



European Federation of  
Audiology Societies

HOSTED AND CREATED BY ZWONULL MEDIA  
efas

# EFAS Working Group on Audiology and Intellectual Disability



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## EFAS WG Audiology & intellectual disability



- SOI - Melina Willems, *Global Clinical Advisor*  
Special Olympics Healthy Hearing
  - Experience in Down's syndrome athlete
  - EFAS board approval
- Ear and hearing problems in people with an intellectual disability (ID) are more common than in the general population.
- Hearing problems remain undetected, un-served and/or under-treated



## Goals of the WG

- 1. Literature:
  - Definition
  - Making of a reference list with all relevant literature. Will be very useful information to achieve other goals.
- 2. Questionnaire:
  - Gathering information on screening and assessing ear, hearing, vestibular problems in people with an intellectual disability in different European countries by the use of a questionnaire.
    - Strong/weak points of implementing
- 3. Guidelines:
  - WG decided to develop guidelines instead of protocols. Guidelines can be used on European level, and can be adapted to protocols on National level.



## EFAS Working Group AID

- ▶ Three meetings
- ▶ Definition ID - target population
  - ▶ "Intellectual disability (ID) is characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. This disability originates before the age of 18." (AAIDD, 2010, p.6)
- ▶ Literature review
- ▶ SOI experience



## EFAS Working Group AID Questionnaire - online

- ▶ Hearing screening as part of improving accessibility of services
  - ▶ Identifying current practices and approaches across Europe
- ▶ One questionnaire response for each country - 15 minutes
- ▶ <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc59BskPGT3jQGGKY3WFipdz9uV6oRo1T0O16yoIEO49Xbj0Q/viewform?c=0&w=1>





## EFAS Working Group AID Questionnaire - online

- **General hearing screening programmes**
  - Implemented or not
  - Level
  - Persons to perform



## EFAS Working Group AID Questionnaire - online

- **Hearing screening programmes for individuals with intellectual disabilities**
  - Down syndrome or any form of ID
  - Age
  - Method
  - Persons who performs the screening
  - Government regulation
  - Follow-up



## EFAS Working Group AID Questionnaire - online

- ▶ Hearing screening programmes for individuals with intellectual disabilities
  - ▶ Utility
- ▶ Opportunities/barriers for specific hearing screening
- ▶ Publications/guidelines available already





## EFAS Working Group AID future

- ➔ Hearing assessment
- ➔ Guidelines developing
  - ➔ Adaptation to national realities





## Members of Working Group

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