



***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***

Greetings from the President

Dear FEPEDA members, organisations, and families all over Europe,

We introduce to you a new FEPEDA Newsletter. Soon I have already been the FEPEDA President for a whole year. Time flies. Since the last Newsletter we had one Management Committee meeting in Sibiu, Romania. The meeting had active participation from member organisations across Europe, both in person and online. Exchanges highlighted the many actions undertaken by members to support deaf and hard of hearing children and their families. We are planning for the next meeting and the General Assembly in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, end of October.

FEPEDA continues to play a vital role at the European level by bringing our member organisations together to learn from one another, support each other, and strengthen our advocacy for better conditions for deaf and hard of hearing children, young people, and their families across Europe.

Two important events we attended during the first half of 2026 were the Annual General Assembly of the European Disability Forum in Cyprus, and the FCEI Conference in Austria.

On behalf of FEPEDA, I sincerely thank all members for their commitment to defending rights and improving the quality of life of deaf and hard of hearing children, young people, and their families at national and European levels.

Warm regards,

Daniel Lakso Tesak

President of FEPEDA

Participation of FEPEDA in EDF AGA (European Disability Forum Annual General Assembly)

More than 200 participants from 94 organisations and 42 countries gathered in Cyprus and online on 9 and 10 May for the EDF's Annual General Assembly. The event was preceded by a high-level conference organised by the Cypriot Presidency on the inclusion of people with disabilities.

FEPEDA attended the EDF AGA and nominated André CUENCA, FEPEDA Vice-President as delegate to the AGA.

The General Assembly elected new governing bodies, including a new President, Gunta Anca, as well as an Executive Committee, a Board of Directors and a Membership and Finance Committee.

Delegates also approved the 2025 accounts and activity report, the 2027 work plan, and new terms of reference for the Women and Youth Committee. They adopted motions to revise the EDF's statutes and to condemn US visa restrictions on participation in the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD.

Discussions also focused on current policy priorities, including the European strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities – which was deemed to lack ambition – the forthcoming EU budget, the European Disability Card, passenger rights and the protection of adults.



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Finally, the situation of people with disabilities in Cyprus was presented, with a focus on disability reform, access to healthcare, inclusive education, as well as the fight against hate speech and the promotion of equality in Europe.



New elected EDF Board members

Attending FCEI Conference 10.-12.6.2026 in Bad Ischl, Austria

The 7th FCEI Conference was held in Bad Ischl, Austria, on 10.-12.6.2026, bringing together families, professionals, researchers, and deaf and hard of hearing people from around the world. Representatives from several FEPEDA member organisations participated in the event.

The conference focused on advancing family-centered early intervention (FCEI) for deaf and hard of hearing children through research, innovation, lived experience, and international collaboration. Key themes included family empowerment, parent-professional partnerships, communication and language development, emerging technologies, and equitable access to services across different cultural and resource settings. The programme also explored innovations such as artificial intelligence, mobile accessibility tools, and gene therapy, while critically examining their ethical implications and practical applications in early intervention.

Through workshops, presentations, and panel discussions, participants exchanged knowledge, explored new research and practices, and strengthened international networks. The conference also provided valuable opportunities for collaboration that support the continued advancement of the rights, wellbeing, and opportunities of deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

The next conference will be held in Bad Ischl in 2028.



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Members of FEPEDA attending FCEI



Conference room

