



EUD Presentation

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What is **EUD**?

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

ENGO comprising National Association of the Deaf (NADs)

31 full members

(28 EU Member States + Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland)

Only supranational organisation representing Deaf people at European level in consultation with European institutions/officials



EU Statistics





Sign Language

There is no such thing as a universal sign language.

While in spoken languages, American English and British English are almost interchangeable, American Sign Language (ASL) and British Sign Language (BSL) are almost incomprehensible to native speakers of each.



Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Models



VRS-Model



VRI-Model



RCS-Model



Importance of VRS/VRI

Deaf signers have repeatedly expressed that they feel they are better understood when able to express themselves in their own sign language rather than in written form.

(Pilling et al., 2006; Russell & Demko, 2013; Taylor, 2009)



Issues

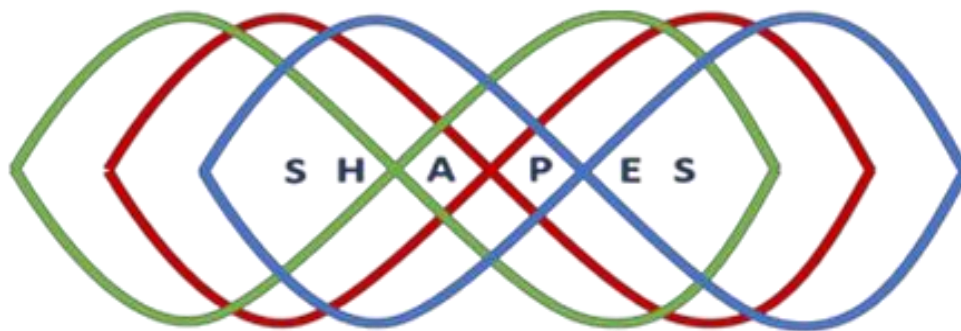
European deaf citizens are equipped with ICT devices that support access to text- or video-based TRS, yet are not always able to make use of the service of their choice.

Most European countries only offer a text-based service and provide insufficient support to satisfy deaf people's preferences.

The inadequacy of state support for these citizens restricts access to the kinds of TRS choices deaf people regard as necessary.



H2020 Project 2019-2023



Smart and **H**ealthy **A**geing through **P**eople
Engaging in supportive **S**ystems



H2020 Project 2015-2018





Conclusion

Legislation varies greatly in EU countries

Not one **solution** for horizontal VRS/VRI Services

Importance of provision of services and clear coverage of costs

EUD urges for **the full implementation of accessibility related legislation** at EU level

Co-operation between stakeholders and EUD crucial for effective legislation at EU, national, and local level



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