

WASLI Newsletter 2008 - 08



WASLI is committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide

- New Interpreter Association in Kosovo
- Sign Language Interpreting in Bavaria
- WASLI in Brazil for Inauguration of New Association
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NEW INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION IN KOSOVO



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|-------------|---|
| Area: | 10,887 sq km |
| Population: | 2,126,708 |
| Capital: | Pristina |
| Language: | Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish, Roma |
| Currency: | Euro |
| GDP: | \$1800 per capita |

(Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>)

(Report by Selman Hoti, KASLI Secretary and WASLI Representative for the Balkans Region)

The interpreter community has reached their goal to elect a new board for the Kosovar Association of Sign Language Interpreters (KASLI). The General Election meeting of KASLI was held on Thursday, 5th of June 2008. More than 30 people, including members of KASLI, KAD (Kosovar Association of the Deaf) President and Secretary attended this historical event for the interpreter community in Kosovo. This could not have happened without the generous support of KAD.

WASLI President Liz Scott Gibson sent a very encouraging message of congratulations which states:

"The work which you have done to establish your professional association, KASLI, is an example to nations everywhere who are beginning this work. WASLI is particularly heartened by the close collaboration that you have had with members of the Deaf community and the Kosovar Association of the Deaf. This is an excellent model for others to follow".

Also *efsli* President Maya De Wit sent this message of congratulations stating:

"Sign language interpreters in Kosovo worked very hard during the last years to establish their profession in Kosovo. The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli) was in the special position to support to interpreters from Kosovo, Selman Hoti and Versa Selmani, to attend the efsli AGM & conference in Prague in 2006. Selman and Versa gave an impressive presentation on the situation of interpreters in Kosovo and all their achievements. The current establishment of the Kosovar Association of Sign Language Interpreters (KASLI) is a crown on all your hard work".

At the General Election Meeting members of newly formed KASLI has elected officials of the Board of Directors as follows:

- Ms Rukije Gashi – President
- Mr Selman Hoti – Secretary
- Mr Berat Rashiti – Treasurer
- Ms Versa Selmani – Board Member
- Mr Sali Nuhiu – Board Member



(Above: KASLI Board of Directors, from left Ms Rukije Gashi, Mr Selman Hoti, Mr Berat Rashiti, Ms Versa Selmani and Mr Sali Nuhiu)



(Above: Participants of First General Election Meeting of KASLI)

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING IN BAVARIA



(Report by Zane Hema, WASLI Secretary)

Bavaria lies in the southeast of Germany and with an area of 70,553 km is the largest state of Germany. The population is 12.5 million and Munich is the capital city.

"Sign Language Interpreting is a relatively new profession in Germany, where it officially became established around the mid 1980s. The use of sign language interpreters means that deaf people now have access to a number of areas previously closed to them. Changes made to the education of the hearing-impaired (the usefulness of teaching sign language in schools for the deaf is still under debate in Germany) as well as changes in legislation (official recognition since 2002 of German sign language) have expanded work opportunities for sign language interpreters and led to an explosion in the demand for qualified sign language interpreters. This trend has been mirrored by the setting up of various training courses since the 1990s." (Aude-Valérie MONTFORT) <http://www.aiic.net/ViewPage.cfm/page1397.htm>

Bavaria has had an Association of Sign Language Interpreters since 1989.

The WASLI Secretary visited Munich recently and met up with 2 former Presidents, Holger Ruppert (President 2004 and 2005) and Oya Ataman (President 2006 and 2007). According to both, the profession of sign language interpreting is still developing.

Currently there is a 3-year part-time Interpreter Training Programme in Bavaria situated in Nuremburg and interpreters become qualified for the federal state of Bavaria only when they have successfully completed this programme.

Both hope to see training further develop so that a full time programme of 3-4 years training is on offer, as this is already the case in 3 university programmes in the rest of Germany (Hamburg, Magdeburg, Zwickau).

When asked to summarise the situation for sign language interpreters in Bavaria, the response was "It is a passionate job but there is a lot of bureaucracy meaning that whilst it is a wonderful job, it is hard."



(Above: WASLI Secretary Zane Hema and former Presidents of the Bavarian Association of Sign Language Interpreters - Oya Ataman and Holger Ruppert)

Links:

Association of Sign Language Interpreters - Bavaria

Web: <http://www.bgsd-bayern.de/>

Association of Sign Language Interpreters - Germany

Web: <http://bgsd.de>

German National Deaf Association:

Web: <http://www.gehoerlosen-bund.de/>

WASLI IN BRAZIL – THE INAUGURATION OF FEBRAPILS



| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Area: | 8,511,965 sq km |
| Population: | 196,342,592 |
| Capital: | Brasilia |
| Language: | Brazilian Portuguese |
| Currency: | Real (BRL) |
| GDP: | \$9,500 per capita |
| (Source: | CIA World Factbook |

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/br.html)

(Report by Juan Druetta, WASLI Vice President)

The WASLI Vice President Juan Druetta and the WASLI Representative for Latino America, Mr José Luis Brieva were invited guests at the inauguration of FEBRAPILS (the Federation of Bra-

zilian Translators, Interpreters and Deafblind Interpreters, or Federação Brasileira de Profissionais Tradutores e Intérpretes e Guias-intérpretes da Língua de Sinais).



(Above: WASLI Vice President Juan Druetta making his presentation)

The celebrations took place 21-23 August 2008 in the Brazilian capital Brasilia. Both Juan and José gave a presentation about WASLI to an audience of representatives from all the different states and some of the state interpreter associations. The presentation focussed on the importance of working to develop the profession of sign language interpreting in the Latino America region as well as important developments regarding Deaf Interpreters.

Also present was the Vice President of FENEIS (National Federation of the Education and Integration for the Deaf, or Federação Nacional de Educação e Integração dos Surdos).

The Congress took place over 3 days and it was on the final day that the inauguration took place. FEBRAPILS has elected a new board and is working to finalise its statutes and bylaws in order to become an official Federation. Once this is complete FEBRAPILS is keen to become a WASLI National member and Daniel Burch (WASLI Treasurer) has kindly agreed to sponsor their membership.



(Above: WASLI Latino America Representative José Luis Brieva making his presentation)

Thank you to both WASLI representatives did a wonderful job in representing the Association. Thanks to our Brazilian colleagues for their kind hospitality and warm heart and for welcoming Juan and José with open arms.

NEWS CLIPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

(US) Washington, DC: GoAmerica COMBINES WITH SLA

GoAmerica, Inc., a provider of relay and wireless communications and professional interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing, and speech-disabled persons, has announced a merger with two of the nation's premier sign language interpreting services firms: Sign Language Associates (SLA) and Visual Language Interpreting (VLI), both of which are based in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

"Whether they're at work, at home, or on the go, our customers need communication access throughout the course of an ordinary day," said Dan Luis, CEO of GoAmerica. "We intend to become their preferred communication service provider, wherever and whenever they need to communicate. The transactions announced today deepen our resources and strengthen our ability to serve customers nationwide, whether they require onsite interpreting services or communication services through our video or text relay platforms."

"As the interpreting and CART industries have changed due to the growth in video relay and text services, it is exciting for us to be part of a company that has a commitment to preserving the positive attributes and integrity of the community interpreting and CART professions," said Brandon Arthur, founder of Visual Language Interpreting. "With the talent, expertise, and resources we have at our disposal, we can help shape a bright and vibrant future for interpreting and real-time professionals across the country." Post-merger, both Sign Language Associates and Visual Language Interpreting will continue to

operate as wholly-owned subsidiaries of GoAmerica. In addition, Janet Bailey will occupy the position of Senior Vice President of Interpreter Relations for the combined companies and Brandon Arthur will serve as General Manager of community interpreting and CART services for the combined companies. Website: <http://www.goamerica.com>

(UK) WEB-BASED INTERPRETING OFFERS HOPE FOR DEAF

Deaf people may no longer need interpreters to be present for doctors appointments and other meetings thanks to a technology which will enable them to communicate via a remote translator

http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/article3888837.ecm

(CHINA) - DANCER PROVIDES INSPIRATION FOR ALL

The one thing that would draw people's attention to the 22-year-old is the intent of her gaze, at the gestures of the sign-language interpreter beside her

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008npc/2008-03/05/content_6508499.htm

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THE WASLI EXECUTIVE BOARD

Liz Scott Gibson

WASLI President

Scotland

president@wasli.org

Juan Druetta

WASLI Vice President

Argentina

vicepresident@wasli.org

Zane Hema

WASLI Secretary

England

secretary@wasli.org

Daniel Burch

WASLI Treasurer

USA

treasurer@wasli.org

Philemon Akach

WASLI Africa

South Africa

africa@wasli.org

Emiko Ichikawa

WASLI Asia

Japan

asia@wasli.org

George Major

WASLI Australasia & Oceania

Australia

austoceania@wasli.org

Selman Hoti

WASLI Balkans

Kosovo

balkans@wasli.org

Marco Nardi

WASLI Europe

England

europe@wasli.org

José Luis Brieva

WASLI Latino America

Columbia

latinoamerica@wasli.org

Deb Russell

WASLI North America
Canada

northamerica@wasli.org

Anna Komarova

WASLI Transcaucasia &
Central Asia
Russia

transcaucasia@wasli.org