



AUDIOLOGY & INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY WORKGROUP

DEFINITION OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Intellectual disability (intellectual developmental disorder) is a disorder with onset during the developmental period that includes both intellectual and adaptive functioning deficits in conceptual, social, and practical domains. The following three criteria must be met:

- a) Deficits in intellectual functions, such as reasoning, problem solving, planning, abstract thinking, judgment, academic learning, and learning from experience, confirmed by both clinical assessment and individualized, standardized intelligence testing.
- b) Deficits in adaptive functioning that result in failure to meet developmental and socio cultural standards for personal independence and social responsibility. Without on going support, the adaptive deficits limit functioning in one or more activities of daily life, such as communication, social participation, and independent living, across multiple environments, such as home, school, work, and community.
- c) Onset of intellectual and adaptive deficits during the developmental period.

GOALS & JUSTIFICATION

- Create awareness to the importance of hearing screening and management for people with intellectual disability (ID).
- Develop guidelines towards audiological care for people with ID.
- Ear and hearing problems in people with ID are more common than in the general population.
- Hearing problems remain undetected, un-served and/or under-treated.

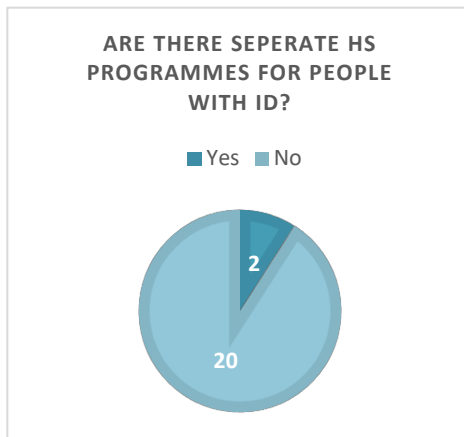
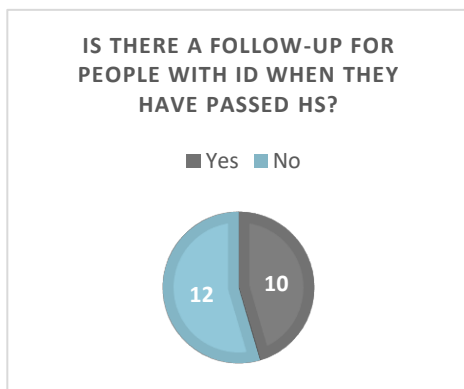
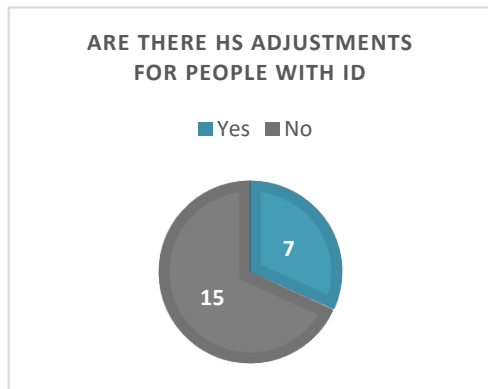
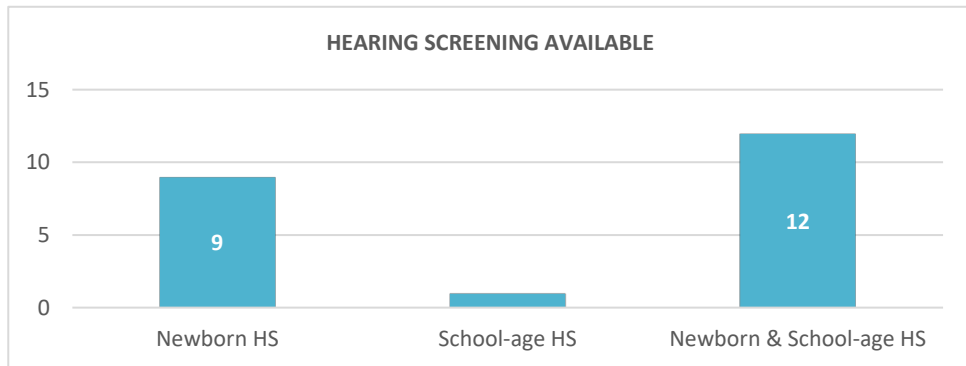
WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

- Literature review.
- Online questionnaire to identify current practices and approaches across Europe.
- Preliminary guidelines regarding hearing screening for people with ID in general and with Down Syndrome.

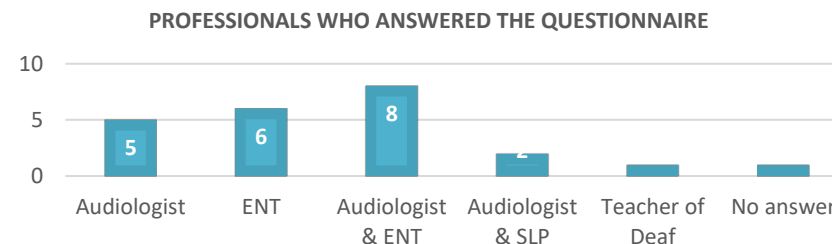
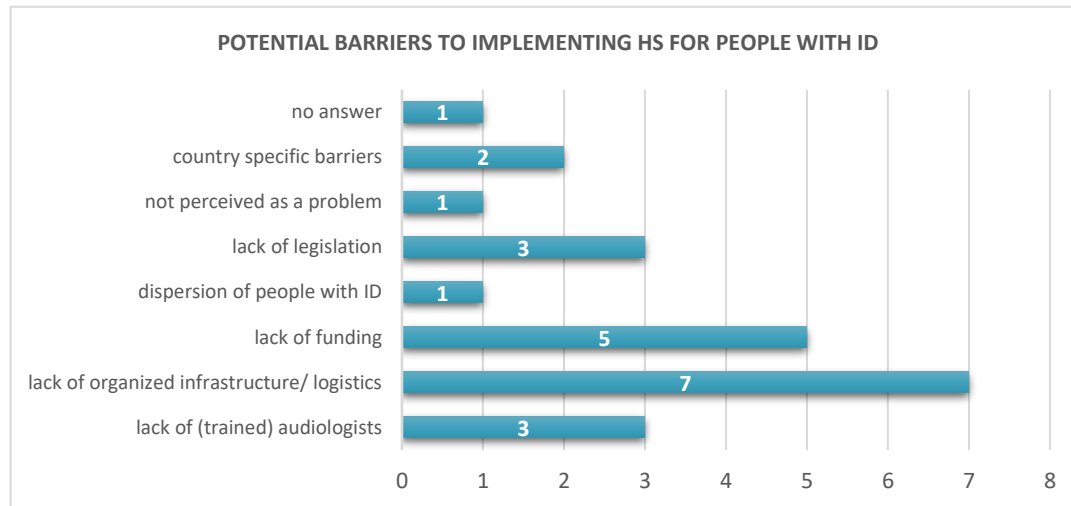
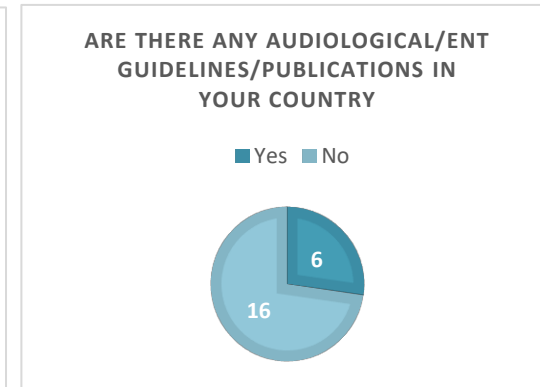
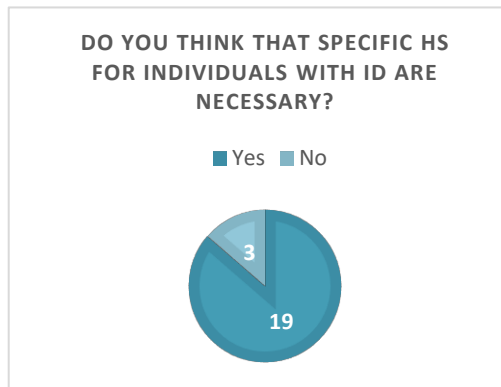
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The questionnaire was sent via email to EFAS representatives. The summarized data presented below was collected between September 2016 and January 2017. There were a total of 23 answers received from 22 countries.

HEARING SCREENING (HS)



IMPLEMENTING HEARING SCREENING (HS) FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (ID)



GUIDELINES

The following table is a summary of the preliminary guideline proposal for audiological hearing screening and management for people with intellectual disability (ID). These guidelines were based on the available literature and publications.

AUDIOLOGICAL CARE	PERSON WITH ID IN GENERAL	PERSON WITH DOWN SYNDROME	PERSON WITH ID ELIGIBLE FOR HEARING DEVICE
EARWAX REMOVAL	Annual	2x/ year	2x/ year
HEARING SCREENING	Neonatal Hearing Screening	Neonatal Hearing screening	2-4x/year < age 6
	Annual screening < age 6	2x/ year < age 6	
	Every 3 years from age 6 to 18	Every 2 years from age 6 to 18	2x/year ages 6 < 10
	Every 5 years from age 18 to 50	Every 3 years from age 18 and 35	Annual hearing evaluation > age 10
	Every 3 years > age 50	Annual > age 35	
	Annually if 8h/ day noise exposure (>75dBA)		

WORKGROUP MEMBERS

WILLEMS Melina - Audiologist/ SLP/Deaf Interpreter - **Belgium**

ANDERSSON Eva – Audiologist - **Sweden**

BRENNAN Siobhan – Audiologist – **England**

CONINX Frans – Audiologist/ Teacher of the Deaf - **Germany**

CRAVO Melissa - Audiologist - **Portugal**

GEORGESCU Madalina – ENT/ Audiologist - **Romania**

NEUMANN Katrin – ENT – **Germany**

SCHAEFER Karolin – Speech and Language Therapist - **Germany**

CONTACT: melina.willems@arteveldehs.be