



## **EUDY Annual Report 2018**

### **Foreword by EUDY President**

It is quite a weird feeling to be back into EUDY's void after an absence of two years. When I resigned my position as Secretary General, I never would have thought I would be back as president. It is funny what life puts on your path. During the two years I have been in close contact with Liisa in my role as freelance Project Officer. That gave me insight in EUDY's work, plans and ambitions. That prompted me to apply as president. I am happy I can contribute to EUDY's successes, now in a different way.

I have taken over the presidency from Jana Havlová in July 2018. For me the most important thing to do first was going back to the drawing table and determining where EUDY was at that moment and where we would like to go. The newly approved strategic plan counted over 50 pages full of ambitions and texts no one probably would read. We needed to transfer this plan to a readable document and in cooperation with the staff, we have focused on the VSA in our first half year of the term. Also we needed to identify what we wanted to do with EUDY as board for 2018-2019. We determined three pillars:

- Financial stability for EUDY
- More transparency with our members
- Strengthening our members

We have redesigned the structure of EUDY, we have talked with our members, we worked on new documents. I must say I am quite proud of my fellow board members, the staff and EUDY's Full Members that we have been able to cooperate with each other. Especially in the topic of financial stability we are glad to have made some (hard) decisions and we are seeing this is paying off at the end of 2018 and 2019 is giving us a better perspective.

The exhaustive strategic plan and the VSA will help us guide the way in the coming years and we are excited to see if we are able to join new projects, to maintain our successes and most important, that we can be here for our members!

Dennis Hoogeveen  
EUDY President

## **Foreword by EUDY Secretary General**

This year was my first full year to be the Secretary General of EUDY. Throughout the year I had seen and done a lot for EUDY, especially after the financial difficulties caused in 2017. In the first months I was the only staff member available in the office and during the year the board members and the members of the subgroup of ours, whose work were entirely voluntarily, had to work with the budget limits we had to set for the expenses of their meetings. So indeed, this year was a very strict year for us as we aimed to get EUDY back to balance by not spending too much on unnecessary expenditures.

And also it was the first year after a few years that we didn't get any Erasmus+ funds which was yet again an impact to our finances of 2018. In 2018 we officially did 2 project applications but planned also to leave 2 more project applications. All of them failed due to different reasons like rejection from the National Agency or the host country or not enough partners to fill the projects. With thanks to the board, the organising committees of our activities and the participants, we worked hard to keep EUDY on track despite the financial difficulties. We were still able to carry out the activities in 2018 such as the second session of Human Rights' trainings in Latvia and in Spain, European Youth Event in Strasbourg, EUDY Youth Camp and General Assembly in Romania, EUDY Junior Camp in Slovakia, EUDY Study Session in Budapest and European Action Week.

Also, from the 1st of March on, we welcomed a new Media and Outreach Officer to our office who was Simon Bak from Denmark. Since then, he had got many relevant ideas to develop EUDY in the future, and have implemented some of these already.. I personally am grateful to have him as my colleague and I look forward to working with him, together with the board, more on a better path for EUDY. We also achieved one item in our action plan of 2018 which was to upgrade our membership of European Youth Forum and so in November 2018, it happened for real. EUDY officially is now a Full Member of European Youth Forum, which means that our voice will be even stronger. In 2018, we also contributed to a concrete tool for the European institutions: "recommendations on making the Erasmus programme 2021-2027 more inclusive" - together with other disability, youth and higher education organisations. These recommendations can be found on <http://inclusivemobility.eu>.

After all, I had quite a colorful year with thanks to the board, Full Members and the participants who kept me motivated to serve the European Deaf Youth. It's because of you, we are here!

Liisa Halonen  
EUDY Secretary General

# GOVERNANCE

## Board meetings

Our board meetings are the most effective opportunity for us to discuss ongoing issues and upcoming activities and then implement afterward. Moreover, we always combine our board meetings with activities at local level where we can meet up with the local Deaf young people. The location of the board meetings are often determined based on the need for EUDY's presence.

In 2018, we had four board meetings:

March - Budapest, Hungary

June - Prague, Czech Republic

August - Brussels, Belgium

October - Tallinn, Estonia

During these board meetings except in Brussels, we attended the Deaf Youth Day in Budapest, the conference for the 150th Anniversary of the Establishment of the First Deaf Society in the Czech Lands in Prague and the Baltic Deaf Youth Festival in Tallinn. We would like to call out our sincere thanks to the youth leader from Hungary; Máté Hetrovicz in cooperation with the Hungarian NAD; Siketek és Nagyothallók Országos Szövetsége (SINOSZ), the Czech NAD; the Union of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Czech Republic and the Estonian YNAD; Eesti Kurtide Noorte Organisatsioon (EKNO) for making the board meetings and the interaction with the local Deaf young people possible!

## General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest body of the organisation as it's the place for deciding EUDY's strategies and approving financial activities. It's also a place for EUDY's Full Members to exchange ideas and experiences.

In 2018 we held our annual General Assembly in Constanta, Romania following on the EUDY Youth Camp - hosted by our Romanian Full Member; A.N.S.R. Tineret. There were 34 delegates, 4 invitees and 10 observers. This assembly was leaded by Dr. Gergely Tapolczai from Hungary who is the Vice-President of our partner, European Union of the Deaf. At this General Assembly there were 22 motions submitted to the Extraordinary General Assembly and 33 motions to the General Assembly, which certainly was a new record in EUDY's history.

## Board composition

Before the General Assembly in Romania, the board composition was:

2017-2018

Jana Havlová, President (Czech Republic)

Ludwig Leonhardt, Vice-President (Germany)

Danny Canal, Treasurer (Denmark)

André Almeida, Board Member (Portugal)

Silja Ruonala, Board Member (Finland) - until February 2018

At the beginning of the year, Silja Ruonala resigned her position as a board member after some months of her mandate, so the board continued their mandate until the General Assembly in Romania without a placement. At this General Assembly, Jana Havlová, Danny Canal and André Almeida ended their mandate and none of them was up for re-election. The board elections then took place and there were 2 candidates for the board election, 1 candidate for Silja's replacement as for a one-year-mandate and 1 candidate for the presidency election. All of them were elected. So the board composition after this General Assembly was:

2018-2019

Dennis Hoogeveen, President (The Netherlands)

Roy Maguire, Vice-President (Ireland)

Marek Kanaš, Treasurer (Slovakia)

Ludwig Leonhardt, Board Member (Germany)

Merlin Püss, Board Member (Estonia)

The board and the secretariat would like to extend its thanks to Jana, Danny, André and Silja for their commitment to work for EUDY!

### **Secretariat**

Liisa Halonen from Finland was EUDY's Secretary General for the year of 2018 and her responsibilities were to run the office and to implement EUDY's affairs and the financial activities throughout the year. At the beginning of 2018, she was the only employee available until 1st of March 2018 when Simon Bak from Denmark was hired as EUDY's second Media and Outreach Officer who was responsible for all media issues as well as maintaining close contact with EUDY's members. Moreover, the Secretariat had worked intensively with EUDY's Project Officer during the year in connection to project applications.

### **Full Members**

We were a family of 28 Full Members, with no new one or none terminated. However, in 2018 we had found a few potential countries to become Full Member and we hope to see their applications to become part of our family in near time!

# CAPACITY BUILDING

2018 was an unfortunate year for EUDY because 2018 was the first year EUDY was without any activities funded by Erasmus+, except for the Human Rights trainings happened in the first semester which were parts of 2017 activities. Despite it, we were able to achieve other way to offer capacity building for our Full Members such as European Youth Event in cooperation with European Youth Forum and Study Session in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

## **European Youth Event**

The Yo!Fes! of 2018 was the biggest edition of Yo!Fest ever with over 10,000 young Europeans from 28 EU Member States in attendance and 200 activities happening across the two days (1-2 June) of the event in the European Parliament's seat in Strasbourg and it's the 3rd time to have EUDY in attendance. This festival was to mobilise young people and youth organisations, locally and from across Europe, to raise up the voices of young people and to get ideas from the participants for the future of Europe with decision makers. At this festival EUDY, as a partner of YFJ (European Youth Forum), sent its own group in the festival with 10 participants and 2 group leaders and provided crash courses about sign languages and workshops about social inclusion to the other participants.

## **EUDY Youth Camp**

On 6-15th of July, the bi-annually Youth Camp between 18 and 30 years took place in Romania hosted by our Romanian Full Member; A.N.S.R. Tineret. It was the first time in the history of EUDY that the Youth Camp was held in two places: Galaciuc (Vrancea) and in Eforie de Nord (Constanta). The theme of this camp was "Sign Language Recognition and being active multipliers", which was connected to sign languages, the history and the role of sign languages. For those topics 2 from EUDY's Pool of Trainers were invited and the lectures were combined with workshops.

Also, the program included outdoor activities of which one was a day trip to Bran castle and Bucharest. In Constanta the participants could choose whether they like to enjoy the beach above the Black Sea or attend the General Assembly of EUDY. In total 63 participants from 20 countries participated in the camp.

## **EUDY Junior Camp**

On 21-29th of July, a week after the Youth Camp, it was the turn of deaf young people of 13 and 17 years old; the bi-annually Junior Camp that carried out in Tesáre, Slovakia - hosted by our Slovak Full Member; SAKMN. There 84 juniors and 23 leaders from 22 countries came together to participate in this exchange to learn about Deaf identity and what it means to be Deaf. For those topics different experts including 1 from EUDY's Pool of Trainers were invited and the lectures were combined with workshops.

In their free time, the participants enjoyed themselves in the yard with the swimming pool and the different sport fields. Also they visited the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava for one day.

### **Study Session**

The fourth edition of EUDY Study Session finally happened after 2 years: the Study Session of 2018, funded by the Council of Europe (CoE), with the theme of “Encouraging human rights education through media: inclusive with sign language and Deaf young people” gathered 35 participants from 21 countries at the European Youth Centre Budapest from 4th to 11th of November. The outlines and the activities were prepared by the preparatory team of 5 members, implemented from the preparatory meeting of two days in June.

During the week, filled with workshops in non-formal-education, the participants worked together to deepen their knowledge into the topic of human rights, deaf perspectives, discrimination, transition, education and social media. In addition, they also learned how to work in mixed background and international teams, developing tools in battling human rights and being effective multiplier in their respective countries.

## **VISIBILITY**

As the sole organisation representing Deaf Youth in Europe, EUDY invest a lot time in attending activities to gain visibility among decision and policy makers. s. We keep attending activities in the European Parliament as well as other activities regarding to the UNCRPD, employment, education, youth, minority and diversity. When the time allows, we also negotiate with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) or decision-makers, give our statements and many more.

### **European Youth Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria**

Danny Canal from the board and Rositsa Karadzkhova from our Bulgarian Full Member; MOSGB represented EUDY at the European Youth Conference, organised in the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the European Commission (EC). The aim of this conference was to give recommendations to the European Commission and to implement the new foals in the next European Youth Strategy.

In regard to this conference, we made a public statement about the accessibility we had faced toward the conference. The statement can be read via <https://goo.gl/9kAwkA>

### **1st Deaf Women European Forum in Valencia, Spain**

On 18th - 21st of October, Nora Duggan and Stine Venseth from our Swedish Full Member; Sverige Dövas Ungdomsförbund (SDUF) went to the forum to represent SDUF and EUDY. The weekend was inspiring for them as deaf women and it was a great opportunity to learn from the older deaf women and to put a youth perspective in the discussions. On Friday, we had three workshops with two moderators each. In the mornings, we focused on the problems deaf women face in Europe and in the afternoon, we discussed about possible solutions, mostly focusing on what EUDY can do.

We would like to extend our thanks to Nora and Stine for the presence and the report they delivered us especially with the recommendations what EUDY can do in the future. The report can be found in EUDY's library!

### **Inclusive Mobility Alliance**

Two working meetings of Alliance of stakeholders on Inclusive Mobility in Erasmus+, initiated by Erasmus Students Network ESN, took place in Brussels in September and in November, 2018. The aim of these meetings was to increase network with other organisations having the same barrier in freedom of mobility in Europe through Erasmus+ and to put together the concrete recommendations for a position paper. The working meetings were successful that we got the recommendations ready (<http://inclusivemobility.eu>) and decided to create Inclusive Mobility Alliance as a platform of disability, youth and higher education organisations on inclusive mobility so that we could work together again in the future.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

EUDY strives to cooperate with various European-wide and world-wide organisations working for the interests of Deaf (young) people. Cooperation can be in various ways: from regular contact to extensive project cooperation.

#### **European Union of the Deaf (EUD)**

EUD is a European non-Governmental organisation (ENGO) whose members comprise of National Associations of the Deaf (NADs). In May 2010, the cooperation between EUD and EUDY was confirmed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and in 2014, it was formalized even more when a partnership agreement was signed by both parties at EUD's General Assembly in Athens, Greece. As a result of this cooperation, EUD and EUDY aim to provide good practices in the area of cooperating between National Associations of the Deaf and the national Deaf youth.

In 2018, Ludwig Leonhardt represented EUDY at EUD's General Assembly in Vienna, Austria and Dr. Gergely Tapolczai represented EUD and, at the same time, was the GA chair at EUDY's General Assembly in Constanta, Romania. Dr Gergely Tapolczai also offered a tour and a short lecture in the Hungarian Parliament to the participants of Study Session in Budapest. Moreover, EUDY's Secretary General, Liisa Halonen and EUD's Executive Director, Mark Wheatley had their monthly meetings in their office where they discussed each other's activities and plans and forwarded each board's greetings and wishes.

#### **European Youth Forum (YFJ)**

YFJ is an umbrella organisation of more than 100 youth organisations (National Youth Councils and European NGO's). EUDY is a member of the YFJ, representing thousands of young people with fewer opportunities. This allows us to have a cooperation wherein our points of view will be shared with the YFJ and implemented into their policies.

In 2018, there were two Council of Members (COMEM): one in April in Brussels, Belgium where Danny Canal represented EUDY, and another in November in Novi Sad, Serbia where Dennis Hoogeveen was the only representative of EUDY. As a result, our cooperation with the YFJ has become stronger than ever especially since November when EUDY has become a Full Member of YFJ. Also, EUDY was a partner of YFJ for organizing the European Youth Event that took place in Strasbourg, France on 1-2 June.

### **European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli)**

efsli is an European non-profit organisation for associations of sign language interpreters in Europe. Currently efsli has 31 full members (national organisations of sign language interpreters). Being in a cooperation with efsli, EUDY feels it is very important that sign language interpretation at universities or with deaf children is of a good quality.

### **World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS)**

WFDYS, established in 1987, is the youth committee of the World Federation of the Deaf. They work on deaf youth issues globally. EUDY and WFDYS signed the Memorandum of Understanding in our General Assembly in Leksand in 2016 to strengthen our cooperation.

### **Castberggård**

Consisting of four different parts: School, Job and development center, conference Center and leisure center, Castberggård school caters for deaf, hard of hearing and their families. They strive to be a vibrant and innovative high school without communication barrier and focuses on professionalism as well as human development.

In 2018, EUDY Secretary General, Liisa Halonen took a part of Erasmus+ project on “Growing the Deaf Youth Organisation” by giving a lecture and a workshop on “Youth work from voluntary to professionalism” to the students of Frontrunners 14 and the participants of Erasmus+ program from 5 countries.

## **EUDY MEDIA & CAMPAIGNS**

### **Social Media**

Social Media is the most important channel for EUDY to reach as many target groups as possible and spread our work in public.

Some statistics from 2018:

Facebook:

01.01.2018: 13.223 followers / 13.511 likes

31.12.2018: 15.126 followers / 15.150 likes

145 posts

Twitter:

01.01.2018: 2.454 followers

31.12.2018: 2.762 followers

82 posts

Instagram:

01.01.2018: Around 2.400 followers

31.12.2018: Around 2.900 followers

58 posts

### **Magazine OFC!**

Due to the budgetary reason and the internal complications, unfortunately, we were not able to launch the OFC! magazine 4th version within 2018 while there were articles ready thanks to the editor; Abigail Gorman from the United Kingdom. We still plan to launch the 4th version, together with the 5th version in 2019.

### **Monthly newsletter**

Compared to the previous years, this year we published our monthly newsletter to report about EUDY activities only between April and December 2018 after the Media and Outreach Officer was hired. Yet we did something new to the monthly newsletter: a new design thanks to him!

### **European Action Week**

The fifth edition of the European Action Week happened between 25th of November and 2nd of December, 2018 and the direction was for paid internships at our office. At this time, with different activities, we fundraised 1136.86e in total. Thanks to all people and all organisations who made 2 paid internships possibilities in 2019!

## **WORKING GROUPS**

### **LGBTI+**

In 2018, we have set a new focus group focusing on LGBTI+ issues within our community. We book the seats in the focus group for those who identify themselves as a part of LGBTI+ community. Special welcome goes to the new members of the focus groups who are:

Abigail Gorman (chair), United Kingdom  
Emilo Christensen, Denmark

Mads Jonathan Pedersen, Denmark  
Nelson Rodrigues, Portugal

We also want to thank Mónica Rodríguez Varela and Jesús Fernández Mena from Spain who supported the basement of the focus group at the first months before their resignation.

### **Pool of Trainers**

The composition of EUDY's Pool of Trainers of 2018 was:

Alexander Ivanov, Bulgaria  
Alessandro Abbate, Italy  
Alícia Sort, Spain  
Pedro Mourão, Portugal  
Stéphanie Floux, France  
Timothy Rowies, Belgium

In 2018, the trainers had their second meeting on 21st of April in Brussels where they evaluated the work of the Pool of Trainers from the previous year and made new proposals to develop the structure of Pool of Trainers. To support EUDY in the implementation of the activities of EUDY throughout the year, Timothy Rowies was one of the trainers in the Human Rights' trainings in Latvia and in Spain and Alexander Ivanov and Pedro Mourão went to the Youth Camp and Alessandro Abbate to the Junior Camp to give lectures about the topics from their knowledge areas. Also, Alícia Sort was invited to the Austrian Junior Camp as a guest lecturer. Lastly, Alexander Ivanov attended the Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth (ACIG) at the European Commission in Brussels as a delegate of European Youth Forum.