



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

Denmark

Information about Denmark

- Population: 5 564 219
- Capital City: København (Copenhagen)
- Spoken Language: Danish
- Sign Language: Danish Sign Language

Information about Deaf people in Denmark

- There are approximately 4,000 Deaf people in Denmark.
- National Association of the Deaf: Danske Døves Landsforbund (DDL) – Danish Deaf Association.
- Laws to protect the rights of Deaf people: there are various rights for people with disabilities, but none specific for Deaf people. There are a number of laws that protect the rights of interpreters in various situations. There is no protection or recognition of sign language.
- Deaf Education: there are almost no schools for the Deaf, most children get cochlear implants and are not taught sign language. With all further education from the age of 15 Deaf people have the right to an interpreter.

Information about sign language interpreters in Denmark

- There are approximately 280 sign language interpreters in Denmark.
- The interpreter association has been established since 1977 and has approximately 220 members.
- Details of interpreter training: 3 ½ years, from scratch. This includes 6 weeks practical training with experienced interpreters. From 2012 there will be a bachelor's degree. Interpreter testing and assessment involves yearly exams and also practical training. Once you graduate the education you are an interpreter for life.



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- The increased use of public tender is centralising and tightening things along with a lot of control and paperwork. There was a reform of the public structure so more things now are decided at municipality-level which leads to fewer true experts and differential treatment. There is more “fight for your rights” and a pressure to keep costs low.
- Since 2007, important achievements have included the establishment of the funding for interpretation in almost all settings.
- Our goals for the future include:
 - To ensure good working conditions and to ensure that we work on the right issues and for the right reasons.
 - The “new” clients with cochlear implants, and their language code is a client group we need to focus on.
 - Also video interpretation (web and smartphones)
 - To stay as a community with all the interpreters in the same association.
 - To improve access to supervision for interpreters.
 - To take advantage of technology to strengthen our network for Danish interpreters, for example through webinars and using skype.