



***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 2/2021

Greetings from the President

In 2021, despite Covid19 pandemic situation, FEPEDA could continue to work, relatively in good conditions. All meetings have been held on-line and the projects progressed a lot: family survey, photo campaign, advocacy, students exchange, ...

Year 2021 has been a year of modifications: new President and new Bureau.

However, FEPEDA kept its basis with the members who continue to work hard in their countries and at European level for the right and the quality of life of deaf and hearing impaired children and their families.

To continue and reinforce FEPEDA work for 2022, General Assembly members approved an action plan to work in several items : members and families, communication, advocacy and administration.

This action plan will be implemented thanks to the work and the help of the members, who are volunteers.

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. Take care of you and them.

André Cuenca, President of FEPEDA

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Previous FEPEDA meetings

The first Management Committee meeting this year was held on 17th of April, 2021. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually by zoom.

In this meeting there were also elections for the Bureau. André Cuencá from France was unanimously elected as new President of FEPEDA following in this position Sari Paloposki from Finland. FEPEDA addressed a warm thank you to Sari and Petra Paloposki for their great work during the past years.

Members of the Bureau:

André Cuencá as new President of FEPEDA

Sari Paloposki as Vice President

Franziska Geiser-Bedon as Treasurer

Cosmin Brasov and Carmen de Lamo continue as Vice Presidents (elected in October 2020)



A Bureau meeting was held on 6th September, 2021.

General Assembly and Management Committee meetings were held on 15th-16th October virtually by zoom due to COVID 19 pandemic situation.

Upcoming FEPEDA meetings

Bureau meetings virtually by Zoom:

- 24th January 2022
- 5th September 2022



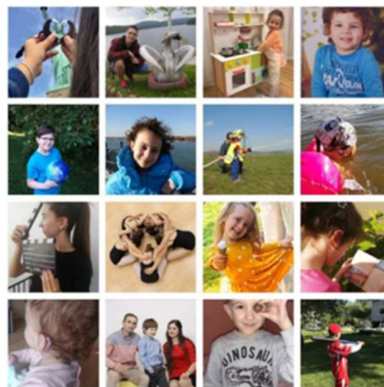
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Management Committee meetings:

- 8th (afternoon) and 9th April, 2022. If possible, hybrid meeting in Madrid
- 21st and 22nd October, 2022. If possible, hybrid meeting. Place to be confirmed

FEPEDA Projects

Photo campaign:



FEPEDA Photo Campaign was originally launched in autumn 2020. The campaign has been successful amongst the families around Europe.

We are happy to inform that the campaign is still ongoing and new children and young people are welcome to join. For more information, please contact the President.

Family survey:

FEPEDA carried out family survey in autumn 2020. The first results were presented at the Management Committee meeting in April 2021 and a synthesis report has been issued and presented to GA on October 2021. Members were very satisfied with the results and discussed different options for using it as an advocacy tool at the national level. *FEPEDA warmly thanks everyone who has participated in this survey!*

Advocacy and networking

Throughout the year, FEPEDA participated in two round tables organised by Medel and Adam Kosa MEP, together with the rest of the European organisations representing deaf people. Natalia Beraza represented FEPEDA in these meetings. As a result of these round tables, the organisers have drawn up an institutional declaration calling for inclusive education in Europe for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and the need to consult their representative organisations, which has already been signed by EFHOH and Eurociu. FEPEDA decided to join them.

European Disability Forum's General Assembly was held on line in June and voting procedure was through e-mail, André Cuenca as representative of FEPEDA.



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The European Platform of Deafness had its first meeting this year online in April. Sari Paloposki attended the meeting on behalf of FEPEDA. She will keep members informed about upcoming meetings.

The World Hearing Forum launched The World Report on Hearing on the World Hearing Day 3rd of March. The report is interesting and members are encouraged to use it in their own advocacy work.

On the World Hearing Day FEPEDA launched a press release as in many years before. This year the press release was drafted jointly with our international cooperation partner GPODHH.

FCEI-conference is postponed until June 8-11, 2022. The conference will be held in Bad Ischl, Austria. Registration is open. FEPEDA is going to be speaker.

Students exchange

The idea is to give the possibility to young deaf or hearing impaired people to participate and live in a foreign family for a certain time. A working group has been defined. High level requirements have been issued and some organisations with experience and expertise have been contacted in this field. Host families should have support for hosting deaf children and, in order to avoid any risk for our children. Working group will continue in 2022.

World Hearing Day

You can find the press release also on FEPEDA website:

<https://fepeda.eu/celebrating-the-world-hearing-day-2021/>

More information on our Global partner GPODHH: www.gpodhh.org

Country News

Bulgaria

On September 2021, the Association of Parents of Hearing-Impaired Children hosted an international youth exchange "New opportunities for social exclusion prevention of hearing impaired youth", with the financial support of Erasmus +. Young people with hearing impairment from Poland, Lithuania and Bulgaria spent an unforgettable ten days in the pretty village of Sinemorets to discuss topics including human rights, prevention of social exclusion, social dialogue, as a basis for the values of European self-awareness.

Workshops, games and presentations were mixed with a tour of ancient sites around the area - Ahtopol, Tsarevo, Sozopol. And in the mystic Strandja mountain we rode in boats along the Veleka River. During the exchange, we had a long discussion about the implementation of European and local disability policies in the countries which were part of the project, shared good practices, discussed the role and importance of education, the role of advocacy and the empowerment of young people with hearing impairment.

Also, we did not forget to present Bulgaria in the national evening with folk costumes, and our guests made their first steps in the Bulgarian horo (traditional dance). Our partners also prepared very interesting and tasty dishes. We thank everyone for their dedication, sharing and unforgettable moments! We already miss you!



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Austria

Austria and FEPEDA – a strong relationship from the beginning

Erhard Etlinger, chairman of „Gemeinschaft Eltern und Freunde Hoergeschaedigter“, was present at the preparing committee for the founding of an European Parents' Association in Luxembourg in 1990. When in 1991 FEPEDA was founded finally, Austria was accepted as an associated member since we were no member of the European Community then. Me, my wife, and our daughter (hard of hearing), enjoyed taking part in the annual family meetings organized by FEPEDA. We realized very soon that international exchange of experience and best practice models could improve the situation in Austria which at that time was not satisfactory at all. There existed only a few kindergartens for deaf and hard of hearing and no schools above the elementary level (a situation which has not very improved since).

Associations for deaf people in Austria were not powerful then. Therefore, it was not easy to make the existence of FEPEDA popular and to communicate its aims and activities. Nevertheless, FEPEDA effected positive developments in our country, especially in 1996 when we took the chance to host the 6th family meeting of FEPEDA in Vienna.

I am very satisfied that Austria now and in the future will take part in FEPEDA's agenda. However, Some countries which have contributed so much to the benefit of FEPEDA's members and their goals in the past are no more members. I hope they will change their attitude in the future and continue collaboration with their partner associations of all European countries, especially of those who have found their way to FEPEDA during the last years.

Walter Lang, former representative of Austria to FEPEDA

Together we can achieve and move a lot – in our country, also in Europe and the world. We are happy to continue our collaboration with European countries and we are proud to be a part of the network.

daiva Müllegger-Treciokaite, current representative of Austria to FEPEDA



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Spain

FIAPAS INFORMATION FOR FEPEDA NEWSLETTER

October 2021

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR MORE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR DEAF STUDENTS

Discussion "Digital and inclusive educational environments. Moving forward from what has been learned in the COVID-19 context".

Last month of June, FIAPAS, in collaboration with the communication agency Servimedia, organised a public discussion on digital and inclusive education, where all speakers agreed on the need to focus on face-to-face education, whenever possible, and to strengthen accessibility measures for the next school year.

The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education and FIAPAS, as well as renowned professionals in the field of education. In addition, two young people from the associative movement of families FIAPAS, Javier and Ainhoa, participated in the meeting, recounting their educational experience during the pandemic.

Education experts discussed at length the educational situation generated by the pandemic, shared best practices, and reflected on lessons learned.

This activity has been carried out within the framework of the grant awarded by the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 from the corporate income tax (IS) tax allocation recognized in Royal Decree-Law 33/2020, which adopts urgent measures to support the Third Sector of Social Action at the state level.



Video with English subtitling:

<https://youtu.be/Jv2qYUyCrfo?list=PLsuxCjQWSODwOZ7CyKQqeLxWZz4n47DqQ>



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FIAPAS INVITES SOCIETY TO CREATE 'MORE SOCIAL NETWORKS'.

This pandemic has increased our dependence on technology through video calls, telemedicine, online classes, social networks... And these are not accessible to everyone. With simple gestures such as activating captioning or using chat, we can help create 'More Social Networks' so that deaf people can access information and communication.

This is the common thread of the new campaign that FIAPAS has presented today on the International Day of the Deaf.

REDES MÁS SOCIALES 2021
QUE LO ESCUCHE TODO EL MUNDO

SIN INCLUSIÓN NO HAY CONEXIÓN
Aulas más sociales - Citas médicas más sociales
Medios más sociales - Redes más sociales

#RedesMásSociales
www.queloescuchetodoelmundo.com

Una iniciativa de: **FIAPAS** CONFEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE PADRES DE PERSONAS SORDAS

Con la financiación de: **Fundación ONCE**

Con la colaboración de: **Aural** **GAES** **MED EL**

Deposito legal M-10881-2021

Therefore, FIAPAS not only wants to reflect the limitations of these new forms of information, communication, and citizen care, despite its usefulness, but also to focus on the support resources that contribute to the elimination of these emerging barriers for deaf people. In addition, it calls on society, public authorities, and administrations to commit themselves and make available all the necessary resources to prevent the violation of the rights of people with a hearing disability.

This campaign has counted with the participation of two renowned actors, such as Octavi Pujades and Clara Alvarado, as well as Irene and Pablo, two young people from the FIAPAS Associative Movement.

All the content of the campaign and its materials can be consulted on the website www.queloescuchetodoelmundo.com and by following the hashtags **#QueloEscucheTodoElMundo** and **#RedesMásSociales** on the social profiles of [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) of **@FIAPAS**.

This edition was made possible thanks to funding from the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 as well as Fundación ONCE. In addition, there has been the collaboration of Aural-Widex, GAES, an Amplifon brand, and MEDEL.



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INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE GOODS, SERVICES, SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTS **FIAPAS' Manifesto on The International Day of the Deaf**

On the International Day of the Deaf, FIAPAS also launched its political Manifesto demanding inclusive and accessible goods, services, spaces, and environments.

Not only has COVID-19 brought an unprecedented social and health crisis to our lives, but it has also caused us to become more dependent on technologies and virtual environments as a society. Work meetings, classes and conversations with family and friends all moved online. Medical consultations, appointments with public agencies and citizen care services are now mainly conducted over the phone or via apps. Added to this is the importance that social networks have acquired as one of our core information channels.

Technological progress in health, education, audiovisual communication, telemedicine, online teleworking and Internet-communication channels.

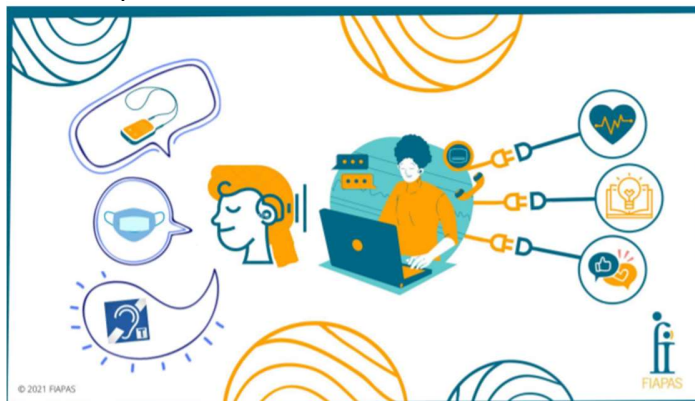
Yet despite the usefulness expansion of these new forms of communication, and citizen care, they have caused significant limitations and damage for people with deafness.

FIAPAS therefore CALLS

- Universal access

of hearing and communication support products to leverage goods and services across all spaces: magnetic loops, modulated frequency stations, subtitled audiovisual material, real-time subtitling and oral communication supports.

- Applications, platforms, content, and virtual environments, incorporating live and recorded subtitling, chat, instant messaging and video calling to allow real-time communication (voice, text and image) and the widespread use of oral communication support strategies.



major areas like employment and education, based

and obvious of information, care, they have and damage for

FOR: solutions. Expansion

[Read the whole Manifesto](#) in English



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Czech Republic

Making educational online and offline events more accessible

Facing the challenges caused by the pandemic situation and its restrictions regarding the events and social distancing, we also had to implement some changes in our work and react accordingly. One of them is a project that has the goal to make educational activities accessible to deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The Prague Zoo started to provide virtual tours and we have created corresponding subtitles and translations to the Czech sign language. These videos are also useful for offline visits as well because the visitors are given worksheets with a QR code that they can point their phones at and it uploads the right video for them. These worksheets with QR code redirecting to videos are also available in several Czech museums and we added subtitles and translations there, too.

Information Centre of Parents and Friends of the Deaf and *Hard of Hearing* and our allied organisation *Tamtam The Centre for Children's Hearing* are the creators of this project.

Tamtam has started to use the online forms of communication more often with our clients while providing two types of social services: early aid/intervention and social activation services for families with children. Therefore the contact with our clients was not stopped and continued fluently. This new experience is also useful when somebody gets ill and it is possible to have an online meeting. Otherwise from May on most of the appointments (both individual and group) are held face to face.

Our annual garden party took place during the *International Week of the Deaf People 2021*. This time the theme was historical and children guests were dressed as princesses, princes and knights. We also attended the webinar by *World Federation of the Deaf* called *Deaf Culture and Arts for Human Rights* as viewers.





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If the pandemic situation allows it, we continue our cooperation with organisers of interesting events in the effort to make them accessible by providing interpreters. It regards theatre performances, museum visits and festivals mostly for children and families.

Our family camps are still very popular. The peer support between adult parents and new friendships among children in a similar situation are together with socialization and education the key benefits. We are grateful that it was possible again to organise several of these events this year.



Happy New Year!