



***Fédération Européenne des Parents d'Enfants Déficients Auditifs
European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children
Europäischer Verband der Eltern Hörgeschädigter Kinder
Federación Europea de Padres de Niños con Discapacidad Auditiva***

FEPEDA Newsletter 2/2022

Greetings from the President

General Assembly and Management Committee meetings has been held on October 2023 in Paris – France. The meetings were held in ANPEDA offices, the National French Organisation of Parents of Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Children.

Due to COVID situation, all the meetings were held on-line since 2019: the last meeting face to face was the General Assembly meeting in Prague in October 2019, 3 years ago!

Members were happy to be together in the same place. Some members couldn't travel and attended the meetings online.

As shown in this Newsletter, a lot of actions have been done by members in 2022 and many projects had a good progress.

An Action Plan for 2023, proposed by the President was adopted during the General Assembly meeting.

Members were happy to see members, as Italy, coming back as Management Committee Member. One of the main actions will be to have new members in Management Committee. The more we will be, the stronger we will be to defend the rights of Deaf an Hearing Impaired Children and their families.

Even if there are yet a lot of exchanges between the members, FEPEDA will work in order let more place to these exchanges during the meeting and to improve them outside of the meetings. We will also think to innovative ways to work inside FEPEDA and to manage FEPEDA meetings.

FEPEDA thanks a lot the members for their involvement

For this new year, I send my best wishes to you, your families, and your friends: happiness, health and success.

Take care of you and them.

André Cuenca, President of FEPEDA

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Previous FEPEDA meetings since Newsletter 1/2022

A Bureau meeting was held on 5th September, 2022. Members of the Bureau are:

André Cuenca as President of FEPEDA
Sari Paloposki as Vice President
Carmen de Lamo as Vice President
Cosmin Brasov as Vice President
Franziska Geiser-Bedon as Treasurer

The General Assembly and the two Management Committee meetings were held on 21th and 22th of October, 2022 in Paris - France and on-line for participants who couldn't travel..





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Upcoming FEPEDA meetings in 2023

- Bureau meeting virtually by Zoom on 23th January 2023
- Management Committee meeting on 5th and 6th May 2023 in Rome – Italy
- Bureau meeting virtually by Zoom on 11th September 2023
- General Assembly and Management Committee meetings on 20th and 21st October 2023 in Madrid – Spain, venue to be confirmed

FEPEDA 2022 Main activities

- Actions conducted in favour of supporting Ukrainian families with deaf children in the context of the invasion of Ukraine
- Work of FEPEDA in various fields
 - family Survey
 - information exchange, mainly through Newsletters
 - photo Campaign, finished in May 2022
 - progress in the student exchange project
 - action of FEPEDA on advocacy and cooperation with other organisation, such as European Disability Forum (EDF), European Platform of Deafness, Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH) and World Hearing Forum (WHO). Participation of FEPEDA in the Family Centred Early Intervention for Children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing (FCEI) Congress is mentioned

FEPEDA Action Plan for 2023

- Members and families:
 - FEPEDA will continue working with European organisations to provide support to Ukrainian families.
 - The results of the Family Survey will be used for advocacy work at European level and offered to the members for using it at national level.
 - FEPEDA will ask their members to motivate families to participate in the Youth Exchange led by the Rotary Club
 - FEPEDA will encourage member organisation to invite participants from other countries to their family camps
 - FEPEDA will focus on increasing its scope of action, through the incorporation of new members and the reinstatement of inactive members
 - FEPEDA will explore the possibility of a new photo campaign, further development of Penpal project and the organisation of a new European Family meeting



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- PR, Publicity and Advocacy
 - FEPEDA will strengthen its public profile through website, Facebook, Newsletter, press release and public statements...
 - FEPEDA will continue active political participation, in cooperation with other European organisations

- Administration
 - FEPEDA will search sources of funding
 - FEPEDA will close monitor the progress of the actions planned.



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Country News

Bulgaria

On September 2022, the Association of Parents of Hearing-Impaired Children hosted international youth exchange "I can't hear but I'm here and I have something to say" with the financial support of the Erasmus+ program. Hearing impaired youth from Poland, Lithuania, Serbia and Bulgaria, spent unforgettable days in the picturesque seaside village of Sinemorets, and discussed topics including human rights, prevention of social exclusion, social dialogue, as the basis of the values of European self-awareness.

During the exchange, they had a long discussion about the implementation of European and local policies on people with disabilities in the partner countries of the project, good practices were shared, the role and importance of education, the enhancement of competences, the role were discussed of advocacy and empowerment of hearing-impaired youth.

Ivan Kamburov, the Strandzha Nature Park expert with great experience took the young people around Strandzha area and related them about protected areas.

The local community center "Sineva - 2020", promoted a recycling workshop with old sailing ships. The main goal was to familiarize the hearing-impaired youth with the project of the community center "Green Sinemorets", to pay special attention to the use of plastic and disposable packaging, and the damage caused by irresponsible human consumption intervention as well as to present different recycling techniques.

With many new friendships, ideas for future joint projects and unforgettable memories brought to the end the international youth exchange "I can't hear but I'm here and I have something to say"



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Czech Republic

Our help to **Ukrainian refugees** has continued. In our befriended organization Tamtam we had a cooperation with a Ukrainian sign language interpreter as an outside collaborator. In each case there was a necessity for a multidisciplinary approach and an involvement of our different in-house specialists and teams: a psychologist, a social worker and our social activation service or early intervention service. Our advantage has been the fact that we already had two key Ukrainian experts employed at our befriended organization Tamtam: a teacher and a psychologist who both started to work on a newly established line for Ukrainian refugees. We also worked together with other state and regional institutions.

We have published an article including a **survey regarding financial aid** for children with hearing loss in different countries. Several FEPEDA members participated in this survey and shared what the situation was like in their country. The article is available in Czech [HERE](#) (right mouse click offers "translate the page to English").

Regarding the topics of our specialized online and printed journal **ldetskysluch.cz**, the latest topic was "**Reading and the children with hearing loss**". Now we are preparing an issue called "**Psychology and children with hearing loss**" (**testing, experience, awareness, stigma dismantling, etc.**). One of our most read articles in recent months was a piece about a new Barbie doll with hearing aids. We also published an article about a first deaf opera director from Great Britain and a piece about the legacy of Helen Keller on her 142 birthday anniversary. All of them are available at [ldetskysluch.cz](#).

Our befriended organization Tamtam founded a **multidisciplinary round table** emphasizing topics like communication, healthcare and rehabilitation and socialization regarding children with hearing loss. We celebrated an **annual garden party** with our client families and supporters. It was a week before the **International Week of the Deaf**. There were also other events like our **annual family camp, a theater** suitable for children with hearing loss and more. Our offices were very much **reconstructed** in the past year so we are quite happy we have a more pleasant and client friendly environment to offer.





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France

ANPEDA /UCPA ADAPTED HOLIDAYS with the financial partnership of the Fondation de France

For the 12th year, the ANPEDA federation and the UCPA (Union nationale des Centres sportifs de plein Air) with the support of the Fondation de France allow 15 deaf children and young people to take part in one-week sports holidays during the summer in total inclusion.

Three stays are organised in the UCPA sports centres to accommodate five deaf children or young people (13-17 years old, 12-15 years old, 6-11 years old) according to their age and with a theme: in Haut Allier "Multi'Allier River" for the older children, in Saint Lary "CampMultisports" Sensations for the intermediate age group and in Séné Circus arts and pony riding for the younger children

Deaf or hard-of-hearing children and young people take part, like other children and young people, in all the activities organised in total inclusion.

An adapted support is organised to make easier their communication with the presence of a communication interface and a sign language interpreter or LPC coder.

Transport is organised by UCPA either by bus or by train according to the destination.

Taking into account the financial aid of 580€ per child provided by the Fondation de France, the remaining cost for the families is relatively low, ranging from 72€ to 162€, taking into account that transport costs must be added.

The ANPEDA federation manages the registration for the stays and the interface between the families and the person in charge of the files at UCPA.

This management and interface is based on the voluntary investment of the general secretary of the Federation.

Each stay is the subject of a report by the UCPA to our federation which is presented at the general assembly.

For example an illustration of the organization of the stay in Haut Allier:

ACCOMMODATION :

Accommodation in rooms for 4 to 6 people with washbasin and shower (bedding kit provided), 7 days/ 6 nights from Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning.

MEAL :

Full board in buffet style. At each meal: cold buffets with raw vegetables, mixed salads; hot buffets: fish, meat, vegetables and starchy foods; desserts: dairy products, fruit. The chef and his team prepare varied dishes, for everyone's desires, including special meals.

At UCPA, everyone is expected to participate in the life of the group, such as cleaning up after meals.



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ACTIVITY/ SUPERVISION :

Multi'Allier River Camp: - 2 rafting sessions (one day outing), 2 mountain bike sessions, 2 climbing sessions on a day, 1 orienteering day, 1 stand up paddle session, 2 accrobranche courses.

- The sports activities are supervised by qualified instructors in accordance with the current regulations.

Positive points:

- Deaf and hearing impaired children often find themselves isolated in their families or schools. Being able to meet together in a holiday camp is very good for them in order to exchange ideas and find their landmarks. Spending time with hearing people on activities where emotions are high allows them to create links with the rest of the group. This nice diversity is very positive for everyone.

- The hearing people at the camp were able to discover another side of disability, which is often misunderstood, and showed themselves to be curious and open.

Points to be improved :

- The age of adolescence is not the most obvious thing for young deaf sign or oral people, as the older children prefer quiet moments when they can talk to each other; these discussion moments are difficult for deaf people to access and they prefer to meet with each other in order to exchange ideas.



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Spain

FIAPAS launches the Let the Whole World Hear it 2022 Campaign, inviting society to join the Urgent Commitment to accessible emergencies.

On the International Day of the Deaf, FIAPAS, the Spanish Confederation of Families of Deaf People, launched a new edition of its campaign Let the Whole World Hear: #UnCompromisoUrgente (An Urgent Commitment), which seeks to raise awareness in society, but above all among the public administrations involved, about the needs of people with hearing disabilities in situations of risk or emergencies.

[ACCESS TO THE CAMPAIGN SPOT](#) (English subtitling)

The pandemic caused by Covid-19, the Filomena storm, the eruption of the volcano on La Palma, forest fires, earthquakes and floods have highlighted the difficulties and risks to which deaf people are

exposed in emergency situations, as they cannot access warnings, information about what is happening, nor the indications for action provided to the entire population for their safety and protection.

This is the starting point of the Campaign "An Urgent Commitment", with which FIAPAS wanted to highlight the needs of people with deafness in emergency situations and the responses that should be provided to them for access to information and communication in these contexts.

Thus, FIAPAS' objective is to promote awareness of the situation of vulnerability, difficulties and risks faced by deaf people, whether they communicate in spoken language and use hearing aids and implants, or in sign language. Particularly, because they are the most ignored by society, the aim is to raise awareness of measures and resources for hearing support and access to information to influence the forecasting and planning of resources and actions in emergency situations so that people with deafness and their families are not excluded and exposed to greater risks than the rest of the population.

In this new edition of the campaign Let's the Whole World Hear it, FIAPAS has counted with the participation of the UME (Military Emergency Unit).



Can you imagine not knowing what to do in an emergency?

This is the experience of more than one million people with a hearing disability in Spain. Join the #accessible_emergencies_commitment so that everyone has access to information in risk or emergency situations.



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Happy New Year!