HIPEN
Hearing Impairment Professionals European Network

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Abstract:

HIPEN – Hearing Impairment Professionals European Network is a network of European organizations providing services for people of all ages with hearing impairments including rehabilitation, education, employment, vocational training and research. Liceul Tehnologic Special pentru Deficienţi de Auz is a founder member of HIPEN, in Cluj-Napoca had been signed the collaboration agreement, the HIPEN Status “Memorandum of Understanding”.

HIPEN aims to develop and promote activities in order to improve the position of people who have hearing impairments. HIPEN members cooperate on a permanent basis within the EU to promote these activities. The network results are concretized in implementing a series of projects in the frame of European programs such as Youth in Action, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig.

Key words:

Europe, network, persons with hearing impairment, co-operation

When Romania was preparing to enter in European Union, the school for hearing impaired people from Cluj-Napoca also aligned to Europe. On 1st January 2007, Romania became UE member and, in the same month, the school representatives participated to a European meeting. Our colleagues from Slovakia welcomed us in their school “Zakladna Skola pre Nepocujucich”. At Kremnica, the hearth of Europe, as Slovakian people like to call their town, we met our future friends, principals and professionals from organization for people with hearing loss from Slovakia, France, Poland and Finland. We discussed the opportunities given by a European network made from organizations active in the field of services for hearing impaired people. The participants decided to call this network HIPEN – Hearing Impairment Professionals European Network. A Slovakian deaf artist created the HIPEN logo.

HIPEN logo

In august 2007, at Cluj-Napoca, the HIPEN member's representatives signed "Memorandum of Understanding", the HIPEN Status. The ceremony was hosted by Cluj County Council. They agreed the "Memorandum of Understanding" as the basis for founding and managing HIPEN as a European Network.





Cluj-Napoca, august 2007, semnarea "Memorandum of Understanding"

The network's beneficiaries are professionals working in organization for people with hearing impairment and persons with hearing impairment of all ages (early intervention, kindergarten, students and adults) that beneficiate of services in the frame of the organizations mentioned.

As HIPEN Status stipulates, HIPEN members promote activities meant to improve the position of hearing impaired people.

The HIPEN objectives are: to establish and coordinate communications to the best appropriate standard between Members and within the network; to exchange and develop with Members models of best practice in the field of education and training for people of all ages who are deaf/hearing impaired; to develop and manage projects on specific topics in which Members are interested; to support work groups with Members from each organization in order to develop models of best practice and ideas for such projects.

The HIPEN Status stipulates that there will be two general meetings per year. Each organization has to be represented by the principal or another person with decision power. Each year is elaborated an Action Plan that will be followed by the members. Each year the budget is established and approved by all members. The coordinator duty is to provide information and documentations; to explore the possibility of fund raising; to coordinate the network actions; to prepare the general meetings.

On February, 2008, at the General Meeting from Angers, France the network was enriched with two more countries: England and Norway. In the present, the

name of Liceul Tehnologic Special pentru Deficienţi de Auz, Cluj-Napoca is said and written near active members from nine European countries.

Permanent communication and collaboration is a major objective of the network, concretized in the participation at the two annual general meeting from network foundation to date. The general HIPEN meeting was hosted by organization that provided services for people with hearing loss, from different European countries:

2007 – January, Kremnica, Slovakia; August, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

2008 – February, Angers, France; October, Akac-Tanya, Hungary

2009 – Mars, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; November, Angers, France

2010 - May, Exeter, Anglia; November, Kremnica, Slovakia

2011 – May, Turku, Finland; November, Bivolărie, Romania

2012 – May, Budapest, Hungary; November, Krakow, Poland

2013 – April, Oslo, Norway; October, Kremnica, Slovakia; November, Strasburg

2014 – May, Nantes, France; October, Levoca, Slovakia

2015 – May, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; October, Jagodina, Serbia

The HIPEN activity's results are numerous. Signing the HIPEN Status „Memorandum of Understanding" and, subsequently, this became the basis for its Registration in France by Statute as an Association; creating the HIPEN website **www.hipen.eu** are some of the most valuable results. In the context of the general meetings were valorized the organization's presentations, informative documents regarding the methods and evaluation tools used for auditory-verbal rehabilitation; legislation regarding hearing impaired people; professionals' presentation regarding their work in the field of hearing loss.

The representatives from the school of Cluj-Napoca participated to writing process and implementations of European projects initiated at HIPEN working meetings:

- Youth in Action „Junior HIPEN", „Junior HIPEN 2", „Junior HIPEN 3",
- Leonardo da Vinci Multilateral Project for Development of Innovation "Prodeaf Toolkit" 509903-LLP-1-2010-1-FR-LEONARDO-LMP
- Leonardo da Vinci Partnerships „Accompagnement de Familles a besoins specifiques avec Enfant Sourd", AFES
- Project no: GRU-13-P-LP-369-CJ-Fr, „HIC Family Support" 2013-2015

- Project no: LLP-LdV/VETPRO/2013/RO/303, „Educarea şi recuperarea copiilor cu deficienţă de auz şi deficienţe asociate în vederea integrării sociale”.

The assessment of HIPEN activity was made by activities analyses at the general meetings, recorded in the general meetings' minutes. HIPEN's activity was promote on HIPEN website **www.hipen.eu**, but also during Administration Council's meetings or Professorial Council or in the frame of different events such as School Day, symposiums etc.

The impact on the institution is represented by developing and enhancing the European dimension of the school as an HIPEN founder member, highlighting school's image as a member of a European professional's network in the field of special education, arising school's prestige due to the participation at the European projects.

The impact on school's staff refers to increasing professional interest, accessing professional information (auditory-verbal rehabilitation methods, evaluation tools, institutional management), increasing self-esteem as professionals working with colleagues within EU.

The impact on student results from students' participation at European projects involving cultural awareness, increasing self-esteem from co-operation activities with persons from countries that are HIPEN members, developing competencies such as foreign language, ICT, increasing autonomy skills for independent life.

The impact on parents and community consists in parents and community representatives' involvement in the school's life, increasing public awareness regarding integrating hearing impaired persons, enhancing school's image in the community.

HIPEN comes into prominence as a professional's European network in the field of education for hearing impaired people.

HIPEN is an open network for new members from this field.

HIPEN aims public awareness regarding hearing impaired people's special needs and fighting against discrimination.

HIPEN aims to exchange and develop with Members models of best practice in the field of education and training for people of all ages who are deaf/hearing impaired

Links:

1. HIPEN – Hearing Impairment Professionals European Network **www.hipen.eu**
2. Bovallius-Ammattiopisto Turku, Finland **www.bao.fi**
3. Centre Charlotte Blouin Angers, France **http://mfam.deficience-sensorielle.org/Le-Centre-Charlotte-Blouin.html**
4. Institut National de Jeunes Sourds Metz, France **www.injs-metz.fr/**
5. La Persagotière Nantes, France **www.la-persagotiere.fr/**
6. Dr. Török Béla Óvoda, Általános Iskola, Speciális Szakiskola, Egységes Gyógypedagógiai Módszertani Intézmény, Diákotthon és Gyermekotthon Budapest, Hungary **www.nagyothallo.info.hu/**
7. Oslo Adult Education Centre Oslo, Norway **www.skullerud.oslovo.no/**
8. Krakovian Secondary School for Young People with Hearing Impairments Krakow, Poland **www.soswgrochowa.pl/**
9. Grupul Şcolar Bivolărie Bivolărie, Romania **www.gsbiv.ro/**
10. Liceul Tehnologic Special pentru Deficienţi de Auz Cluj Napoca, Romania **www.licdefauzcluj.ro/**
11. School for students with hearing and speech disabilities 11th May, Jagodina, Serbia **www.11maj.edu.rs**
12. Stredná odborná škola pre žiakov so sluchovým postihnutím Bratislava, Slovakia **www.souspmba.edu.sk**
13. Základná škola pre žiakov so sluchovým postihnutím internátna Viliama Gaňu v Kremnici, Slovakia **www.zsispkremnica.edupage.org**
14. Vice-President HIPEN - Jeign Craig (UK), affiliated to Cued Speech Association UK **www.cuedspeech.org.uk**