



EUROPEAN UNION
OF THE DEAF



Impact Report 2022

Acknowledgements

Based in Brussels, Belgium, EUD is a not-for-profit European non-Governmental organisation (NGO) whose members comprise of National Associations of the Deaf (NADs).

CERV Work Programme

EUD would like to thank the European Commission for funding this 2022 Impact Report under the CERV Work Programme. Without their substantial financial contributions, the publication of this report would not have been possible.

The support of the EUD Board and President an accurate and up-to-date account of the activities in 2022.

Our member associations are at the heart of our work and we thank them for assisting and co-operating with us throughout the year.

The European Disability Forum (EDF), our European disability umbrella organisation, has been a great partner in all our work, informing us and collaborating with our board and staff via email and in person, in and outside of Brussels.

In support of its daily work, EUD has been in contact with a large number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and other EU policymakers and aspires to continue this fruitful co-operation in the coming years.

2022.



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Foreword

2022 brought many new and exciting challenges for EUD, as Europe emerged from the pandemic, and more in-person meetings and events have become increasingly possible. Nevertheless, due to the flexibility of online events, a significant portion have remained online. Accordingly, for EUD to continue making an impact with its work, the webinar format has remained for some events, and in other cases, for instance, the General Assembly and its corresponding events, were held in person. This 'hybrid' approach has proven successful for EUD.

In May 2022, we held our General Assembly (GA) in Marseille, France. During the GA, discussions with our members continued in terms of how EUD can better support its members in advocating for the rights of deaf persons, in line with the UN CRPD, at the national level as well as the EU level.

The war in Ukraine and the resulting situation for deaf persons remaining in and fleeing Ukraine was one of the most important points

of discussion at the GA. A significant moment took place, when, in a unanimous vote, the EUD GA accepted the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf as an affiliated member.

EUD election also took place during the GA in Marseille where I was elected as EUD's new President, Ronit Laquerrière-Leven (France) was elected as EUD's new Vice-President and three new Board members were also elected – Andy Van Hoorebeke (Belgium), Paal Richard Peterson (Norway), and David Buxton (UK). Our mandate will run from 2022-2026.

The GA in Marseille was hosted by, now former EUD President, Dr Markku Jokinen, to whom, on behalf of EUD, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for his significant contribution to EUD's work and mission.



2022 was the first year of our four-year framework partnership agreement under Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. EUD's annual programme of 2022 comprised several deliverables with the overarching aim to protect, promote and respect the rights of deaf persons. Further, EUD aims at ensuring that the deaf perspective is mainstreamed under all relevant EU policy developments, in line with the UN CRPD. This year, the main policy deliverables included, most significantly, an EUD position paper which aims at increasing the accessibility of information and communication in national sign languages at the EU level; a set of policy recommendations on access to the labour market for deaf persons in the EU; and a toolkit for action on the EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030 (for NADs).

Furthermore, to continue engaging with the EU disability policy debate, EUD organised five webinars – Labour market access for deaf persons in the EU; First year of the EU

Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030; UN CRPD as a key advocacy tool for sign language recognition and sign language rights; Data collection on deaf persons in the EU; and One of the key principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights: Gender Equality. At our General Assembly, we also held a two-part seminar on Political Participation, and Women in Politics as well as a roundtable discussion on the Support for Deaf Refugees from Ukraine.

2022 has seen several exciting developments for EUD. Our hybrid approach to working has proved successful and I, the Board and EUD staff continue to remain committed to our work to ensure the deaf perspective is mainstreamed in all relevant EU developments.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sofia Isari'.

EUD President,
Sofia Isari

Introduction

European Union of the Deaf

Based in Brussels, Belgium, EUD is a not-for-profit European non-governmental organisation (NGO) comprising National Associations of the Deaf (NADs). It is the only supranational organisation representing deaf people at European level and is one of the few NGOs representing associations from all of the 27 EU Member States, in addition to Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the UK. National Association of the Deaf in acceding, candidate and potential member countries can choose to be affiliated members with the option of becoming full members as soon as they officially enter the EU.

EUD aims to establish and maintain EU-level dialogues with its relative institutions and officials, in consultation and co-operation with its member NADs.

EUD is a full member of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and a Regional Co-operating Member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) to tackle issues of global importance. Moreover, it also has participatory status with the Council of Europe (CoE).

EUD also has signed memorandums of understanding with the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli), the European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY), the European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO), the European Deafblind Union (EDbU), European Deaf Students Union (EDSU) and the European Network of Sign Language Teachers (ENSLT).

Since 2017, it has held special consultative status with the United Nations.



Full Members

Austria – Österreichischer Gehörlosenbund (ÖGLB)
Belgium – Doof Vlaanderen & Fédération Francophone des Sourds de Belgique (FFSB)
Bulgaria – Съюз на глухите в България (СГБ / UDB)
Croatia – Hrvatski savez gluhih inagluhih (HSGN)
Cyprus – Ομοσπονδία Κωφών Κύπρου
Czech Republic – Svaz neslyšících a nedoslýchavých v ČR (SNNČR)
Denmark – Danske Døves Landsforbund (DDL)
Estonia – Eesti Kurtide Liit (EKL)
Finland – Kuurojen Liitto (FAD)
France – Fédération Nationale des Sourds de France (FNSF)
Germany – Deutscher Gehörlosen-Bund (DGB)
Greece – Ομοσπονδία Κωφών Ελλάδος (HFD)
Hungary – Siketek és Nagyothallók Országos Szövetsége (SINOSZ)
Iceland – Félag heyrnarlausra
Ireland – Irish Deaf Society (IDS)
Italy – Ente Nazionale Sordi (ENS)
Latvia – Latvijas Nedzirdīgo savienība (LNS)
Lithuania – Lietuvos kurčiųjų draugija (LKD)
Luxembourg – Solidarität mit Hörgeschädigten
Malta – Għaqda Persuni Neqsin mis-Smigh
Netherlands – Dovenschap
Norway – Norges Døveforbund (NDF)
Poland – Polski Związek Głuchych (PZG)
Portugal – Federação Portuguesa das Associações de Surdos (FPAS)
Romania – Asociația Națională a Surzilor din România (ANSR)
Slovakia – Asociácia nepočujúcich Slovenska (ANEPS)
Slovenia – Zveza društev gluhih in naglušnih Slovenije (ZDGNS)
Spain – Confederación Estatal de Personas Sordas (CNSE)
Sweden – Sveriges Dövas Riksförbund (SDR)
Switzerland – Schweizerischen Gehörlosenbund, Fédération Suisse des Sourds, Federazione Svizzera dei Sordi (SGB-FSS)
United Kingdom – British Deaf Association (BDA)

Affiliated member

Ukraine – Ukrainian Society of the Deaf (UTOG)

Board Members



Sofia Isari
EUD President
Greece



Ronit Laquerrière-Leven
EUD Vice President
France



David Buxton
EUD Board Member
United Kingdom



Paal Richard Peterson
EUD Board Member
Norway



Andy Van Hoorebeke
EUD Board Member
Belgium



Staff Members



Mark Wheatley
Executive Director
United Kingdom



Martyna Albaret
Policy Manager
Lithuania



David Hay
Communication and
Media Manager
United Kingdom



Frankie Picron
Project Manager
Belgium



Charlotte Olhausen
Policy and
Communication
Officer
Ireland



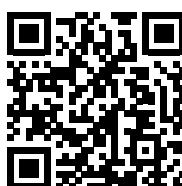
Sotiroula Kythreoti
Administration and
Finance Officer
Cyprus



Davy Van Landuyt
Project Officer
Belgium



Rehana Omardeen
Project Officer
Trinidad and Tobago



Mission Statement

It is the core mission of EUD to promote, advance and protect the rights of and opportunities for deaf people in the European Union to ensure they can become full citizens in their own right. These key values are also mirrored in the daily work of its Brussels headquarters.

The office provides a fully accessible signing environment with international staff from many different countries across the EU. Most staff are deaf sign language users and all hearing staff must know or learn one national sign language as well as International Sign. Gender equality is also taken into account in all employment policies and when organising

To achieve equality in both public and private life for deaf people, EUD has laid out three main long-term objectives:

Recognition of the right to use an indigenous sign language;

Empowerment through communication and information; and

Equality in education and employment.



Board Meetings

→ Ljubljana

27 March
2022



→ Marseillie

25 May
2022



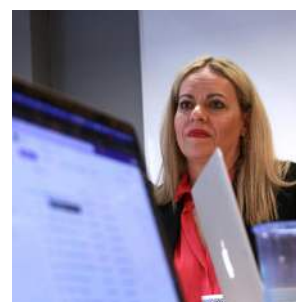
→ Prague

10 September
2022



→ Brussels

26 November
2022



→ Summary

In 2022, the four quarterly board meetings of EUD took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia; Marseille, France; Prague, Czech Republic and Brussels, Belgium. The board meetings play an important role in the European-wide co-operation of deaf communities, as these meetings, along with the General Assembly, are the cornerstones of EUD's democratic





General Assembly 2022

Marseille, France

EUD held its annual General Assembly in Marseille from Thursday 26th – Saturday 28th May. It was a busy few days with a full agenda - we would like to thank all the delegates for attending, for your participation, and valuable contributions.

There were a number of highlights over the course of the GA, firstly a new EUD Board was elected with Sofia Isari becoming the new EUD President, and we said goodbye to our, now former, Board – a special thank you for your invaluable impact over the course of your mandate. In addition to this, a very significant moment took place as the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf, in a unanimous vote, was accepted by the GA as an affiliated member.

Seven motions were passed, as well as a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by a representative from the European Deaf Students' Union and former EUD President Markku Jokinen.

Three seminars were held on a diverse range of topics, in addition to several presentations given by EUD staff and the former EUD Board.

We would like to share our appreciation for the co-operation with the National Federation of France for the Deaf (FNSF) during the EUD General Assembly.

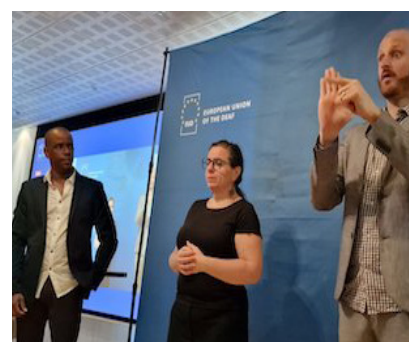
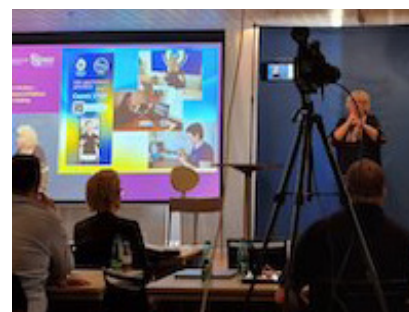


Webinars

The aim of EUD webinars is to strengthen the capacity of national member organisations to enable them to actively contribute to the implementation of the European Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030, the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), the European Pillar of Social Rights and other relevant policies and initiatives.

Topic	Date
1. Labour Market Access for Deaf Persons in the EU	7 March
2. First two years of the European Disability Rights Strategy 2021 - 2030	28 March
3. Roundtable Discussion on the Support for Deaf Refugees from Ukraine	26 May
4. Political Participation	27 May
5. Women in Politics	27 May
6. UN CRPD key advocacy tool for national sign language recognition and sign language rights	20 September
7. Data Collection on Deaf Persons in the EU	20 September
8. European Pillar Social Rights	8 December



CRPD

EUD aims to ensure that the UN CRPD is meaningfully implemented at the EU and national levels for deaf persons in the EU.

Support for National Associations of the Deaf (NADs)

In 2022, EUD continued supporting the NADs as they advocate for the full and meaningful implementation of the UN CRPD at national level. While training or supporting NADs, EUD always encourages specific attention to be paid to deaf women and girls and deaf persons with intersecting identities. EUD supported a number NADs in 2022.



CRPD

The UN CRPD Committee's List of Issues Prior to Reporting for the EU & EUD alternative report

In 2022, the UN CRPD Committee started its second review of the European Union. To start the second review, the UN CRPD Committee adopted the List of Issues Prior to Reporting to the EU in which the Committee asked questions on how the EU is implementing its obligations listed in the Convention.

Prior to the adoption of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting for the EU, the UN CRPD Committee held its 26th session and 15th pre-session working group. Before the session, EUD and other European organisations were able to submit their alternative reports which included the key concerns regarding UN CRPD implementation at EU level. During the private meeting which took place in the framework of the session, EUD Executive Director, Mr Mark Wheatley, presented EUD's key concerns that are highlighted in the alternative report.

In its alternative report, EUD highlighted its key concerns which are (i) status of national sign languages at the EU level; (ii) lack of recognition of the national sign languages by the EU; (iii) lack of recognition of the linguistic and cultural status of sign languages and deaf culture by the EU. In the report, EUD highlighted that national sign languages are languages of the multilingual EU and not communication tools/formats/means.



CRPD

The UN CRPD Committee's List of Issues Prior to Reporting for the EU & EUD alternative report

EUD emphasised that the EU has taken very little action so far to ensure that national sign languages in the EU are granted the status of fully fledged languages that are considered as equal languages to spoken languages, even though all the EU Member States have already done so. EUD highlighted that the EU must take action to grant national sign languages the status of languages in order to be in line with its obligations under Article 2 of the UN CRPD which places sign languages on an equal footing with spoken languages.

EUD also emphasised that, according to the UN CRPD, the use of national sign languages in the EU must be accepted and facilitated, the EU must recognise and promote national sign languages as well as ensure access to professional sign language interpreters. However, to date, even though some progress is seen, more action at the EU level is needed. The UN CRPD is the first international human rights instrument that recognised sign languages as equal to spoken languages. It obliges its States Parties, including the EU, to promote, protect, recognise, and facilitate the use of national sign languages. EUD noted that although the EU institutions provide some interpreting in International Sign on ad hoc basis, accessibility in national sign languages is not guaranteed at the EU.

EUD highlighted that all the EU Member States have recognised their national sign languages at national level, however the EU itself has not recognised its national sign languages as official languages at the EU level. This must be addressed regarding the EU's future compliance with the UN CRPD. Moreover, EUD highlighted that under the UN CRPD, the EU is obliged not only to promote and facilitate the use of national sign languages but also to promote the linguistic identity of deaf communities, including deaf culture. EUD will continue its advocacy during the EU review by the UN CRPD Committee which will take place in the upcoming years.



EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021 – 2030

EUD supports the implementation of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021- 2030 (ESRPD) to ensure it is ambitiously implemented for deaf persons in the EU.

The EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021 – 2030 was adopted in 2021. It contains a number of actions that the EU and its Member States must undertake to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons at the EU and national levels.

EUD welcomed this important initiative in 2021 and continued advocating for and supporting its ambitious implementation in 2022.

In 2022, EUD supported the implementation of the activities planned until the end of 2022 and prepared for the future actions of the ESRPD and ensured they are developed by consulting EUD, taking into account deaf rights and being ambitiously implemented

for deaf persons in the EU, especially for deaf women and girls as well as deaf persons with intersecting identities.

For NADs to understand the ESRPD and its role when implementing the UN CRPD, EUD developed a toolkit.

The toolkit provides an in-depth outline of the actions foreseen for the upcoming years and provides guidance on how organisations at the national level can play an active role when implementing the Strategy.

Moreover, the ESRPD lists seven flagship initiatives. In 2022, EUD was an active player with regards to a number of flagships within the Strategy.



EUD & flagships initiatives of the EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021 – 2030

→
**EU
Disability
Platform**

→
**AccessibleEU
Centre**

→
**Disability
Employment
Package**



EU Disability Platform

One of the flagship initiatives of the ESRPD is the establishment of the new Disability Platform. The European Commission fulfilled this commitment and established the Disability Platform at the end of 2021, replacing the High-Level Group on Disability.

The European Disability Platform supports the implementation of the ESRPD as well as national disability strategies. It brings together national UN CRPD focal points, organisations of persons with disabilities and the European Commission. The online presence of the Disability Platform contains information on its meetings, activities, analysis, and country information, including promotion of accessible and inclusive good practices. As of 2021, EUD has been a member of the EU Disability Platform.

In 2022, EUD attended and actively participated in each of the three meetings of the EU Disability Platform. EUD also participated in the ad hoc meeting on Ukraine organised by the EU Disability Platform to discuss the support for persons with disabilities in Ukraine. The first meeting took place in February, the second one in June, and the last meeting took place in October.

Moreover, in 2022 the EU Disability Platform established three sub-groups on the following flagship initiatives of the ESRPD: the AccessibleEU Centre, the EU Disability Card, and the Disability Employment Package to improve labour market outcomes for persons with disabilities. EUD, as a member of each of the three subgroups, actively participated in and contributed to the work of the sub-groups ensuring that the deaf perspective is included when designing policies or planning upcoming actions.





AccessibleEU Centre

Another important flagship of the ESRPD is the establishment of the AccessibleEU centre. The AccessibleEU centre was created in 2022 and aims at supporting the implementation of EU accessibility legislation by facilitating access to relevant knowledge and resources.

Prior to the establishment of the Centre, EUD provided input to the EU Commission on how to ensure that the work of the Centre focuses on the topics that are important for the deaf community when ensuring accessibility. In 2022, EUD organised a webinar, provided written input, worked with partners at the EU Commission, EU Parliament and EU NGOs, and actively engaged during discussions on the establishment of the AccessibleEU centre.



AccessibleEU Center



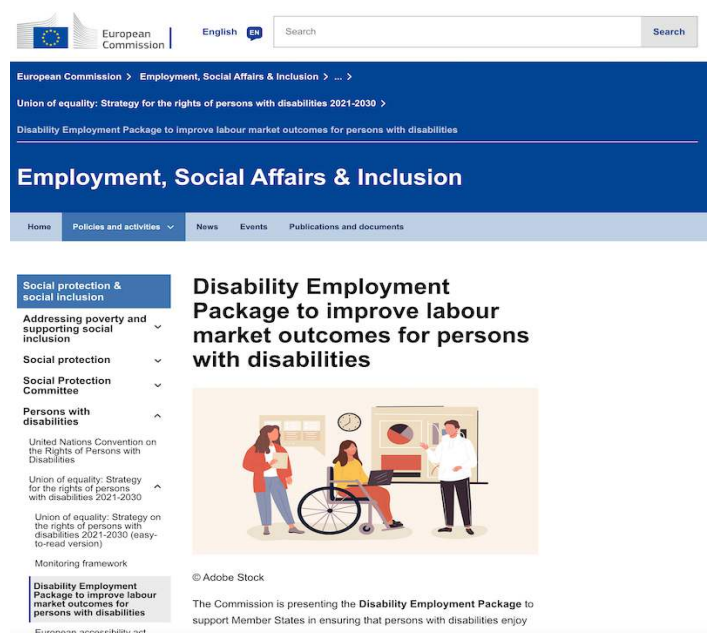
→

Disability
Employment
Package

In 2022, the EU Commission launched its Disability Employment Package to support Member States in ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy social inclusion and economic autonomy through employment. The Package is part of the ESRPD and is in line with the UN CRPD.

To support the package and inform the EU Commission on how well the right to work and employment is realised in the EU for deaf persons as well as which barriers remain, in

the beginning of 2022, EUD developed a survey on labour market access for deaf persons and disseminated it among its thirty-one member organisations – NADs. EUD asked NADs how well the EU Member States are implementing Article 27 UN CRPD for deaf persons in their countries and what the remaining barriers are. Based on the findings of the survey, EUD drafted policy recommendations which highlighted the remaining barriers and suggested how to address them.



Human Rights

The aim of EUD is to achieve equality and non-discrimination by protecting the human rights of all deaf people. Therefore, EUD aims to meaningfully promote, protect, monitor, and raise awareness of the human rights of all deaf persons in the EU through its policy, capacity-building, and communications work.

In 2022, EUD continued advocating for the human rights of deaf persons. EUD promoted and protected the rights of all deaf people, especially deaf women and girls, and deaf people with intersectional identities, in several EU initiatives, policies and legislation that aim to increase inclusion of and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The highlight of 2022 was the publication of the EUD position paper which aims at increasing the accessibility of information and communication in national sign languages at the EU level. The EUD position paper focuses on the importance of ensuring accessibility of information and communication via interpreting in national sign languages and in International Sign at the EU institutions as well as at the meetings, events, and conferences organised by European non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) and other stakeholders at the EU level. The EUD position paper was discussed and approved by the EUD General Assembly as well as by the EUD Board.

The EUD position paper aims to (i) inform all the relevant actors that multilingualism of the deaf community and national sign languages in the EU must be respected and their use must be promoted on an equal footing with spoken languages as it is the EU's obligation under the UN CRPD; (ii) to showcase that more accessibility in national sign languages of the EU is necessary; (iii) to inform all the relevant actors from the EU institutions, European non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders in the EU about the appropriate means of ensuring accessibility through interpreting for deaf persons in specific situations during the events, conferences, strategic dialogues, meetings, public hearings, and other events organised by the ENGOS or the European institutions.



Working Groups

EUD has six Working Groups (WG) and launched two more in 2022. The purpose of the WGs is to gather diverse deaf experts from across Europe who meet once to twice a year to discuss and analyse current issues and policies relevant to the deaf community, providing a professional forum of exchange.

The members of the groups provide good practices from their home countries, as well as giving negative examples and formulating possible recommendations at both EU and Member State level. The WGs serve as a focal point to support the EUD staff in highly specialised matters. An EUD Board Member chairs each of the Working Groups:

Deaf Lawyers

- focuses on the legal provisions regarding sign language and human rights, using the UN CRPD as the guide for discussions.
Established in 2011.

Intersectionality

- focuses on intersectionality within the deaf community where members can explore how we can work collaboratively to ensure equality, equity, diversity, and non-discrimination.
Established in 2021.

ICT and Accessibility

- focuses on the physical and digital accessibility of information and communication for deaf persons which is predominantly through national sign languages.
Established in 2011.

BIPOC

- stands for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour and has the purpose to identify and discuss issues faced by BIPOC deaf persons in the EU.
Established in 2022.

Gender Equality

- focuses on issues of inequality facing deaf women and to discern important efforts to ensure the rights of deaf women are ensured, in line with the UN CRPD, at EU and Member State level.
Established in 2017.

ECMRL

- stands for The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and has the purpose to discuss the ways in which EUD can effectively raise awareness about and advocate for the respect, recognition and promotion of national sign languages.
Established in 2022.

Co-operation

EUD has signed memorandums of understanding with several NGOs with which it has common goals.



World Federation of the Deaf



European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters



European Union of the Deaf Youth



European Deaf Students' Union



European Deaf Sports Organisation



European Deafblind Union



European Network of Sign Language Teachers



European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness



Social Media



Social Tool

Facebook

140 posts

56,286 likes

Reached Audience

+381k



Twitter

135 tweets

6,950 followers

Reached Audience

+181k



Instagram

87 posts

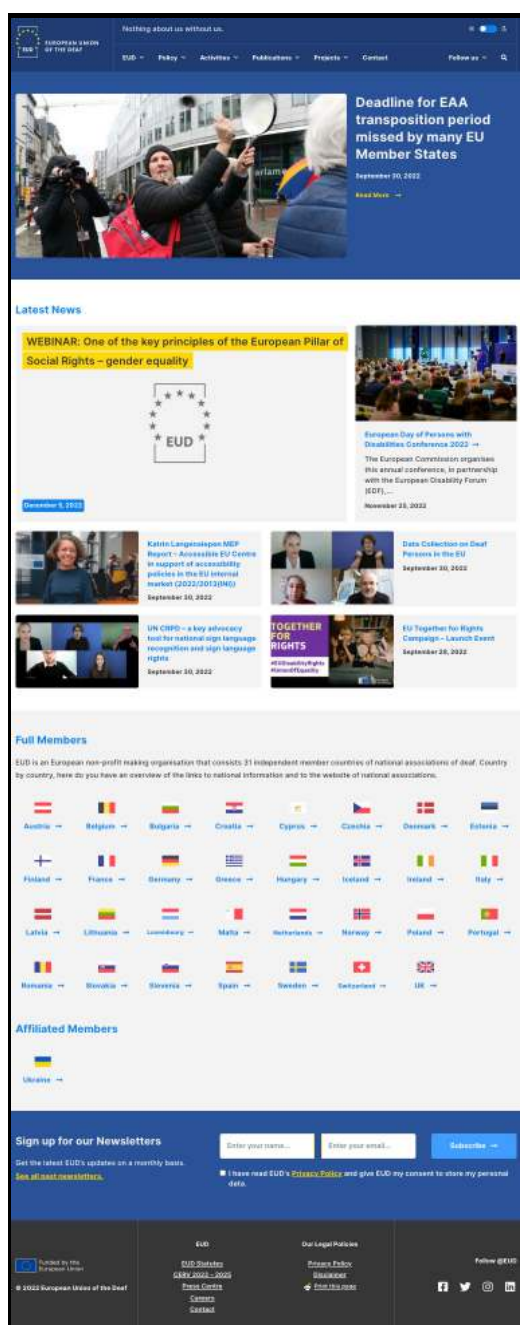
3,890 followers

Reached Audience

+31k



Website



EUD's website (www.eud.eu) is one of the main sources to communicate and disseminate the information about EUD, it ensures all EUD's communication and information is available to the key audiences and the wider community. It is an open-access website and provides details on EUD's activities and progress, including the deliverables produced in each stage of the Work Plan, as well as meetings, events, and workshops. It communicates these details through video announcements, press releases, website articles, and links to articles and projects relevant to the EUD's lobbying work.



www.eud.eu



International Sign friendly.

52,096

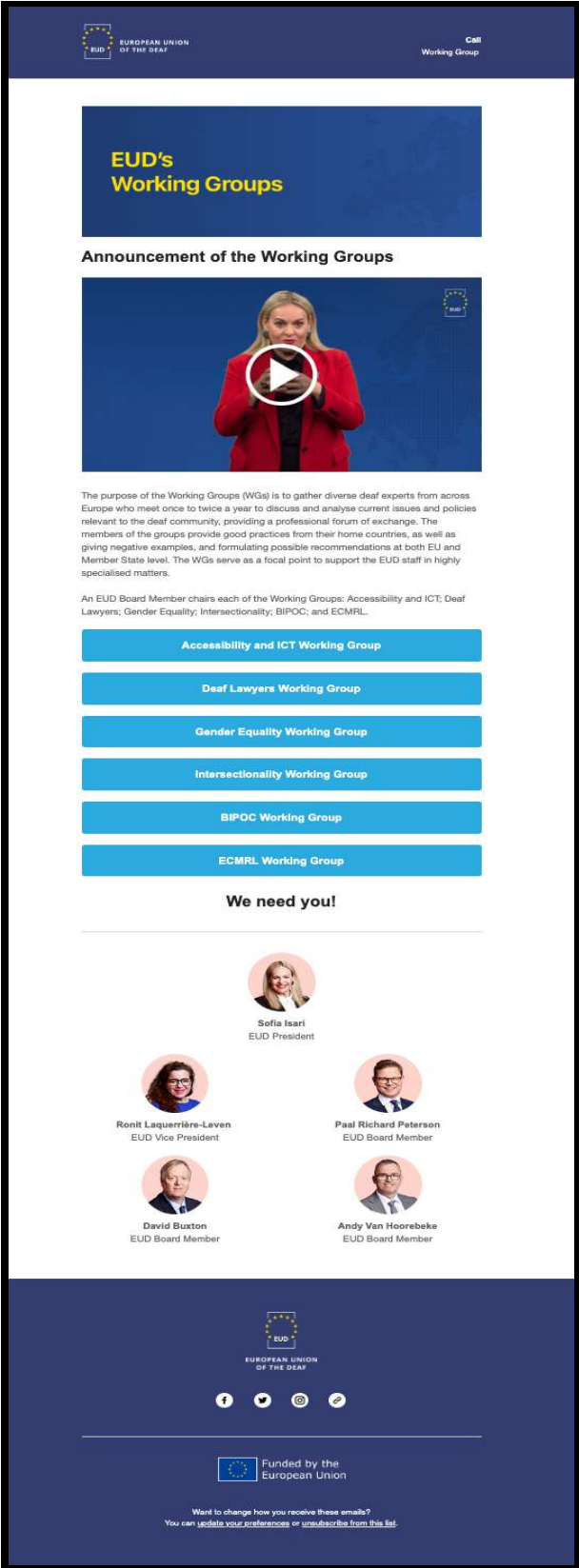
Number of page views in 2022

43

Number of articles added in 2022



Newsletters



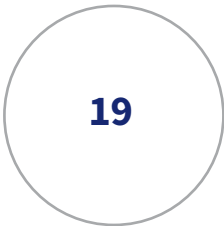
Newsletters enables EUD to raise awareness of EUD’s core values, objectives, lobbying activities and expected achievements through publishing material about its activities on its website, social media channels, and in the newsletters sent to its subscribers and posted on its website, ensuring that these are carefully targeted to the interests of specific key audiences.



Please sign up for our Newsletters.



Informative.



External Newsletters sent in 2022



Internal Newsletters sent in 2022

Projects

European Parliament



ADPA - LNB

Accessible democratic processes for all: leave no one behind the European Parliament
covid-19access.eu

Erasmus+



Deaf Senior Education
for Active Living
deseal.eu



Deaf Museums
deafmuseums.eu



Free Tech Signs
freetechnologysigns.eu



JUSTISIGNS 2
justisigns2.eu

H2020



EASIER
project-easier.eu



SHAPES
shapes2020.eu



SignON
signon-project.eu

European Union of the Deaf

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