

EBU logo

EBU video presentation LOW VISION – IMPACT & ACTION 2017

TRANSCRIPT

Note from the transcriber:

The text of this transcript correspond to the narrator audio in this 6.08 minute video presentation.

The visuals consist of animated text in big, bold, white lettering and symbols, together with the EBU and United Nations logos in white on EBU dark blue background.

In addition, portrait pictures are used, that fill the screen little by little, and disappear again. The portrait pictures represent diversity in society and show all ages (from baby to elderly), both genders, most with a visual impairment - some more apparent than others.

Content of the EBU low vision video presentation:

-Welcome to EBU

-Low vision – Facts

-Low vision – Impact & Action

-Low vision services in Europe

-Call to Action

-Contact EBU & Credits

end of content list

Start of transcript text:

WELCOME to EBU, the voice of blind and partially sighted people in Europe.

LOW VISION – FACTS

There are more than 30 million blind and partially sighted people across Europe.

As our population ages, this number is set to increase.

So chances are, you or someone you know, will experience reduced vision.

Sight loss can affect everyone. Although, those over 65 are most at risk.

The vast majority of people with sight loss have low vision, also called partial sight.

You have low vision or partial sight, when reduced eye-sight cannot be fully corrected with glasses or contact lenses, surgery or medicine.

How low vision impacts daily life, varies widely.

Two people can both be partially sighted, yet have very different ways of seeing.

Your attitude and abilities may also depend on whether you had low vision since birth or lost sight later in life.

Therefore, low vision services and support must be tailored to meet the specific needs of each individual.

LOW VISION – IMPACT & ACTION

Regular activities, like reading your mail, finding your way around the supermarket, cooking for family, watching your favorite shows on TV, writing a note or message, recognizing your friends or getting out and about, can all become more difficult with reduced vision.

Appropriate tools, training and support can make these tasks easier.

Accessible Environment

Daily activities are highly affected by the extent to which you can navigate the built environment and access information, goods & services.

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, if you are responsible for publishing information, producing goods, providing services or designing the built environment, you are required to make reasonable adjustments for blind and partially sighted people.

Adopting an inclusive design makes good economic sense. An accessible world is better for everyone!

Attitudes

You may not be able to tell at a glance if someone is partially sighted.

This can lead to misunderstandings and attitudes to low vision, that are often difficult to overcome.

It’s in all our interests to raise awareness of the challenges facing partially sighted people.

Use vision

Partially sighted people want to use their remaining vision, to the maximum.

 Larger print, magnification, lighting and contrasting colors make a huge difference.

Complementing low vision aids and inclusive technology, with audio and tactile solutions can also be beneficial.

LOW VISION SERVICES IN EUROPE - STANDARD

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, both blind AND partially sighted people have an equal right to essential services that reduce the disabling impact of sight loss.

As well as blindness services, dedicated low vision services must also be available, to meet the distinct needs of partially sighted people.

Your circumstances and individual needs along with your functional vision, must be considered, to determine how much useful vision you actually have, and the type of support and services that may be required.

Low vision training and support

You have a right to receive training in, maximizing your visual potential, using low vision aids and assistive technology, mobility and orientation, and independent living skills.

You are entitled to assistance with adapting your home, school and work environments, with adequate lighting, good contrast and appropriate colors.

Plus, you may need support with social interaction, education, employment and leisure activities.

You must be offered psychological and emotional support, information and any other help you or your family may need.

In addition, you should have the opportunity to connect with other partially sighted people.

Low vision services must be available at an early stage.

They must be provided by a highly skilled, multi-disciplinary team of low vision professionals, at a venue that is accessible and easy to reach.

Low vision services have to be free of charge or low cost.

EBU promotes the implementation of these standards for low vision services in Europe, based on best practice and on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CALL TO ACTION

We have to make sure that EVERY partially sighted European has equal access to the low vision services they need.

We all must contribute to a more inclusive society, in which EVERYONE can participate fully.

YOU can help and take action:

-Raise awareness of low vision and its impact by sharing this video;

-Promote quality low vision services and standards in your country;

Adopt inclusive design for the accessibility of the built environment, information, goods and services;

-Support prevention and early diagnosis programs.

CONTACT EBU for more information, the transcript of this video and guidelines at www.euroblind.org

EBU - The voice of blind and partially sighted people in Europe.

CREDITS

This EBU video is supported under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme 2014-2020 of the European Commission.

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End of EBU video transcript ´LOW VISION – IMPACT& ACTION´ presentation video.

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Birgitta J. Blokland

Coordinator EBU low vision video project 2016

### About EBU

EBU is a non-governmental, non-profit making European organisation founded in 1984. It is one of the six regional bodies of the World Blind Union. It protects and promotes the interests of blind and partially sighted people in Europe. It currently operates within a network of national organisations of the visually impaired in 45 European countries.

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