



A European Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with European Parliament, European Commission and the Council of Europe

EUD WEBINAR

June 19th, 2020 - 10:00h CET

Transposing EU accessibility legislation into national laws: the role of the National Associations of the Deaf

The European Union has recently adopted three very important pieces of legislation that aim at increasing accessibility for persons with disabilities. These are the revised Audio-Visual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) and the EU milestone achievement – the European Accessibility Act (EAA). All three laws have a massive potential to bring about long-awaited changes and make audio-visual media, telecom services, including emergency services and certain products and other services more accessible for deaf persons in the EU.

However, after being adopted at the European level, the EU laws must be transposed into the national legislation to have an impact in everyday lives. The period of transposition is crucial, as each government is responsible for transposing the laws into national legal systems, meaning that they need to adopt new legislation or reform existing laws in order to comply with the obligations listed in the EU accessibility legislation. As the periods of transpositions are critical, during the webinar we'll explore:

- (i) The most important elements of each accessibility legislation for deaf persons in the EU;
- (ii) The role of the National Associations of the Deaf (NADs) in advocating for more accessibility at the national level during the period of transposition of the recently adopted EU level accessibility legislation;
- (iii) Existing tools and support of the EU level organisations to the National Associations of the Deaf during the period of transposition.

THE AGENDA

Moderator: EUD Vice President Dr Gergely Tapolczai

I. Introduction (5 min)

Dr Ádám Kósa, Member of the European Parliament and the Chair of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament

- EU's commitment for more accessibility for deaf persons in the EU

II. EUD & EU accessibility legislation (10 min)

Mr Mark Wheatley, Executive Director of the European Union of the Deaf

- Importance of the recently adopted EU accessibility legislation and their ambitious transposition for deaf people in the EU;
- EUD's advocacy priorities and advocacy work with regards to the revised AVMSD, the EECC and the EAA.

III. European Accessibility Act (EAA): importance of an ambitious transposition of the EAA for deaf people in the EU (10 – 15 min)

Ms Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion at Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission

- What are the key obligations introduced by the EAA that, if ambitiously transposed by the Member States, will have an impact for the deaf persons in the European Union?
- Why an ambitious transposition of the EAA into the national laws is important for deaf people in the EU?
- What are deadlines and key players?
- What are the ways for the NADs to cooperate with the EU Commission?

IV. Transposition of the revised Audio-Visual Media Services Directive: key elements for deaf persons and tips for advocacy at the national level (10 min)

Mr Mher Hakobyan, Accessibility Officer at the European Disability Forum

- What are the key obligations introduced by the revised AVMSD that, if ambitiously transposed by the Member States, will have an impact for the deaf persons in the European Union?
- Why an ambitious transposition of the revised AVMSD is crucial for deaf people in the EU?
- What are the key deadlines and key players?
- How can NADs start acting at the national level and engage in advocacy?
- How can EDF support NADs?

V. Transposition of the European Electronic Communications Code: key elements for deaf persons (10 min)

Mr Alejandro Moledo, Policy Coordinator at the European Disability Forum

- What are the key obligations introduced by the EECC that, if ambitiously transposed by the Member States, will have an impact for the deaf persons in the European Union?
- Why an ambitious transposition of the EECC is crucial for deaf persons in the EU?
- What are the key deadlines and key players?
- How can NADs start acting on the national level and engage in advocacy?
- How can EDF support NADs?

VI. Experience from the national level: tips for NADs & lessons learned while advocating during the period of transposition (10 min)

Board of the Polish Association of the Deaf

- What are the first steps to take on the national level to start advocating for an ambitious transposition of the EU laws into the national legal systems?
- What are the lessons learned?
- Tips for other organisations.

VII. Q&A (15 min)

VIII. Closing by the Moderator (5 min)