**LOW VISION Services, a Global Right**

**Setting the Standards in Europe**

**EBU Low Vision Conference**

**14-17 June 2018, Laško, Slovenia**

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**Abstract**

**Functional vision and the need for properly trained low vision specialists**

Simple instruments for testing the functional vision and for the training of eccentric viewing by patients with central scotoma.

All over the world, the number of patients with AMD is increasing. Especially persons with a central scotoma have big problems with reading. Finding a suitable eccentric retinal locus helps them to read texts more fluidly and provides some other advantages.

With training materials tailored to their needs, the PRL can be found and exercised. As training material, word cards, vertical text, single letters or symbols etc. are used. An appropriate training always precedes the delivery of a vision aid, since this is the only way to ensure that the visual impaired person is able to read the desired texts using the new visual strategies and the corresponding optical or electronic aid.

The clients are very satisfied with the optical devices given to them, as showed by a survey conducted in 2015. The use of the trained eccentric retina locus is also of great use in everyday life, be it when recognizing the bus number or when reading the clock. The result: most visually impaired people are (again) more independent in their everyday lives.

If cognitive impairments are present after a stroke or through dementia the training of a PRL may be difficult or even impossible. It may also be difficult if the need of enlargement is very high.

Susanne Trefzer

Optometrist and Head of the Competence Center in Low Vision at SNAB (Switzerland)



This event is co-funded by the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship" Programme of the European Union.