

European Newsletter - Issue 58

Volume 21 number 3, December 2015

Table of contents:

- [President's Message](#) December 2015 by *Panagiota (Betty) Leotsakou, President ICEVI-Europe*
- [First movie presented with audio description in Greece?](#) by *Aineias Martos and Maria Papazafiri*
- [Reflections on the International Conference "Literacy and individuals with visual impairments"](#) *University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece*
- [TEACH CVI](#)
- [Affordable High Quality Tactile Graphics at IIT Delhi](#)
- [EP adopts resolution on rights for people with disabilities](#), *The International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus*
- [Report on Services for Visually Impaired Elderly Persons in Europe](#), by *Rosaline de Korte*
- [Message from the World Blind Union on Human Rights Day: December 10, 2015](#), *Press Release, World Blind Union*
- [Universal Children's Day](#), *Press Release, World Blind Union*
- ["Right to read" for blind and low vision Europeans still denied – access to literary works locked](#) *Press Release, European Blind Union*

TEACH CVI



Teach CVI is a two year European Erasmus + project. The aim of the partnership is to create collaborative tools for teachers and health care professionals. To build a bridge between the teacher/educator and health care professionals so they can work together to benefit the target group; children with cerebral visual impairment are hereby referred to as CVI.

This is done by:

- Making a tool for health care professionals and educators to screen for CVI,

- Creating a common database of tools for CVI detection,
- Producing resources for teachers to support their work in the assessment of CVI,
- Making teaching methodologies to enable the child's access to literacy. This includes training and teaching materials for teachers/educators of children with cerebral visual impairment.

In essence, CVI results from damage to the brain and since more than 40 per cent of the brain is estimated to be devoted to visual function it is hardly surprising that brain damage, arising from a number of etiologies, can often negatively impact on a child's ability to carry out visual tasks and thus to learn. As the child's eyes are often intact, the problem of CVI relates to the higher visual functions of interpretation and understanding rather than to the physical structure of the eye itself, thus CVI is often under-diagnosed.

CVI can present poor color and object recognition; depth perception difficulties that can impact on moving through the 3D world; problems in tracking movement and locating objects. It can also lead to visual fatigue, intermittent blindness, orientation and mobility anxieties, poor social and self-care skills, as well as poor reading skills and diminished performance.

In this project we are adopting an action research approach including an action where teachers will be taught how to enhance the literacy skills of children in each of these three broad categories. The project will harness the cross cultural, multi-professional talents of its partners in order to design, assess and deliver a comprehensive, cohesive training package for teachers, social pedagogues, parents and others. It will be available for every teacher in Europe who is struggling to teach a child with CVI.

Elfa Hermannsdóttir, project leader

Project partners:

The National Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Iceland
(coordinator)

Child Vision, Ireland

Positive Eye, UK

State Diagnostic Centre, Iceland

Royal Blind, UK

KU Leuven, Belgium

Agency for special needs education and schools, Sweden