**Submission from EUD and its Members for the Disability Data Advocacy Working Group**

On 12 February, EUD received a request from the Disability Data Advocacy Working Group for inputs for International Disability Alliance’s presentation “Making the SDGs count for women and girls with disabilities – the data challenge and opportunity”. The presentation will be given during the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63). The theme of the panel will be “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development: the data challenge and opportunities.”

EUD, the European non-Governmental organisation (ENGO) whose members comprise of National Associations of the Deaf (NADs), is the only supranational organisation representing Deaf people at European level and is one of the few ENGOs representing associations from all of the 28 EU Member States, in addition to EFTA countries: Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. EUD has three working groups, one of them focusing on Gender Equality. EUD’s Gender Equality Working Group is led by EUD Board Member Louise Danielson.

As the panel discussion provides an excellent opportunity to share challenges regarding disability data, particularly with regards to data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, EUD’s Gender Equality Working Group was particularly interested to provide International Disability Alliance with information and inform about challenges regarding the collection of data of deaf women in Europe.

For this purpose, EUD’s Gender Equality Working Group contacted all thirty-one National Associations of the Deaf asking to provide EUD with inputs from the national levels on progress, gaps and challenges in collection, reporting, research, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics, lessons learned and good practices in meeting the gender data requirements to monitor the SDGs for women and girls with a particular focus on women and girls with disabilities.

EUD received five inputs from the national level (below) and is, therefore, submitting a collection of inputs to the International Disability Alliance so it can better inform their presentation.

**BELGIUM**

**EUD Member Doof Vlaanderen, Federation of Flemish Deaf Organisations**

<https://www.eud.eu/eud-members/full-members/belgium/fevlado/>

<https://www.doof.vlaanderen/>

**Eline Demey, Advocacy Department Doof Vlaanderen**

*We received this request for input for an expert session on women’s empowerment and sustainable development. We are pleased that this topic will be discussed, and that the IDA will be on the panel during this session.*

*Doof Vlaanderen participated in the Deaf Women Forum in Valencia in November 2018. This Forum was the impetus for Doof Vlaanderen and FFSB (Fédération Francophone des Sourds de Belgique, en: French-speaking Federation of the Deaf Belgians) to start preparing a Belgian conference that will take place in 2020.*

*We hope to invoke a debate on this topic within the deaf communities in Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels, as this topic is relatively new for us. In preparation of the conference we will organise a survey of community services and organisations working with women. We already know, however, that “first-line” services in cases of violence against women or refuges for women have no expertise or experience or awareness whatsoever with deaf people / sign language.*

*In 2017-2018 the Flemish authorities conducted research into the topic of violence against women with disabilities. However, the research methods (questionnaire and interviews) were not accessible for deaf women. Therefore, it is important that research into this topic takes the needs of deaf people into account and that funds are allocated for translation or interpretation into sign language*.

**LITHUANIA**

**EUD Member Lietuvos kurčiųjų draugija (LKD), Lithuanian Deaf Association**

<https://www.eud.eu/eud-members/full-members/lithuania/>

<http://www.lkd.lt/>

**Donata Lukošienė, Lietuvos kurčiųjų draugijos Projekto vadovė, Project Manager at the Lithuanian Deaf Association**

*We want to share our experience with women with disabilities situation in Lithuania. At first, deaf women as the majority of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in our country cannot access information fully because it is in written or spoken language and without subtitles. Including information about the prevention of domestic violence, parenting, medical services and so on. So, we have some examples were women even don't know that violence from their husbands is forbidden, that they can report that and get help.*

*Also, because of the language barrier sometimes women get in various complicated situations. For example, with doctors: sometimes they get unnecessary physical contact or even rude behaviour when doctors don't know how to explain the procedure to a woman and just grab her to do what has to be done.*

*By the way, in 2018 Lithuanian The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour did research about women and girls with various disabilities situation and discrimination in Lithuania (including deaf and hard of hearing women). Research showed that 41% of women and 52.7% of girls feel discriminated in their lives. Despite that women and girls feel double discrimination because of disability and gender, the research showed that discrimination because of disability is more expressed. They feel discriminated in different areas: accessibility and mobility (they cannot access public places and buildings by themselves), health services (doctors encouraged 8.6 % of women not to give birth, because in their opinion disabled women couldn't care about their children as good as healthy women), education (1 of 5 women are unsatisfied with education they got, some of them couldn't study at educational institution because it was not adapted, women were bullied), labour and employment (43% of women don't have any work experience, 50% of working women said they cannot get the job they want or do not earn enough).*

*It is good to know that women and girls with disabilities are active in NGOs, cultural life and leisure. But for a better understanding of women and girls with disabilities situation, there should be more researches done, because what results we have now shown a sufficiently high level of discrimination.*

**SPAIN**

**EUD Member Confederación Estatal de Personas Sordas (CNSE), National Confederation of Deaf People**

<https://www.eud.eu/eud-members/full-members/spain/>

<http://www.cnse.es/>

**Alba Prado Mendoza, Técnica de Igualdad de Género y Políticas Sectoriales**

**(Área de Igualdad de Género)**

*On behalf of the President of Spanish association of the deaf, Ms. Concha Díaz, Confederación Estatal de Personas Sordas sent a report about the actions for gender equality in Spain.*

*See the attachment.*

**CROATIA**

**EUD Member Hrvatski savez gluhih i nagluhih, Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

<https://www.eud.eu/eud-members/full-members/croatia/>

<http://www.hsgn.hr/>

**Tea Domin, Administrative Secretary**

*There is no new and up to date information regarding deaf girls and women in Croatia.*

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**EUD Member Svaz Neslyšících a Nedoslýchavých v Čr (UDHH), Czech Republic Union of Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

<https://www.eud.eu/eud-members/full-members/czech-republic/>

<http://www.snncr.cz>

**Mgr. Šárka Prokopiusová, President of Czech Republic Union of Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Video message: <https://youtu.be/bvjZeiNUHAI>

Transcript:

*“Hello, I’m from Czech Republic. My sign name/name is Pavlina Spilkova. I went with Sarka Prokopuisova to Spain for the European deaf women forum.*

*After the Forum, we went back to the Czech Republic to support the Czech deaf women by disseminating information.*

*Now, I see that you need information about the Czech’s women situation (and issues). I and Sarka made questions for the deaf women to express themselves. And we see that before, in the communist era, men managed family and financial affairs. This makes all women feel “automatically" submissive. There are of course strong women in this period, but it's still rare. The communist period has ended, everyone is free, living in a democracy. The Czechs open their eyes through contacts with the rest of Europe etc. etc.*

*Currently, the main problem is the decrease in the number of interpreters available and the situation of deaf women is such that there are some strong, active women who like to work who generally are 30 and 40 years old. But women who are beyond 40 years are not that active. There are no role models for women beyond 40 years old. Nowadays, the young girls are the ones who are receiving better information.*

*Actually, no deaf women have jobs in the social or administrative field for example (linked to university). There was no university that encourages deaf women to enroll. Today, universities are gradually opening up to deaf women via sign language interpreters and translation speech to text. It is, therefore, necessary to wait 5 to 10 years before seeing deaf women having access to jobs (social or administrative jobs).*

*Deaf women who have problems (e. g. experiencing violence) would like to express themselves in sign language but encounter barriers to communication with professionals who do not know sign language. Thus, these deaf women need interpreters but there is lack of interpreters. The best thing is to have in front of you deaf professionals who share the same language but there are actually none in our country. Maybe one day, in the future. I think this is a big issue and hopefully, it will improve in the future.*

*Sarka and I have been to Spain and have gathered a lot of information and we are preparing and starting to plan to provide information, do awareness raising and explain the needs of deaf women, the right to equality, etc. It is progressing slowly. This is a summary of the situation of deaf women in the Czech Republic. I hope it's okay. If you want more information, you can ask questions and I will be happy to answer in more depths.*

**EUD reflects on the data collection by the European Union Institutions**

<https://www.eud.eu/>

**Martyna Balciunaite, Policy Officer, EUD**

*EUD believes that the European Commission should be leading in the process for better data collection. Data disaggregation by disability and by gender is necessary to measure whether the progress of implementation of SDGs leaves no one behind.*

*The main Directorate-General of the European Commission that provides with statistical information to the institutions in the European Union and aims at harmonizing statistical methods across the Member States is EUROSTAT (European Statistical Office).*

*EUD is aware that EUROSTAT has the technical capacity (e.g. SILC Instrument[[1]](#footnote-1)) to measure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and inclusion of women in its approach to the SDGs, and that this can be done.*

*However, EUD highlights that it is important to disaggregate data by disability type rather than just by disability. Lack of data on the European level about the number of deaf persons or number of deaf women is a strong limiting factor in the advocacy work for realization of SDGs for deaf persons. Disaggregating data by disability group, would allow to strengthen advocacy.*

*Lack of available data about deaf women makes it impossible to track situation of inclusion of deaf women while implementing SDGs on the European level.*

*EUD also shares a concern about EUROSTAT ‘s lack in leadership in collecting ambitious and new data, not just the ones already available.*

Moreover, EUD would like to add during the 1st European Deaf Women Forum that took place in Valencia, in October 2018 signed the Valencia Declaration.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Among other points Valencia Declaration called upon:

*The need for a macro survey, which may be useful in order to learn more about the situation in Europe pertaining to deaf girls’ and women’s rights, as well as establish and implement a strategic plan to apply gender perspective in the deaf community in defense of deaf girls’ and women’s rights.*

The report and the Declaration: <https://sgb-fss-mxyhjcwrzburgpsdnc4b.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Report-of-I-Deaf-Women-European-Forum-Declaration-of-Valencia-.pdf>

1. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-statistics-on-income-and-living-conditions> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://sgb-fss-mxyhjcwrzburgpsdnc4b.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Report-of-I-Deaf-Women-European-Forum-Declaration-of-Valencia-.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)