

WASLI07 SEGOVIA FINAL REPORT

Table of contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Aims	1
3.	Conference program	2
4.	Content of the Conference	4
5.	Participants	5
6.	Location	6
7.	Participation and representation	7
8.	Dates	8
9.	Organization	8
10.	Balance of accounts	. 11
11.	Evaluation	. 12
12.	Press cuttings	. 17
App	pendix	. 19

1. Introduction

The WASLI2007 Conference surpassed all expectations for participation in terms of numbers and representation from different countries, and as a result all the conference participants, be they deaf, deaf-blind or hearing, were able to exchange knowledge and experience, and strengthen cooperative links by setting down commitments for future work in regions where deaf and deaf-blind people do not yet have basic services geared towards their needs.

Throughout the world, these individuals have suffered discrimination which has not allowed them to occupy their rightful place in society, to access information or to receive an adequate education. These and other forms marginalization are redressed by the use of sign language interpreters and interpreter-guides as the main means to create nexus between both societies: the hearing majority and the deaf/deaf-blind community.

The WASLI Conference is a clear example of how communication barriers can be eliminated: there was continuous simultaneous interpretation from spoken English to International Sign (a form of communication used between signers of different nationalities), to spoken Spanish and to Spanish Sign Language (used by the Deaf Community in Spain), as well as other languages, such as spoken Japanese.

2. Aims

The aims and objectives of the Conference were achieved thanks to the overwhelming attendance of the event by professionals from the field of sign language interpreting, and the high degree of contact between the participants which gave rise to a productive exchange of knowledge. This is reflected in the conclusions and the results of the evaluation of the conference.

The success of this Conference has marked a milestone in the on-going training of sign language interpreters (training which is in constant demand from the collective) by providing a space in which to share our doubts and experience to learn from colleagues from the rest of the world.

3. Conference program

DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY IN THE WORLDWIDE SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING PROFESSION

Thursday 12 th July 2007			
19:30 – 20:30	Welcome activity	Buses from Madrid airport to the hotel	
20:30	Dinner	Thursday afternoon and all Friday morning.	

Friday 13 th July	Friday 13 th July (morning session)			
	WASLI General Members' Meeting Welcome Apologies Approve Minutes of WASLI General Membership Meeting 2005 Matters Arising			
9:30 – 13:30	WASLI Review 2005-2007 Approve Officers Report, Regional Representatives Report, Financial Report Explanation of Procedures for Proposals and Amendments			
	BREAK (Time will be given for WASLI Regions to meet)			
	Proposals Elections AOB Presentation of the new WASLI Board Recognitions Close			
14:00 – 16:00	Lunch			
16:00 – 17:30	CONFERENCE Chair: Liz Scott Gibson	Opening ceremony: Liz Scott Gibson (WASLI President) José López (FILSE President) Knud Sondergaard (WFD Representative) Pedro García Sanz (CNSE Representative) Sanja Tarczay (WFDB Representative) More than interpreting Invited Speaker: ESTHER DE LOS SANTOS, Spain		
17:30 – 18:00	Coffee break			
18:00 – 19:30	Conference Chair: Deb Russell	The Role of International Sign Interpreting in today's world BILL MOODY, USA COUNTRY REPORTS (ENGLAND/WALES/N.IRELAND, GERMANY, SAUDI ARABIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA)		
		COUNTRY REPORTS (AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOTSWANA, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA)		
20:30	Signing of agreement between WASLI and WFD Liz Scott Gibson (WASLI President) & Markku Jokinen (WFD President)			
20:30 – 21:30	Buffet dinner (in garden)			
22:00	Cultural activity: guided visit of Segovia			

Saturday 14 th July			
9:30 – 11:30	CONFERENCE Chair: Anna Komarova	What do others think about our work? Perspectives on educational interpreting from Deaf students, teachers, administrators and parents DEBRA RUSSELL, Canada COUNTRY REPORTSN (CANADA, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CROATIA) Teaching the Teachers: Improving Practice BETSY WINSTON, USA COUNTRY REPORTS (DENMARK, SCOTLAND, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, NETHERLANDS)	
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break		
12:00 – 14:00	Conference Chair: Ana Peidró	Sign language interpreters as seen by deaf people in Spain Invited Speaker: MARILUZ ESTEBAN, CNSE, Spain Whose interpreter is she anyway? Interpreting within the community or for the community. CHRISTOPHER STONE, UK COUNTRY REPORTS (INDIA, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA)	
14:00 - 16:00	Lunch		
16:00 – 17:30	CONFERENCE Chair: Philemon Akach	The Changing Dynamics of the Interpreting Industry as influenced by Video Interpreting, and its Impact on the Deaf Community JACQUELINE DION, USA Interpreting services: money matters MAYA DE WIT, Netherlands COUNTRY REPORTS (COREA, KOSOVO, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALASYA)	
17:30 – 18:00	Coffee break		
18:00 – 19:30	CONFERENCE Chair: Noemí González	Lexical Variation and Interpreting in NZ Sign Language GEORGINA MAJOR, RACHEL MCKEE, & DAVID MCKEE, NZ Health Problems of Sign Language Interpreters in Japan EMIKO ICHIKAWA, NRSLI, Japan COUNTRY REPORTS (MALAWI, MEXICO, NIGERIA, NEW ZEALAND, PERU)	
20:30	Gala dinner with entertainment		

Sunday 15 th July		
	Conference	The Beginnings of the Kosovo ITP and the Impact of International Trainers SELMAN HOTI & SUSAN EMERSON, Kosovo
9:30 – 11:00	Chair: Daniel Burch	COUNTRY REPORTS (ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SERBIA, SWEDEN, SOUTH AFRICA)
		Mentoring: International Applications CARON HAWKINGS & JOHN WALKER, UK
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break	
CONFERENCE (Title TBA) Chair: ZIMBABWE, SPAIN) (Title TBA) Invited speak		(Title TBA) Invited speakers: JOSÉ LUIS BRIEVA, Columbia & MARGARITA RODRÍGUEZ, Canada
		Closing Ceremony
14:00	Lunch	Conference participants return to Madrid by bus on Sunday afternoon.

4. Content of the Conference

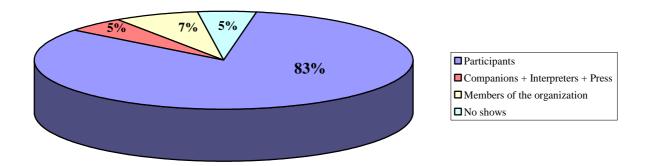
Two separate events were held:

Firstly, the WASLI General Members' Meeting, held on the morning of the 13th of July. Secondly, the WASLI Conference, held between the afternoon of the 13th July and the 15th July.

The Conference consisted of a series of talks and presentations on various topics related to the sign language profession: technical issues, service clients (deaf and deaf-blind people), recent research on sign language interpreting, experience in interpreter training around the world, emerging fields in the profession, new technologies used in interpretation, state of profession in developing countries and the problems encountered by sign language interpreter associations in recent years.

In addition, at the end of each day's talks entertainment activities were organized, such as a guided tour of Segovia by night so that the conference participants could visit the historical city where the conference was held.

5. Participants

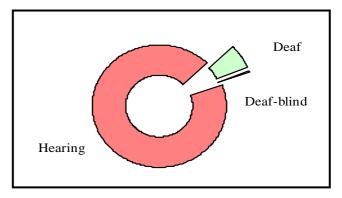


- > 255 participants:
 - * sign language interpretation professionals from all over the World
 - × interpreter-quide professionals
 - deaf and deaf-blind individuals
 - professionals from related fields
 - **x** trainee interpreters.
- > 9 volunteers/companions
- > 5 volunteer interpreters (both spoken and sign language)
- > 1 accredited member of the press
- > 23 volunteers working in the organization
- ➤ 15 individuals whose participation had been confirmed but who were unable to attend for various reasons (e.g. health, visa problems).

Of the 255 people who attended the WASLI conference:

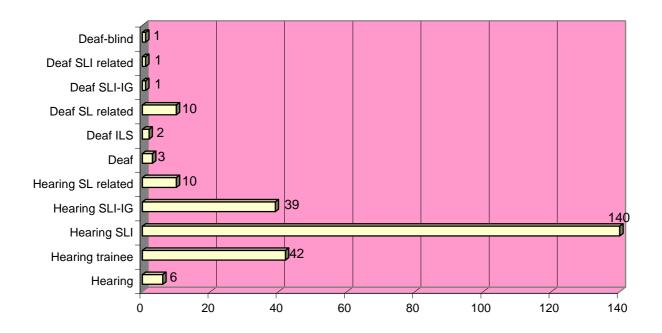
- 237 hearing people
- × 17 deaf people
- * 1 deaf-blind person

The conference participants were highly heterogeneous, as can be seen from the following list of characteristics:



- √ 1 deaf-blind person
- √ 1 deaf professional working in sign language and interpreting related field
- √ 1 deaf sign language interpreter / interpreter guide (SLI-IG)
- √ 10 deaf professionals working in sign language related field
- ✓ 2 deaf sign language interpreters (SLI)
- √ 3 deaf people
- √ 10 hearing professionals working in sign language related field

- ✓ 39 hearing sign language interpreters / interpreter guides (SLI-IG)
- √ 140 hearing sign language interpreters (SLI)
- √ 42 hearing trainee interpreters
- √ 6 hearing people



6. Location

The conference was held in the city of **Segovia**:

- The main town of its province, with good transport connections, and close to Madrid and within an tour of the international airport.
- Segovia, a World Heritage centre recognised by UNESCO in 1985, has a wealth of history and charm for tourists: Romanesque churches, pedestrianized streets, a Cathedral, the Alcázar Castle, the famous Roman aqueduct, medieval walls surrounding the city, making Segovia the ideal location for the event.

Both the General Members' Meeting and the WASLI conference were held in the Husa Puerta de Segovia Hotel, a modern 4-star hotel which was renovated in 2005. The hotel is situated on one of the main roads into Segovia, just 2 km from the city centre.

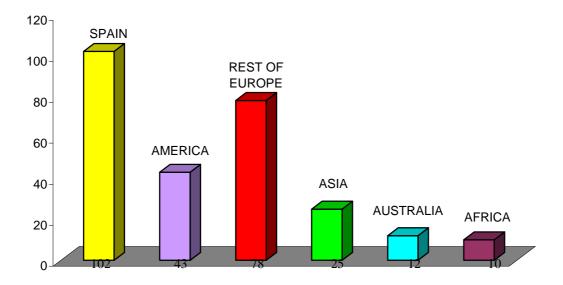


The hotel has 205 well equipped bedrooms (with en suite bathroom, hairdryer, minibar, safe, TV) and various meeting and conference rooms with variable capacity. Most of these rooms have daylight and are fully equipped (Internet access, slide projector and OHP, VHS video, screen, etc.). The hotel has 24 hour reception and offers the normal range of services for a hotel of its category (restaurant, cafeteria, bar, safe deposit box, games room, TV lounge, room service, laundry service, car parking and children's play area). The hotel also has a open air swimming pool which was available to the conference participants.

The catering for the conference was a buffet breakfast, and a fixed menu lunch and dinner, which was served by the waiting staff. Special dietary needs such as vegetarianism were catered for.

7. Participation and representation

The conference was organized by WASLI, the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, together with FILSE, the Spanish Federation of Sign Language Interpreters and Interpreter-guides, and as such the scope of the event was international. The countries of origin of the participants and companions are as follows:



8. Dates

The General Members' Meeting was held on the morning of Friday, 13th July, 2007. The Conference began in the afternoon of Friday, 13th July and ended at midday on Sunday, 15th July.

9. Organization

The people:

The members of the organization team of this event, who were responsible for the organization, coordination, administration, accounting and public relations, made up a large group of VOLUNTEERS; without their work and effort this project would not have been possible.

Technical committee:10 members

Coordination: Sául Villameriel and Brendan Costello

Finances: Mayre Sánchez

Administration: Susana Martín

Publicity and Public relations: Ana Peidro and Felipe Méndez Entertainment and logistics: Raquel Egea and Carmen Penelo

Human resources and equipment: Susana Gracia and Gabriel Sicilia

Scientific Committee (experts in the field of sign language interpretation from all over the world): WASLI board rep.: Jemina Napier, Macquarie University Australia (Committee Vice-president)

FILSE representative: Noemí González, Valladolid University, Spain

North America: Cynthia Roy, Gallaudet University, USA (Committee

President and responsible for editing the Conference Proceedings)

Australasia: Rachel McKee, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand

Europe: Nadia Grbic, Graz University, Austria

South America: Ronice Muller De Quadros, Federal University of Santa

Catarina, Brasil

Africa: Jefwa Mweri, Nairobi University, Kenya

Members of the FILSE board

President: José A. López Muiños

Secretary: Ana Isabel Francés Domingo

Finances: Lourdes Quintero Barranco

Communications: Antonia Romero Suárez

Programs: Nieves Pérex Tubilleja

WASLI Board

President: Liz Scott Gibson - Scotland

Vice-president: Philemon Akach – South Africa

Secretary: Zane Hema – England

Regional rep. for North America: Deb Russell – Canada

Regional rep. for Australasia and Oceania: Jemina Napier – Australia

Regional rep. for Asia: Emiko Ichikawa – Japan

Regional rep. for Transcaucasia and Central Asia: Anna Komarova –

Russia

Regional rep. for Europe: Marco Nardi – Italy / England

Cooptees

Daniel Burch - USA

Bill Moody – USA

Ito Tadashi – Japan

Francois Deysel – South Africa

Nigel Cleaver – England

Carol Lee Aquiline (Initial working group) – USA

Arun Rao - India

Knud Sondergaard – World Federation of the Deaf

- Spoken language interpreters (English-Spanish)
- International Sign Interpreters
 Judith Collins (Europe), Durham University, UK
 Nigel Howard (America), Douglas College, Canada
- Spanish Sign Language Interpreters
 Nieves Pérex Tubilleja
 Ana Isabel Francés Domingo
- Interpreter-guides for deaf-blind people

Martina Stabia – Croatia

Tajana Tarczay – Croatia.

Susana Gracia Bernal

Equipment and rooms

- 1 auditorium
- 1 interpreters' room
- 1 administration office
- 1 booth for simultaneous (spoken language) interpretation, set up in the auditorium
- Headphones for all participants for spoken language interpretation
- OHP
- Projector
- Laptop computer
- Internet connection
- Video camera
- Projection screen

Material for participants and speakers

- Welcome pack with tourist information about Segovia
- Publicity leaflets
- Conference booklet with program and abstracts
- Blank paper
- Pens
- Gifts for the speakers

10. Balance of accounts

	OUTGOING
ACCOMMODATION	
Accommodation of all participants and the team of volunteers	
SUBTOTAL	- 76.758,02€
TRAVEL	
Speakers	
Scientific and Technical Committee volunteers	
Airport transfer service for participants	
Interpreters, interpreter-guides and coordinator	
SUBTOTAL	- 4.005,57 €
MAINTENANCE EXPENSES	
Spoken language interpretation cabin	4.051,00€
Conference material. Participants' material	4.669,69 €
Correspondence and telephone calls. Merchandising	1.387,50 €
Administration costs	1.177,81 €
SUBTOTAL	- 11.286,00€
SPOKEN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS	
SUBTOTAL	- 1.920,00€
OTHER COSTS	
Bank charges	75,50€
Pre-conference meetings	2.520,39 €
SUBTOTAL	- 2.595,89€
TOTAL COST OF THE CONFERENCE	- 96.565,48 €

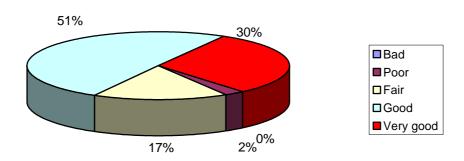
INCOMING

REGISTRATION FEES	
Participants and individual sponsors for participants from Colombia, Kosovo, Argentina, Kenya, Burundi, etc	
SUBTOTAL	105.246,80 €
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	
Gestoria Cristobal Sánchez	
SUBTOTAL	100,00€
MERCHANDISE	
Sale of merchandise	
SUBTOTAL	168,00€
"CAJA SEGOVIA" AWARD	
1ST INSTALLMENT	2.400,00€
2ND INSTALLMENT	3.600,00€
SUBTOTAL	6.000,00€
ADUSTMENTS	
Money unaccounted for (collection basket, etc.)	
SUBTOTAL	73,24 €
TOTAL INCOME OF THE CONFERENCE	111.588,04 €
NET RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE	15.022,56 €

11. Evaluation

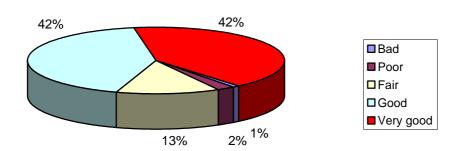
Following the conference, the participants filled in a questionnaire to evaluate various aspects of the conference relating to the organization, content and the overall experience. The items evaluated and the results are shown in the following graphs.

Length of talks

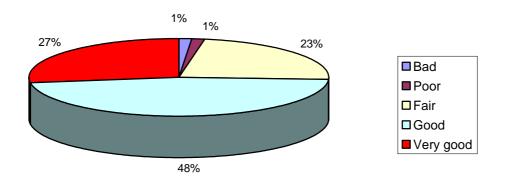


Length of talks: many participants commented that the talks were varied and interesting but too short; the question sessions were also considered too short by some participants.

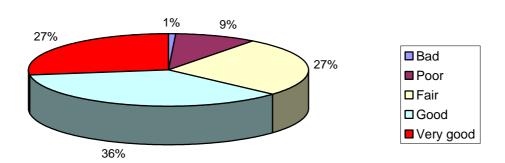
Clarity of talks



Quality of talks

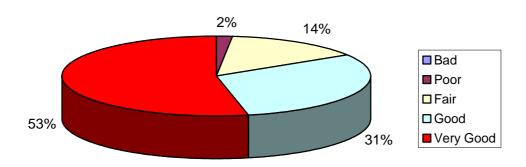


Spoken interpreting



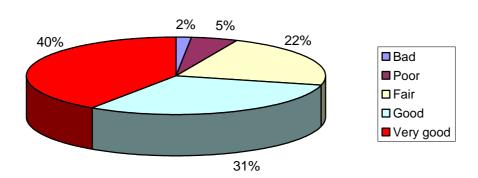
Spoken interpreting: there was a wide variety of opinions and many people remarked on the lack of preparation of the interpreters caused slowness and loss of information at times.

IS interpreting



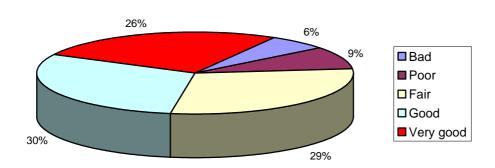
International sign interpreting: there was greater satisfaction here (it should be noted that some participants did not respond to this question.

LSE interpreting



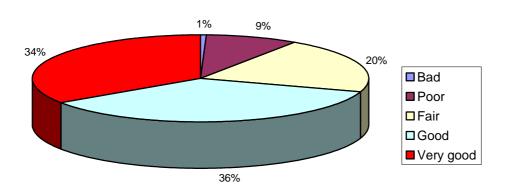
Spanish sign language interpreting: those Spanish-speaking participants who answered considered that the interpretation was suitable.

Conference room



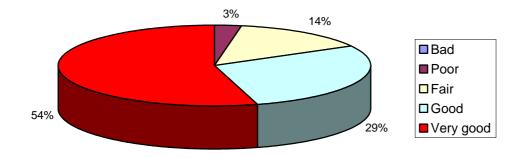
Conference room: some participants said the conference room was not ideal because of the lack of space, the obtrusive pillars and the lack of tables or some other surface for note-taking.

Hotel and Catering

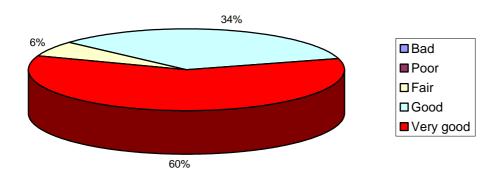


Hotel and catering: those who answered Bad/Poor specified that the reason was the problems which arose with the vegetarian food but that they were satisfied with the services and facilities in the hotel.

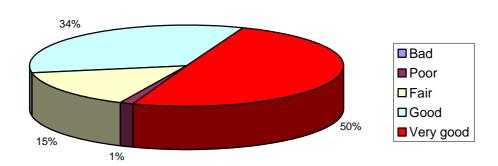
Entertainment and sightseeing



General organization



Material provided



The talks of the conference will be collected and published in the Conference Proceedings.

12. Press cuttings

The following news items covering the conference can be found in the appendix at te end of this document:

- ✓ El Adelantado de Segovia newspaper, Saturday 14th July 2007: front page article with the headline "Historic step forward for the integration of the deaf". Inside the newspaper the article continues: "Interpreters consider the [new Spanish] law which recognises sign language to be making history. The Federation of Sign Language Interpreters in Spain is holding a conference in Segovia."
- ✓ El Norte de Castilla newspaper, Saturday, 14th July 2007: article entitled "International meeting on Sign Interpreting."
- √ "En otras palabras" television program on RTVE (national public televisión), broadcast Saturday 21st July 2007 on Channel 2 at 10:30. There is a transcription of the report in the Appendix as well as a webpage where it can be watched.

Appendix



FRONT PAGE



INSIDE PAGE

SÁBADO 14 DE JULIO DE 2007 EL ADELANTADO DE SEGOVIA

SOCIEDAD

Los intérpretes creen histórica la ley que reconoce la lengua de signos

La Federación de Intérpretes de Lengua de Signos en España celebra un congreso en Segovia

M.G. / SEGOVIA

Los profesionales dedicados a la interpretación del lenguaje de signos consideran que la aprobación por parte del Gobierno de España de la ley que dota de carácter oficial al sistema lingüístico que permite la comunicación entre personas sordas y sordociegas es un avance "histórico" para la plena incorporación de los sordos a la sociedad.

Así lo manifestó ayer en Segovia el presidente de la Federación de Intérpretes de Lengua de Signos en España (FILSE), José López Muiños, que preside la II Conferencia Internacional sobre Interpretación de Signos en la que participan cerca de 300 profesionales de este ámbito procedentes de 47 países de todo el mundo.

En declaraciones a esta Redacción, López Muiños explicó que el objetivo de la conferencia es "compartir conocimientos y experiencias sobre las investigaciones y la práctica de la interpretación en lengua de signos, porque los intérpretes son los puentes de comunicación entre las personas sordas y las oyentes, posibilitando así el acceso a la información en igualdad de condiciones".

Con respecto al proyecto de ley aprobado el pasado 28 de junio en el Congreso de los Diputados que reconoce el carácter oficial del lenguaje de signos, el presidente de FILSE aseguró que esta ley "es una oportunidad histórica para la comunidad sorda y para los profesionales de la interpretación, ya que da carta de naturaleza a un sistema de comunicación que es imprescindible para cerca de un millón de personas en todo el territorio nacional".



Un momento de una de las sesiones del congreso, en el que participan cerca de 300 personas de todo el mundo. / KAMARERO

Indicó que las administraciones públicas "antes de esta ley ya estaban empezando a ser sensibles a la implantación del lenguaje de signos en organismos oficiales, propiciando también ayudas y subvenciones a las asociaciones para la contratación de intérpretes profesionales".

López Muiños aseguró que el intérprete de lenguaje de signos cumple una doble función de guía de apoyo para los desplazamientos a las personas sordociegas, y la de intérprete, igual que con las personas sordas, pero realizando las adaptaciones adecuadas a las distintas necesidades de estas personas.

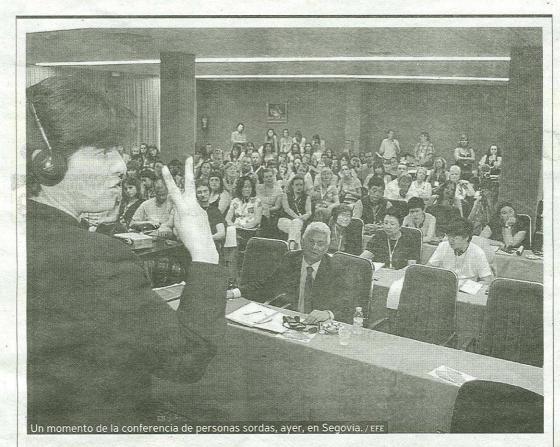
"Contrariamente a lo que la gente puede pensar, los intérpretes de lengua de signos española y los guías-intérpretes no solamente son necesarios para las personas sordas y sordociegas —indicó—porque las barreras de comunicación afectan también a aquellas personas oyentes que no conocen la lengua de signos, pero necesitan establecer una comunicación fluida con una persona sorda o sordociera".

En España hay alrededor de un millón de personas con problemas auditivos, de los que 70.000 son usuarios de la lengua de signos, según explicó el presidente

de la FILSE, que precisó que los datos en cuanto al número de intérpretes es menos preciso. "No se dispone de un registro de intérpretes de lengua de signos por lo que se hace difícil establecer la cifra exacta de los mismos -aseguró— pero se estima que hay alrededor de 1.700 profesionales formados, de los cuales se dedican directamente a la interpretación de lengua de signos unos 400". La mayor parte de ellos trabajan en las asociaciones de personas sordas, y solo una minoría son contratados por el Estado, desempeñando su labor de modo principal en el entorno educativo.

NC El Norte de Castilla

EL NORTE DE CASTILLA SÁBADO, 14 DE JULIO DEL 2007



Reunión internacional sobre interpretación de signos

Los profesionales de la interpretación del lenguaje de signos consideran que la aprobación en España de la ley que dota de carácter oficial al sistema linguístico que permite la comunicación entre personas sordas es un avance «histórico» para la plena incorporación de estas a la sociedad. Así lo manifestó ayer el presidente de la Federación de Intérpretes de Lengua de Signos en España (FILSE), José López Muiños, en Segovia durante la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Interpretación de Signos en la que participan cerca de 300 profesionales de este ámbito procedentes de 47 países.





Transcription of the report shown on the national television program "En otras palabras" broadcast on Saturday 21st July 2007.

Last weekend in Segovia more than 300 interpreters from all over the world came together. One of their main aims was to establish and improve the recognition of the profession, which is in constant growth. Juan Pedro Toribio [the reporter] was there:

If Madrid has just been the world capital of the deaf, for interpreters it has been Segovia, where the Second International Conference on Sign Language Interpreting has been held. More than 300 interpreters and interpreter-guides from more than 47 different countries came together to share knowledge and experiences.

Philemon Akach is a South African interpreter who has come to this conference to help the establishment of the profession in his country:

"I'm working in several African countries to raise awareness about what a sign language interpreter is. Sign language interpreting in Africa is not comparable level to the situation in Europe or the US. We give information to deaf people and we interpret in educational contexts but for the time being we do not work on a professional basis; it is still a voluntary job and many teachers act as interpreters if they know some sign language."

It is over 30 years since the first plans were made to set up a world association of interpreters with the aim of gaining recognition for the professional interpreting. Today that association is a reality. The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, WASLI, was founded in South Africa at the First World Conference. The first president is Liz Scott Gibson, an experienced Scottish interpreter, who explains WASLI's goals to us:

"WASLI is important because there are many sign language interpreters in many countries who have neither training nor a job, and we want interpreters from rich countries to support developing countries and to work side by side with deaf associations to raise awareness of interpreting all over the world."

During the conference there have been talks on technical topics, the clients of interpreting services, recent research findings, interpreter training at an international level, new ways of working, information technology, the situation in developing countries and a sharing of experiences for problems encountered by interpreter associations. After months of hard work by the Spanish Federation of Sign Language Interpreters and Interpreter-Guides, FILSE, the president, José Lopéz Muiños is able to declare the conference a success:

"FILSE feels very proud of the trust placed in us to organize this conference. The response has been marvellous and the participants are very happy. The team has made a great effort to meet the objectives which were set. Furthermore, the Law recognising sign language has just been passed. This will be very important for interpreters and the interpreting profession. We should bear in mind that it is also the interpreting professionals, the interpreters and the interpreter-guides with their constant lobbying, who have made the recognition of sign language possible, and so I would like to congratulate them all, the entire interpreting community."

The figure of the interpreter or interpreter-guide is coming into its own. This is especially so in Spain: with the passing of the law which officially recognises Spanish and Catalan sign languages, interpreters will have new job opportunities.

Another important issue is training. The University of Valladolid together with the Complutense University in Madrid has set up the first postgraduate course in Spanish sign language interpreting. The course is in collaboration with Spanish Federation of Interpreters and places Spain at the forefront of interpreter training. For more information on sign language interpreting, visit the webpage: www.wasli.org.

This report can be seen on the following webpage: http://youtube.com/watch?v=6keJ7iLB1Ow