ZDRUŽENJE TOLMAČEV GLUHOSLEPIM SLOVENIJE
TAKTIL

združenje DLAN gluhoslepih Slovenije

THE LJUBLJANA MEMORANDUM 2026 ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEAFBLIND LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

»When we recognise a language, we recognise the person.«

Adopted at the First International Professional Conference on Deafblind Language Interpreting

Ljubljana, 30 June 2026

Under the Honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia dr. Nataša Pirc Musar

Gathered at the First International Professional Conference on Deafblind Language Interpreting, in Ljubljana on 30 June 2026, and recognising that accessible communication is fundamental to human dignity, self-determination, and the full and equal participation of deafblind people in society, we hereby adopt the **Ljubljana Memorandum 2026** as a shared professional framework for the future development of this field.

We further affirm our conviction that only through collaborative research, international cooperation, and the active participation of people with deafblindness themselves can we advance a profession that responds to their genuine needs and contributes to the realisation of their human rights.

We therefore endorse the following shared professional principles:

1. **The Person at the Centre**

At the heart of all professional efforts must remain the person with deafblindness, together with their dignity, right to self-determination, personal safety, privacy, and equal participation in all aspects of society.

2. **The Language of People with Deafblindness**

The recognition, study, and development of the language of people with deafblindness constitute the foundation for advancing accessible communication, professional practice and the realisation of the human rights of people with deafblindness.

3. **Professional Development**

Interpreting for people with deafblindness is a distinct professional discipline requiring clearly defined competencies, high ethical standards, quality education and training, professional supervision and mentoring, and a commitment to lifelong professional development.

Interpreter training must encompass an in-depth understanding of the specific characteristics of deafblindness, the language of people with deafblindness, and individually tailored modes of communication, as well as proficiency in techniques for conveying auditory and visual information, guiding and accompanying deafblind persons, and ensuring communication accessibility across a wide range of everyday and professional contexts.

4. **Research and Innovation**

We support systematic research into the deafblind language, diverse forms of communication, interpreting practices, communication accessibility, and their impact on the quality of life, independence, and social inclusion of people with deafblindness.

5. **Interdisciplinary Cooperation**

The advancement of this field requires close collaboration among linguistics, social services, education, psychology, law, health sciences and other relevant disciplines, with the active and equal participation of people with deafblindness throughout these processes.

6. **The Active Role of People with Deafblindness**

People with deafblindness are not merely recipients of services but equal partners in the development of their language, professional standards, research, education, and future public policies.

7. **International Cooperation**

We support continued international collaboration, the exchange of knowledge and good practices, the development of shared professional standards, and the regular organisation of international professional conferences and expert meetings.

8. **Looking Ahead**

With the First International Professional Conference on Deafblind Language Interpreting, Ljubljana has become a place where international professional cooperation in this field begins.

As participants in this conference, we express our commitment to continued collaboration in advancing the language of people with deafblindness, research, education, professional standards, and high-quality, accessible interpreting for people with deafblindness.

Concluding Statement

We believe that through mutual respect, interdisciplinary cooperation, research, and international partnership, we can together strengthen this profession and contribute to a more inclusive society — one in which people with deafblindness are able to use their language, realise their full potential, and participate equally in every sphere of life.

Ljubljana, 30 June 2026,
House of the European Union