018.</p> <p><b>Cyprus</b></p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>The Pancyprian Organization of the Blind participates in three Erasmus Plus programs:</p> <p>KA1 – mobility of youth that was organized last September 2016 in Tirrenia, Italy “Sportability: equality and participation through sports” project. Our Organisation participated with seven participants (four youth with VI, two youth without disabilities and a sighted guide).</p> <p>KA2 – IncluTech a program that started in 2015 and will be concluded in 2017 its intellectual outputs are various guides for teaching blind and partially sighted students in the inclusive settings subjects such as music, mathematics, first language and foreign language. Also a catalogue of good practice examples for inclusion will be produced.</p> <p>KA2 – Erasmus4VIP program to be completed in September 2017. Its outputs are a toolkit on assisting youth organizations to include youth with visual impairments in their programs, a compendium of activities in which visually impaired youth can be involved as well as a panel of IT and C that can assist youth workers and visually impaired youth.</p> <p><b>Romania</b> BaGMIVI Project of the Erasmus+ program – partners from Romania are Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, the Association of the Blind, Cluj-Napoca Branch and the Transylvanian Ethnographical Museum.</p>

**This report is submitted by**  
**Andrea Hathazi, ICEVI Board- Member, representing the Balkan Region**  
**Maria Kyriacou, ICEVI Cyprus National Representative**  
**Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova, ICEVI Bulgaria National Representative**

Date: 13/02/2017



## Report from the Central European countries by Krisztina Kovacs

Region: Central-European Region (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland)

\*

Period: 2016

Area of Reference	Description
Regional and Sub-regional committee meetings conducted, if any	<p><b>Slovenia:</b> Being a group member of ICEVI, TIFLO section within Association of Special Education Teachers of Slovenia had one meeting in 2016 (June). The main highlights of the meeting were the presentations of our professionals about their work and achievements in two international projects, that is First Steps and EDUCARE. The main goal of the meetings of this association of professionals working in the field of education of children and young people with VI is to share knowledge and information.</p> <p><b>Hungary:</b> 6th ECPVI was organized by the EPNVI interest group of ICEVI with ICEVI backing and by the Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Special Needs Education (ELTE BGGYK)</p>
Global campaign activities, if any	<p><b>Hungary:</b> 1.) EDUCARE (2015-2017.) - Erasmus + EDUCARE project dealing with VI or MDVI pupils and students with challenging behaviour 2.) I-Express (2016-2018.) – using ICT by MDVI children</p> <p><b>Poland:</b> 1.) ACTIVE WARSAW PROJECT - socio-vocational support program for families with visually disfunctioning members The source of financing: European Fund of Social Operational Program: Regional Operational Program of Mazovia 2014-2020. 2.) VIP PROJECT: All visually impaired Warsaw citizens, over 16, who are unemployed for various reasons could participate in this project to reduce unemployment</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p><b>Slovenia:</b>  The Centre IRIS is a member of MDVI Euronet, the representative joined the General Meeting in Helsinki in April 2016.  The Centre IRIS is a member of Association of institutions working in the field of education of children with VI from the Balkan countries. The representatives meet once per year. Last year the meeting was held in Peć, Kosovo, dealing with the topic of ICT for MDVI children.</p> <p>Active participation in several <b>international projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erasmus + EDUCARE project dealing with VI or MDVI pupils and students with challenging behaviour, where our members participated in two training events, Budapest, Hungary in June and in Osimo, Italy in October. The topics of the first event were aggression and self-inflicted injuries, in Osimo we examined methods that bring good results in dealing with VI/MDVI children with autism.</li> </ul> <p>First Steps - a project about early intervention, which involves the Balkan countries, coordinated by Royal Dutch Visio with the goal to implement good practices in the field of early intervention continued its work with two meetings in Belgrade (April and October 2016). The project was presented at the international conference on Early intervention in Subotica, Serbia, in October 2016. Opeye (Open and portable software library for rapid eye tracking) is a new Erasmus+ project coordinated by Institut pour Déficients visuels from Luxembourg, which is just about to start its work.</p>
Seminars, workshops, capacity building programmes, if any conducted during the reporting period	<p><b>Czech Republic:</b>  Annual conference on Early Intervention in September Olomouc  2016 Hapesthetics exhibition – art for touching in Prague, is held annually</p> <p><b>Hungary:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Eurochess International Chess competition, 2016. April - pupils from the Budapest School for the Blind participated</li> <li>2.) Pro Scientia Conference in Pécs – Physical activity of pupils with visual impairment and physical disability</li> <li>3.) ENVITER yearly conference in Plovdiv - September 19-22. 2016 – the School for the Blind is a partner school in ENVITER</li> </ol>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>4.) BrailleJet project: Starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2016, the project aims at the development of a cost effective and innovative Braille printing system for the visually impaired people.</p> <p>5.) VUK project: VUK is a European Active and Assisted Living Programme project made up of a consortium of 9 partners located in Hungary, Austria, Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The project focuses on elderly blind and visually impaired individuals and their caregivers, with a basic (or above) ability to use technology, a population currently lacking a suitable navigational aid for everyday urban mobility. The project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2016.  <a href="http://www.vuk-project.com">http://www.vuk-project.com</a></p> <p><b>Slovenia:</b></p> <p>1.) New knowledge acquired by the professionals is shared in many ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are especially proud that seminars at the <b>Centre IRIS</b> for teachers of mainstream schools and kindergartens where children with VI are being educated, are extremely well attended.</li> <li>- Furthermore, there are two groups of teachers (teachers of primary schools and teachers in the kindergartens) who meet three times per year at the Centre to get new knowledge and exchange good practices.</li> </ul> <p>2.) Annual conference of Association of Special Education Teachers of Slovenia: The topic in 2016 was Social integration of children with SEN where five presentations dealt with the field of VI.</p> <p><b>Poland:</b></p> <p>1.) <b>POLISH ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND : The Project TYFLOPOLIS</b> (gr. <i>typhlos</i> – blind , <i>polis</i> – city):From 4th September 2015 till 31st December 2016 <b>The Polish Association Of The Blind</b> in co-operation with the <b>City of Warsaw</b> as well as with the partners –The Foundation-Chance For the Blind and Globe Forum- have been participating in the project <b>The Virtual Warsaw</b>. The aim of the Project is to improve the quality of life of the visually</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>impaired living in Warsaw as well as to make the city of Warsaw more attractive both for the city dwellers and tourists. Within the Project there will be conducted: consultations about the needs of the visually impaired, basing on which there will be formed the application and the net of transmitters implemented in the city and the public transport. The Virtual Warsaw is at the stage of implementation. The initial stage works involve testing the efficiency of the applications vital for the recipient, for example the accuracy of navigation, receiving information about the selected tourist objects, offices, and marking the route between the objects.</p> <p>2.) <b>The foundation – The Chance for The Blind</b> arranged the 14th edition of international conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND. For the last few years the honorary patronage of this conference –REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND has been held by the wife of the President of Republic of Poland. The conference in 2016 was held on 1st-2nd December with the motto: „The outstanding blind-their influence on the development of modern society”.</p> <p>3.) <b>DEAF AND BLIND AID SOCIETY:</b> Deaf and Blind Society /TPG/ celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2016. In 2016 they have completed two Polish projects, namely: „ To make the Deaf-blind love their independence” „ The Green light for active development of the deaf-blind II”</p> <p>4.) <b>THE REGIONAL FOUNDATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BLIND in CHORZÓW -</b> On the 1st of September 2016 The Regional Center of Support for The Blind and Partially Sighted in Ziemęcice, built by the foundation, started its activity This center is patterned on the Institute for the Blind in Wurzburg –the solution of a German foundation.</p> <p>5.) <b>The International Conference Interdisciplinary Contexts of Early Intervention, and Early Support of a Child’s Development</b> 21-23 September 2016, Warsaw. During the conference there were discussions on the following thematic blocks concentrating on the process of early intervention and early support for the child’s</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p>development: medical conditions, social , legal and economic contexts, family engagement, the diagnosis of a child's and family needs and possibilities, the methods of a development support, professionals' preparation. There were 240 participants in the conference. 70 lectures were presented, including 27 foreign ones. The associating events ; workshops, studio visits at various centers of early intervention, presentations of early intervention centers and other organizations dealing with early intervention , photography contest and post-conference exhibition entitled "A small Child"</p> <p><b>6.) Polish Scientific Conference within cycle Typhlopedagogy-theory and practice.</b> A visually impaired person and the changing socio-cultural and edu-rehabilitation environment. 14. 10. 2016, The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland</p> <p><b>7.) „BEYOND LIMITS AND BARRIERS” PROJECT</b></p> <p>This Project is realized within the European program Erasmus+. The foreign PZN partners within this project are: Austrian Association of The Blind and Belgian organization VIEWS. The realization time; from November 2016 till April 2018. The main aims of the project are learning and experience exchange between young people at the age of 18-30 as well as between those at the age 50+ from three European countries; Austria, Belgium and Poland.</p>
<p>Collaborative activities and meetings with world bodies such as WBU, IAPB, UN, World Bank, and other organizations at the regional level</p>	<p><b>Hungary:</b> Fostering Mobility of university students with Visual Impairment – joint project with evidence based research with cooperation between ICEVI Europe and European Blind Union – pilot study and final study. <a href="http://www.icevi-europe.org">http://www.icevi-europe.org</a></p> <p><b>Slovenia:</b> Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Slovenia supports all the initiatives of EBU. Representatives took part at the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in October 2015.</p>

Area of Reference	Description
	<p><b>Poland:</b> By the initiative of The Polish Association of the Blind in 2016 there was established the parliamentary team for the visually impaired people. The team consists of seven members of parliament. The main aim of the team is supporting people with visual dysfunctions to solve their vital problems.</p>
ICEVI collaborative work with national governments within the region	<p><b>Slovenia:</b> In 2016 a nationwide campaign was carried out in the form of round tables in different towns in order to convince politicians to take necessary steps in order to introduce the legislation needed. A major step has been made towards the Centres of Expertise. In December the Ministry of Education Science and Sport opened the call for applications for 8 such centres in Slovenia, one among them is meant for the field of VI. The organisation of the centre of expertise will be tested as a four-year project first.</p>
Awards, Recognition, etc., to ICEVI members from the region	<p><b>Hungary:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Gordosné Szabó Anna priye for the best practice leader in special education: Katalin Majoros, teacher of the School for Blind Children, Budapest</li> <li>2.) Pro Universitate Medal for Beáta Prónay (ELTE Faculty of Special Education) for her outstanding lecturing work in the field of psychology and rehabilitation of persons with VI</li> <li>3.) 2 Gold medals for Boglárka Kollárszky, blind student of ELTE University on the European University Games paraswimming competition</li> </ol>
Publications from the Region, that may be of interest to the viewers of ICEVI website	<p><b>Czech Republic:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) New application from EDA Play family: EDA PLAY ELIS was developed and is already available at the App Store, focused on children with CVI and multiple impairment: vision perception development a fine motor skills development</li> </ol> <p><b>Hungary:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Alternative techniques of baby care for persons with visual impairment - A methodological manual by the Basic Rehabilitaion Center, Budapest</li> <li>2.) Dr. Márta Tolnayné Csattos: Adapted Techniques of Baby Care - A manual for parents and grandparents with visual impairments, their relatives, acquaintances,</li> </ol>



Area of Reference	Description
	<p>friends, and professionals working with them. Basic Rehabilitation Center, Budapest</p> <p>3.) Maria Bieber: Introduction to the secrets of reading and writing Braille. Hungarian Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted</p> <p>4.) Somorjai, Agnes – Mándi, Ágnes: School-aged children with visual impairment. In: Basics in Ophthalmology</p> <p>5.) The presentations as full text electronic publications are accessible of the 6th ECPVI <a href="http://6ecpvi.elte.hu/">http://6ecpvi.elte.hu/</a> or through: <a href="http://www.icevi-europe.org/">http://www.icevi-europe.org/</a></p> <p>6.) Prónay, B et al.: World Access for Individuals with Visual Impairment – training material for Erasmus students</p> <p>7.) Gombás, Judit: The Involvement of Budapest Residents with Visual Impairments in Leisure Sports: Barriers and Facilitators. PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORT STUDIES AND RESEARCH 70:(1) pp. 44-54. (2016)</p>
<p>Forthcoming events from the region for the next six months</p>	<p><b>Czech Republic:</b> Conference on Early Intervention in Olomouc September 2017</p> <p><b>Hungary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professional Day April 21, 2017 in the School for the Blind for all professionals in Hungary working with children with multiple disabilities</li> <li>- The School for the Blind will be the host of Eurochess 2017</li> <li>- Staff of the School for the Blind will visit institutes dealing with MDVI adults in Germany</li> <li>- ICEVI conference in Brugge : 1 person will be participate with the sponsorship of Perkins International</li> <li>- ENVITER Conference in Düren, 2017, September</li> </ul> <p><b>Slovenia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional conference on Early Intervention in May to complete the First Steps project activities.</li> <li>- Training event of EDUCARE project group in Ljubljana in March.</li> </ul>
<p>Any other information such as research,</p>	<p><b>Hungary:</b></p>

Area of Reference	Description
best practices, etc., from the region	<p>1.)BaGMIVI - Erasmus+ KA2 Project on Bridging the Gap between Museums and Individuals with Visual Impairments (partners: University of Thessaly, ELTE University Budapest, University of Sofia, Babes-Boyai University, Scottish Sensory Centre, ICEVI, European Blind Union</p> <p>2.) Localisation of JAWS 17.0 screen reading software  <a href="http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/">http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/</a>  Localisation of MAGic 13.0 screen magnifying software  <a href="http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/">http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/</a>  Localisation of Zoomtext 10.0 screen magnifying software  <a href="http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/">http://www.infoalap.hu/letoltes/</a></p> <p>3.)Open Day for secondary school aged VI students at ELTE University, organized by the Disability Center of ELTE University</p> <p>4.)"Chances" English speaking club for VI university Students organized by the Disability Center of ELTE University</p> <p><b>Czech Republic:</b>  Course for blind teenagers in body language, gestures and face emotions expressions, organized by Association of parents and friends of children with visual impairment</p> <p><b>Slovenia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new Slovene 6 dot Braille Code, updated for the first time since 1974, was accepted by all bodies of Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Slovenia and the professionals and started being used in March 2016.</li> <li>- The Ministry of Education Science and Sport approved a new Statute to The Institute for the Blind and Partially Sighted Children. Consequently, the Institute changed its name into <b>Centre IRIS - Centre for Education, Rehabilitation, Inclusion and Counselling for the Blind and Partially Sighted (Center IRIS - Center za izobraževanje, rehabilitacijo, inkluzijo in svetovanje za slepe in slabovidne)</b> in December.</li> <li>- In 2016, there were two highlights of the partnership between Gymnazium pro zrakove postizene a Stredni skola pro zrakove postizene from Prague and Zavod</li> </ul>

Area of Reference	Description
	za slepo in slabovidno mladino (still at the time): A group of 13 Slovene students spent a week in April with their peers in Prague and participation at International Sports Games in June in Prague as well. There is interest from both sides to continue good collaboration and we are looking forward to joint actions in the future.

\*The official contact person from Slovakia did not react

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

Date 23/02/2017

## 4 Professional Interest Groups

The Board ICEVI-Europe greatly supports the establishment of European Professional Interest Groups.

Professional Interest Groups of ICEVI-Europe were established during the 8th ICEVI European Conference on Education and Rehabilitation of People with Visual Impairment in Istanbul, Turkey July 2013, with the purpose of bringing together scientists, academics and professionals who work in the same specific field in order to exchange knowledge and experiences about the education and rehabilitation of people with visual impairments. ICEVI-Europe recognizes the necessity of professional interest groups and embraces the cooperation between professionals working in the field of visual impairment, promoting the necessary framework for full participation.

During the European conference in Istanbul 2013 there were some special meetings of professionals. Also, during the upcoming European Conference in July in Belgium there will be special meetings of the following professional interest groups:

- ICT
- Early Intervention
- Teaching and Teacher Training (Advisory Teachers, Subject Teachers, Classroom Teachers, & Teacher Trainers)
- Habilitation (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, & Speech Therapists)
- Rehabilitation (Orientation & Mobility Instructors, Daily Living Skills and Low-Vision)
- European network for psychologists and related professions working in the field of Visual Impairment, ENPVI
- Vocational Training and Employment Rehabilitation
- Parents Interest Group

The Board of ICEVI-Europe hope these groups will have a structural character. As one of its instruments through which it facilitates the exchange of professional knowledge and expertise, ICEVI-Europe is a strong advocate of the establishment of strong and independent special Interest Groups that promote networking with regard to specific aspects of education and rehabilitation of the visually impaired. The ENPVI is a leading example of a successful and independent interest group that has a strong reputation for organizing successful bi-annual thematic conferences throughout Europe. On 10-12 November 2016, the ENPVI had its sixth conference, the 6th European Conference on Psychology and Visual Impairment (6th ECPVI), in Budapest, Hungary. The 6th ECPVI was successfully organized by the Eötvös University Faculty of Special Education Needs and by the Foundation for the Development of Special Education Needs and was attended by 88 participants from 17 different countries. The presentations were held in two plenary sessions and the conference offered place for two workshops and also for poster presentations. All presentations and posters can be visited on the website <http://enpvi.net/budapest-2016/>

The ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Groups will organize workshops during the 9th ICEVI-European Conference in Bruges, Belgium, which will be interactive and allow for interesting discussion.

We strongly encourage you to directly contact one of the Professional Interest Group Leaders in order to sign up as a member of the ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Group of your choice. Please visit the ICEVI-Europe website for further information.

## 5 Financial report 2016

<u>Balance</u>	<u>31-12-2015</u>
	33 143.01 €
Cash	0.00 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>33 143.01 €</b>
<u>Profit and loss</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Income</b>	
Project Funds	6446.45 €
Membership Contributions	15402 .40 €
Donations	2 491.78 €
ICEVI World Conference Travel	5 217.63 €
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29 558.26 €</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
ICEVI World Conference Travel	5217.63 €
Administration Expenses	6710.00 €
Bank fees	302.80 €
Travel and Accommodation	6095.11€
Other Costs	50.00 €
Project Expenditure	5415.00€
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>23 790.54€</b>
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>5767.72 €</b>
<b>Balance as per 31.12.2016</b>	<b>38910.73 €</b>

## 6 Estimate 2017

<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b><u>31-12-2016</u></b>
	38910.73.€
Cash	0.00 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>38910.73 €</b>
<b><u>Profit and loss</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
<b>Income</b>	
Project Funds	3161 €
Membership Contributions	14 600 €
Donations	1 500 €
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>19261</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Administration Expenses	7 600 €
Bank fees	310 €
Travel and Accommodation	2500 €
Other Costs	12 0 €
Project Expenditure	7379 €
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>17909 €</b>
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>1352 €</b>
<b>Balance as per 31.12.2017</b>	<b>40 262.73€</b>

## 7 Looking to the future

The Board mainly looks ahead to the **9th ICEVI-European Conference: Empowered by dialogue** which will take place from July 2 to July 7 2017 at the facilities of the Sint-Lodewijkscollege in Bruges, Belgium. The Board believes that this conference will offer the opportunity to meet fellow colleagues throughout Europe and actively take part in the exchange of knowledge and expertise and sharing of best practices within a network of people and institutions promoting the social inclusion of people with visual impairment. Workshops, poster presentations and parallel sessions will get a more prominent place and strengthen the interaction between the conference's participants. The Board hopes to see all of you July 2017 in Bruges contributing with your knowledge and experiences, making this conference a great success. For ICEVI-Europe the quadrennial conference is an important activity as a European Platform for professionals. During this conference, the General Assembly will convene and elections/re-elections of the new Board of ICEVI-Europe will be held. The goal of the newly elected Board of ICEVI-Europe will be to develop the strategy for the coming years.

ICEVI-Europe's participation in European activities is an important element of realizing its aim. ICEVI - Europe wants to stimulate its members to participate in interesting activities and European Programs of the organization on its behalf.

In the coming years, the cooperation with EBU will ask for more attention. Likewise, ICEVI-Europe will strive to intensify its cooperation with VBS, GPEAA and other key Organisations in the field of visual impairment. Cooperation gives power to realize our common interests and first and foremost the quality of life of people with visual impairment.

Regional conferences and workshops will always be important activities. These activities are very important and will lead to further exchange of professional expertise.

It will be up to the newly appointed Board members to further shape these and other developments.

In line with our strategy of strengthening our structural capacity, ICEVI-Europe will focus its attention on acquiring more professional individuals and organizations to become members of ICEVI-Europe, thereby making our network stronger and bigger throughout Europe.








ICEVI-Europe hopes there will be strong Professional Interest Groups in the coming years.




The Board realises that the implementation of its programme and activities only will be possible with sufficient cooperation of the participating countries, the National Representatives and its Membership Network. We trust we will have the support of our National Representatives and Members and engage in a productive collaboration with them.



We would like to encourage you and your organizations to visit the ICEVI-Europe website, join a Professional Interest Group of your choice, and become a member of a network of professionals in the field of visual impairment across Europe striving to strengthen knowledge and research in the field of education and rehabilitation of people with visual impairment.

## 8 Members of the Board as of December 31st 2016

<p>Mrs. <b>Betty Leotsakou</b>, <i>President</i>  <a href="mailto:bl@icevi-europe.org">bl@icevi-europe.org</a>,  <a href="mailto:bleotsakou@gmail.com">bleotsakou@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Mrs. <b>Nathalie Lewi-Dumont</b>, <i>Vice-President</i>  <i>representing the French speaking countries</i>  <a href="mailto:nathalielewi@gmail.com">nathalielewi@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Ms. <b>Tarja Hännikäinen</b>  <i>representing the Baltic and Nordic countries</i>  <a href="mailto:Tarja.Hannikainen@valteri.fi">Tarja.Hannikainen@valteri.fi</a></p>	
<p>Mr. <b>Steve McCall</b>, <i>Treasurer</i>  <i>representing the English speaking countries</i>  <a href="mailto:s.mccall@bham.ac.uk">s.mccall@bham.ac.uk</a></p>	
<p>Mrs. <b>Krisztina Kovacs</b>, <i>Secretary</i>  <i>representing the Central European countries</i>  <a href="mailto:kkovacs.sza@gmail.com">kkovacs.sza@gmail.com</a>,  <a href="mailto:kkovacs@barczy.elte.hu">kkovacs@barczy.elte.hu</a></p>	
<p>Mrs. <b>Ana Isabel Ruiz López</b>  <i>representing the South European countries</i>  <a href="mailto:airl@once.es">airl@once.es</a></p>	
<p>Mr. <b>Patrick Temmesfeld</b>  <i>representing the German and Dutch speaking countries</i>  <a href="mailto:Patrick.Temmesfeld@bbs-nuernberg.de">Patrick.Temmesfeld@bbs-nuernberg.de</a></p>	
<p>Mr. <b>Vladimir Ruchin</b>  <i>representing the East European countries</i>  <a href="mailto:r-vl@yandex.ru">r-vl@yandex.ru</a></p>	

<p>Mrs. <b>Andrea Hathazi</b>  <i>representing the Balkan countries</i>  <a href="mailto:ahathazi@yahoo.com">ahathazi@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Mr. <b>Hans Welling</b>  <b>Immediate Past President</b>  <a href="mailto:wellingja@yahoo.com">wellingja@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Mr. <b>Francis Boé</b>  Advisor of ICEVI-Europe to GPEAA  <a href="mailto:francis.boe@free.fr">francis.boe@free.fr</a></p>	










Martha Gyftakos  
Executive Assistant to the President of ICEVI-Europe

ICEVI-Europe  
12 Ioannou Kotsou street,  
Glyka Nera 15354  
Athens, Greece





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

## 9 ICEVI REGIONS of Europe




### *Baltic and Nordic Countries*

Denmark Mrs <b>Marie Fasmer</b> , <a href="mailto:mf@ibos.kk.dk">mf@ibos.kk.dk</a>	
Estonia Mrs <b>Monica Lõvi</b> , <a href="mailto:kool@tek.tartu.ee">kool@tek.tartu.ee</a> , <a href="mailto:monsalovi@gmail.com">monsalovi@gmail.com</a>	
Finland Mrs <b>Tarja Hännikäinen</b> , <a href="mailto:Tarja.Hannikainen@valteri.fi">Tarja.Hannikainen@valteri.fi</a>	
Iceland Mrs <b>Huld Magnúsdóttir</b> , <a href="mailto:huld@midstod.is">huld@midstod.is</a>	
Latvia Mrs <b>Ligita Geida</b> , <a href="mailto:ligitageida@apollo.lv">ligitageida@apollo.lv</a>	
Lithuania Mrs <b>Grita Strankauskiene</b> , <a href="mailto:kaunosim@gmail.com">kaunosim@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:grita.stran@gmail.com">grita.stran@gmail.com</a>	
Norway Mrs <b>Beate Heide</b> , <a href="mailto:beate.heide@statped.no">beate.heide@statped.no</a>	
Sweden Mr <b>Anders Rönnbäck</b> , <a href="mailto:anders.ronnback@spsm.se">anders.ronnback@spsm.se</a>	

## English speaking Countries





Ireland Mrs <b>Audrey Farrelly</b> <a href="mailto:audrey.farrelly@gmail.com">audrey.farrelly@gmail.com</a>	
United Kingdom, Wales <b>vacancy</b>	
United Kingdom, England Mrs <b>Maha Khochen</b> <a href="mailto:mahakhechen@hotmail.com">mahakhechen@hotmail.com</a>	
United Kingdom, Scotland Mr <b>John Ravenscroft</b> <a href="mailto:John.Ravenscroft@ed.ac.uk">John.Ravenscroft@ed.ac.uk</a>	
Israel Mrs <b>Nurit Neustadt-Noy</b> <a href="mailto:nuritnoy@macam.ac.il">nuritnoy@macam.ac.il</a>	

## French speaking Countries



Belgium Mrs <b>Juliette Boudru</b> , <a href="mailto:triangle.bruxelles@gmail.com">triangle.bruxelles@gmail.com</a>	
France Mr <b>Francis Boé</b> , <a href="mailto:francis.boe@free.fr">francis.boe@free.fr</a>	
France Mrs <b>Marie Renée Hector</b> , <a href="mailto:mrhector@noos.fr">mrhector@noos.fr</a>	
France Mrs <b>Michelle Collat (French speaking)</b> , <a href="mailto:michele.collat@orange.fr">michele.collat@orange.fr</a>	





Switzerland Mr <b>Frédéric Schütz</b> <a href="mailto:frederic.schuetz@fa2.ch">frederic.schuetz@fa2.ch</a>	
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### **South European Countries**



Italy Mrs <b>Maria Mencarini</b> , <a href="mailto:mencarinimaria@gmail.com">mencarinimaria@gmail.com</a> copy to <a href="http://archivio.irifor.eu">archivio at irifor.eu</a>	
Italy <b>vacancy</b>	
Portugal <b>vacancy</b>	
Spain Mrs <b>Elena Gastón López</b> , <a href="mailto:eql@once.es">eql@once.es</a>	
Spain Mrs <b>Ana Isabel Ruiz López</b> , <a href="mailto:airl@once.es">airl at once.es</a>	
Andorra Mrs <b>Mariona Carbonell del Castillo</b> , <a href="mailto:mariona.carbonell@gmail.com">mariona.carbonell@gmail.com</a> , school: <a href="mailto:eensm@andorra.ad">eensm@andorra.ad</a>	
Malta <b>vacancy</b>	
Monaco <b>vacancy</b>	
San Marino <b>vacancy</b>	


### **German and Dutch speaking Countries**

Austria Mrs <b>Gertrude Jaritz</b> , <a href="mailto:vsbp@gmx.at">vsbp@gmx.at</a>	
Belgium Mrs <b>Eliane Bonamie</b> , <a href="mailto:Eliane.bonamie@de-kade.be">Eliane.bonamie@de-kade.be</a>	






Germany Mrs <b>Elke Wagner</b> , <a href="mailto:elke.wagner@nikolauspflege.de">elke.wagner@nikolauspflege.de</a>	
Germany <b>vacancy</b>	
Germany <b>vacancy</b>	
The Netherlands <b>vacancy</b>	
Switzerland Mr <b>Christian Niederhauser</b> , <a href="mailto:c.niederhauser@blindenschule.ch">c.niederhauser@blindenschule.ch</a>	
Lichtenstein <b>vacancy</b>	
Luxembourg Mr <b>Frank Groben</b> , <a href="mailto:frank.groben@ediff.lu">frank.groben@ediff.lu</a>	
South Tirol (Italy) Mrs <b>Elisabeth Gitzl</b> , <a href="mailto:info@blindenzentrum.bz.it">info@blindenzentrum.bz.it</a>	

### **Central European Countries**






Czech Republic Mrs <b>Marketa Skalicka</b> , <a href="mailto:marketa.skalicka@ranapece.eu">marketa.skalicka@ranapece.eu</a>	
Hungary Mrs <b>Krisztina Kovacs</b> , <a href="mailto:kkovacs.sza@gmail.com">kkovacs.sza@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:kkovacs@barczy.elte.hu">kkovacs@barczy.elte.hu</a>	
Poland Mrs <b>Graszyna Walczak</b> , <a href="mailto:grawal@aps.edu.pl">grawal@aps.edu.pl</a> <a href="mailto:grawal20@wp.pl">grawal20@wp.pl</a>	

<p>Slovak Republic  <b>Ms Tímea Hóková,</b>  <a href="mailto:dkhokova@fedu.uniba.sk">dkhokova@fedu.uniba.sk</a>  <a href="mailto:hokova@unss.sk">hokova@unss.sk</a></p>	
<p>Slovenia  <b>Mrs Marija Jeraša,</b>  <a href="mailto:marija.jerasa@guest.arnes.si">marija.jerasa@guest.arnes.si</a></p>	




### ***East European Countries***











<p>Armenia  <b>Mr Aleksan Aharonyan,</b>  <a href="mailto:specschooll4@yandex.ru">specschooll4@yandex.ru</a></p>	
<p>Azerbaijan  <b>Mrs Melahet Hacıyeva,</b>  <a href="mailto:melahet.haciyeva@gmail.com">melahet.haciyeva@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Belarus  <b>Mr George Losik,</b>  <a href="mailto:georgelosik@yahoo.com">georgelosik@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Georgia  <b>Mrs Mariam Mikiashvili</b>  <a href="mailto:Mariam.miki@gmail.com">Mariam.miki@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Kazakhstan  <b>Mrs Karlygash (Klara) Rakisheva,</b>  <a href="mailto:suarez1992@yandex.ru">suarez1992@yandex.ru</a></p>	
<p>Moldova <b>vacancy</b></p>	
<p>Russia - Central Region, North-West Federal District  <b>vacancy</b></p>	



<p>Russia - Ural Federal District, Siberian Federal District, Far-Eastern Federal District  <b>Mrs Tsyndyma Boyko,</b>  <a href="mailto:imna2002@rambler.ru">imna2002@rambler.ru</a></p>	
<p>Russia - Southern Federal District, North-Caucasian Federal District, Volga Federal District  <b>Mrs Irina Sumarokova,</b>  <a href="mailto:irasu@list.ru">irasu@list.ru</a></p>	
<p>Ukraine  <b>Mrs Evgeniya Synyova,</b>  <a href="mailto:ev_sineva@hotmail.com">ev_sineva@hotmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Ukraine  <b>Mrs Vira Remazhevskaya,</b>  <a href="mailto:lewenia@hotmail.com">lewenia@hotmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Tajikistan  <b>Mr Tengniev Kholmakhmad Ahmadovich,</b>  <a href="mailto:tbu-tajiknet@mail.ru">tbu-tajiknet@mail.ru</a>  <a href="mailto:tengniev@yandex.ru">tengniev@yandex.ru</a></p>	

### ***Balkan Countries***

<p>Albania  <b>Mrs. Zhaneta Muca</b>  <a href="mailto:shvsh@shvsh.org.al">shvsh@shvsh.org.al</a></p>	
<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina  <b>Mr. Azur Kuduzović</b>  <a href="mailto:azurkuduz@gmail.com">azurkuduz@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Bulgaria  <b>Mrs. Mira Tzvetkova-Arsova</b>  <a href="mailto:miratz@abv.bg">miratz@abv.bg</a></p>	

<p>Croatia  Mrs <b>Marijana Konkoli Zdesic</b>,  <a href="mailto:marijana@malidom.hr">marijana@malidom.hr</a></p>	
<p>Cyprus  Mrs <b>Maria Kyriacou</b>,  <a href="mailto:m.kyriacou@cytanet.com.cy">m.kyriacou@cytanet.com.cy</a></p>	
<p>FYROM Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  Mrs <b>Elena Hristova</b>,  <a href="mailto:hristova_e@yahoo.com">hristova_e@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Greece  Mr <b>Vassilis Argyropoulos</b>,  <a href="mailto:vassargi@uth.gr">vassargi@uth.gr</a></p>	
<p>Montenegro <b>vacancy</b></p>	
<p>Romania  Mrs <b>Andrea Hathazi</b>,  <a href="mailto:ahathazi@yahoo.com">ahathazi@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Romania <b>vacancy</b></p>	
<p>Turkey  Mrs <b>Songül Atasavun Uysal</b>,  <a href="mailto:songula@hacettepe.edu.tr">songula@hacettepe.edu.tr</a></p>	
<p>Turkey <b>vacancy</b></p>	
<p>Turkey <b>vacancy</b></p>	
<p>Serbia  Mrs <b>Aleksandra Grbović</b>,  <a href="mailto:sgrbovic@ptt.rs">sgrbovic@ptt.rs</a></p>	