

# Building on the legacy of **Louis Braille**

Annual Report 2025



The voice of blind and partially  
sighted people in Europe

Pictures: EBU Archive, European Commission, Terhi Korhonen, Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Slovenia.

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# A satisfactory year: setting new horizons



Dear friends across Europe,

It is time to reflect on another year of strong engagement and enriching activities at the European Blind Union.

In 2025, we have followed changes in our operational environment both near and far. The geopolitical landscape globally is reflected in the realities of our movement in Europe. Many national governments are saving on social causes and directing funding into current concerns, mainly defense. The same is expected to happen across the European funding landscape. Bearing these developments in mind, it is worth celebrating that EBU managed to secure its funding from the **European Commission's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme** for another three years.

Following the decisions taken by the General Assembly, EBU's Board started preparations for opening **a new branch office in Brussels** already prior to the European Commission's funding decision. While the CERV funding will cover costs of the new branch office and a new Brussels-based Advocacy Officer position, the branch office does require additional funding from our National Members as well.

From a strategic point of view, our key priority as the organisation's President and Executive Director has been and continues to be securing that EBU remains a strong organisation with adequately resources to operate also in the coming years. The new Finance Officer position will support us in managing a broader range of possible project funding and careful consideration of updating our membership contribution system will ensure that all Members have equal ownership of our shared movement of blind and partially sighted Europeans.

Last year, EBU Members showed tremendous leadership not only regionally but also in the global movement. Our region took the lead in reviewing the **World Blind Union's Constitution** ahead of the **WBU General Assembly** in São Paulo. Europeans declared loudly the need for a strengthened leadership and an amplified voice of the blind and partially sighted at a worldwide level. As a regional President, I am immensely proud of our region showing up and taking an active role in contributing to the strategy development for WBU after an Assembly that was filled with big emotions.

We are here to take care of the blindness and partial sight movement together and to promote our human rights in a time where the value of diversity and belief in inclusion is often sidelined.

With grateful thoughts,

**Tytti Matsinen**

**Lars Bosselmann**



# Our organisation: how does EBU work?

The **European Blind Union is a non-governmental organisation** protecting and promoting the rights and interests of blind and partially-sighted people in Europe. Our extensive network of Member organisations, which is globally stable and currently has **40 associations**, provides us with a great deal of knowledge, expertise and experience related to visual impairment and its implications in the daily lives of millions of persons with sight loss.

Once every four years, EBU hosts a **General Assembly which serves as the organisation's governing body**. Apart from gathering our National Members, this event is also a forum to choose the **13 members of our Executive Board** ahead of our upcoming working cycle.

As part of the strategic planning and implementation of our activities and internal functioning, the European Blind Union's Board hosted two physical meetings in **Paris and Zurich**. At the same time, the officers of the Board held regular online meetings to address subjects requiring urgent action. Afterwards, their decisions were reported to and confirmed by the Board at their face-to-face or virtual meetings.

Logistically, 2025 marked the second year since the implementation of our organisation's new working structures. Following the guidelines reflected in our **2024-2027 Strategic Plan**, EBU carries out its mission as the voice of blind and partially sighted people in Europe through a three-level hierarchy, consisting of **three permanent Committees, six Working Groups and five Forums**.

Apart from its commitments in geographical Europe, EBU also participates in campaigns and activities which have a broader scope, in particular as the **European Member of the World Blind Union**, a global organisation representing the interests of 253 million people with visual impairment in 190 member countries worldwide.

From an operational perspective, the EBU Central Office supports the Board and National Members as well as the organisation's working structures, in their work. It is also the main contact point for information to the general

public, media, members and partner organisations. Ever since it was established, the EBU Office has been located in central Paris.

Headed by the **Executive Director**, EBU's central office team was composed of eight other staff members. By the end of 2025, the permanent EBU staff members were:

Executive Director

**Lars Bosselmann**

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European Project Officer

**Andrea Bila** (replaced Amandine Guillemois in December 2024)

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Head of Advocacy and Campaigning

**Antoine Fobe**

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Finance Officer

**Charles Kusi-Mensah**

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Information Officer

**Gary May**

E-mail no longer operational due to retirement.

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Office Assistant (from September 2025 to December 2025)

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External Communication Officer

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# Merci Louis: the bicentenary of the braille code



The long journey towards inclusion is full of barriers which people with visual impairment are used to fight against. However, this mission has some room left to commemorate those milestones that have helped us make big steps closer to that objective.

**2025** marked the **bicentenary of the braille code**. A dot system invented by **Louis Braille in 1825**, it has evolved in a way that can be applied in many key areas of life for blind and partially sighted people. 200 years ago, it was very difficult to believe that such a tool created by **a young French boy from Coupvray** would become a key ally in our community's personal growth and independent living.

Of course, organisations of visually impaired people have played a key role in underlining the promotion of the teaching and use of braille. In an era where not all educational systems are accommodated to the needs of people with visual impairment, our claims must be kept alive so it can still be preserved and developed as a tool for a more inclusive society for all. In this sense, **EBU's braille Working Group** was actively committed in echoing those messages to civil society throughout the year.

Precisely, in cooperation with the **German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (DBSV)**, our braille Working Group launched its **"Braille 200" initiative**, aimed to encourage people across Europe and beyond to share braille-related posts to feed our [livingbraille.eu](https://livingbraille.eu) website. Strategically, we tried to upload a publication drafted in the context of this project daily. To echo this initiative, a focus [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#) were created, alongside an e-mail newsletter that reached 150 subscribers.

Thanks to the engagement and collaboration fostered within the braille community across Europe, new subscribers were attracted to the YouTube Channel, where **59 videos** were uploaded; the focus Facebook Page reached **159 followers**. Content-wise, the contributions to the “Braille 200” section in our livingbraille.eu forum covered a wide range of subjects: tactile images with braille, tactile artworks and the use of braille in music notation were some of the themes featured. Of course, personal reflections on the use of braille were also welcome as a key part of this initiative.

Out of the digital world, EBU’s braille Working Group also represented the organisation at the **International Tactile Reading and Graphics Conference 2025** that took place in Amsterdam between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June. As part of the event, members of the Working Group delivered several presentations, sharing their expertise in the analysis of braille reading fluency or approaches to learning braille in adulthood. Furthermore, they also gave attendants more insights about the “Braille 200” initiative and the findings of a braille display usage survey carried out by themselves.

Apart from the commitments of our braille Working Group, the EBU Office was also present in different events hosted in France on the commemoration of the bicentenary of the braille code. Through these activities, members of our staff also had the chance to participate in conferences featuring interesting sessions about the different applications of the code (for more information, see the “[Strengthening EBU’s visibility](#)” section of this report).

Overall, 2025 was full of activities which echoed the legacy of that French genius whose revolutionary invention helped us lead more autonomous and independent lives. 200 years since its invention, the promotion of the braille code is one of the greatest victories achieved by the blindness and partial sight movement.

In this sense, last year’s preparation of the joint Franco-German UNESCO nomination “Braille: Reading and Writing by Touch” for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity represents a good step forward for further recognition of braille as a key ally to build more inclusive societies.

**Merci Louis. We will make sure that your legacy lives on forever!**

EBU’s braille Working Group

# 1. Raising awareness, advocacy, and policy influencing



## A time to take stock of achievements and look at the future

The European Commission was in a way a victim of its success in the delivery of the **Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030**. It was now pushed by disability organisations to define an ambitious update (“**phase II**”) of the Strategy for the second half of the decade. This resulted in our participation in many related consultations, not to mention an unusual number of other consultations, many of which in the context of the review of EU legal acts.

In parallel, EBU did its own introspection with an external evaluation of its action halfway in its Strategic Plan. The mid-term review evaluation report recognises a “strong progress in visibility, engagement”, and the consolidation of “a growing role in EU-level debates”. The report also notes that “EBU’s advocacy footprint is expanding” and that “Member participation is at its highest in recent years”, including in advocacy.



## Employment

2025 was largely dedicated to continued work on the “**disability benefits trap**” issue, i.e., the situation whereby, in many countries, taking on paid work causes loss of benefits, to the detriment of inclusion through work and compensation for the additional costs of living for visually impaired people. It took most of the year to draft a background note for the **European Semester process: “Loss of disability benefits due to entering paid work: spotting the disability benefits trap in EU countries”**, a deliverable of ours under CERV25 funding. The European Semester is a framework for the coordination of economic, budgetary, employment and social policies within the European Union.

While working on the note, we continued to call for attention to the benefits trap on all occasions. This included the **European Centre of Expertise's Civil Society Seminar 2025** on the priorities for the European Semester, the **Consultation Strategic Dialogue** meeting on review of the **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan**, and the **EU Disability Platform and its Employment Subgroup**.

We were invited by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs to speak at the **"Zero Project" Conference** on the use of ICT in the provision of **reasonable accommodation at work**, to give the perspective of visually impaired people. We were represented on that occasion by our Board Member and Employment and Training Working Group Member, **Anja Uršič (Slovenia)**. Another Board Member, **Jakob Rosin (Estonia)**, also Member of our Accessibility and Digitalisation Working Groups, spoke at the **Digital Europe Workshop 2025** to react on their study – carried out on behalf of AccessibleEU – on how companies across the EU approach accessibility and what support is needed to strengthen accessibility practices across sectors and Member States.

**Other employment-related issues** addressed in our advocacy throughout the year include workability assessment – about which we pushed for a European Disability Card-inspired solution to ensure at least transitional recognition for workers with a disability exercising their freedom of movement in Europe –, the impact of AI, the transition from education to employment, and the lack of disability employment data disaggregated by type of disability.

## Inclusive design

As always, promoting accessibility in all areas of life was a core aspect of our work, including through participation in AccessibleEU events in relation to the implementation of the **European Accessibility Act (EAA)**. We successfully lobbied the UN CRPD Committee for its recommendations to the EU to mention the gaps of the EAA, namely as regards household appliances. In a public statement, we called on businesses to get their act together to comply with the new rules and call on governments to go beyond minimalist implementation of the EAA, to cover for instance household appliances.

We sketched out the elements of an awareness-raising campaign on the accessibility of **household appliances**, focusing on the detrimental effect on independent living at home of the increasingly widespread use of touchpad-operated appliances, and had initial lobbying contacts about it at the European Commission and at the European Parliament. A large part of the **annual meeting of our Advocacy Committee** in Vilnius was dedicated to this campaign, the level of participation our member organisations to which still largely remains to be seen.

Together with the **European Banking Federation**, the **European Disability Forum (EDF)** and the **AGE Platform**, we co-organised an AccessibleEU European-level conference on **banking services** – an opportunity to communicate on our recent recommendations for accessible **payment terminals**. And we continued to engage in meetings with representatives of the industry, such as Ingenico and Worldline.

Among the various EU public consultations we participated in related to accessibility, the following were particularly important to us: on the evaluation of the **Audiovisual Media Services Directive** (for which we push for a strengthening of the provision on accessibility); on the **Strategic vision for Sport in Europe** (where we fed the recent analysis of our new Sport taskforce on accessibility of leisure sport); on the **Consumer Agenda 2025-2030 and action plan on consumers in the Single Market** (to stress accessibility of products and services and the gaps of the EAA, as regards household appliances and labelling of food products in particular); and on a reform of **European standardisation** (to denounce the under-representation of non-business interests in the setting up of accessibility standards, building on our experience of the Accessibility to Lifts standard).

We continued to voice on every occasion the concern that the **Marrakesh Treaty** is not undermined by the EAA, which only provides for e-books, leaving out many other accessibility solutions for the print-disabled; and that the **EU Directive implementing the Treaty** needs to be revised to drop the possibility for Member States to provide for compensation to rights holders.

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## Mobility

Besides participating in some relevant consultations (e.g., on designing safe road infrastructure or on accessible Airbus cabins), our work in this area focused on two main issues:

- Monitoring developments, including at UN level, concerning **AVAS (Acoustic Vehicle Alert System)** for silent cars, against the background of pressure from the car industry to deregulate or loosen up legal requirements.
- Following up on the adoption of the Directive establishing a **European Disability Card and a European Parking Card for persons with disabilities**, to advise the European Commission on the security and other features of the physical and digital versions of these cards.

## Participation in public life

Contrary to what we had expected, there was no follow-up in 2025 at the EU Council on the European Parliament's own-initiative legislative resolution for a **reform of the EU Electoral law**. However, we did regularly press for such reaction, namely in **the context of our cocktail event at the European Parliament** and surrounding communication, in the **EU Disability Platform plenary**, in the **EDPD25 conference**, and in any occasion in which we used our [Statement on European Elections 2024](#) (in which the accessibility of European Elections appears as one of our 10 key issues for the current legislature).

A positive outcome, however, is that the **UN CRPD recommendations** after their review of the EU, as called by us through consultations, include: “Provide reasonable accommodations and accessible voting methods and information for blind and other disabled persons in European elections.”

We participated in three **consultations beyond the EU**, for which we used the same position as expressed in the European Parliament’s own-initiative legislative resolution:

- by the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Democracy, respectively on the draft parameters for the implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for democracy, and on AI and democratic processes;
- by the UN OHCHR, on equal participation of persons with disabilities in political life, to inform the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

## Horizontal

### CRPD review of the EU

In the last phase of the **CRPD review of the EU**, after final concertation among disability organisations around the European Disability Forum and the International Disability Alliance, we participated in a last meeting with the CRPD taskforce, in which we delivered a statement on our recommendations. Eventually, the outcome of the review was very positive for us: the Concluding Observations address very well all our issues, as indicated [in the press release we published](#). These recommendations, in turn, form the basis for lobbying the Commission and the European Parliament for phase II of the Disability Strategy.

### Continued Disability Strategy

As indicated above, 2025 was largely about defining the next stage of the Strategy, and feeding into the Commission’s analysis and policy, mostly through participation in consultations and building on our Statement

on European Elections 2024. Pressed, like all disability organisations to narrow down the number of our stated priorities, we focused on the following: revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive’s article on accessibility; review of the Marrakesh Treaty Directive to drop the possibility of compensation for right holders; gap in the European Accessibility Act as regards household appliances; recognition of disability status in mobility within the EU, beyond travelling; accessible European elections; and the “disability benefits trap”.

## Data on disability

We continued to call, on every relevant occasion, for the **disaggregation of data by type of disability**, starting with the area of employment and eventually in all areas of life.

## Main achievements

In its concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of the European Union, the **UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** points at areas of concern that well reflect our messages, including on – but not limited to – the Marrakesh Treaty Directive, the European Accessibility Act, and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (see our [press release](#)). This has strengthened our demands for the halfway update of the **EU Disability Rights Strategy**.

The European Commission, after announcing its intention to withdraw the **proposed Equal Treatment Directive**, eventually decided to keep it alive. The pressure from **civil society organisations and the UN CRPD recommendations** probably played a big role in this outcome.

In its evaluation of the **EU Marrakesh Treaty Directive**, the European Commission did not consider it necessary to drop the possibility of national compensation schemes for rights holders. However, importantly, it observes that the directive has no negative impact on the commercial availability of works in accessible format and is not undermined by the EAA, and that it is necessary to ensure a stable and sufficient level of funding for the authorised entities, namely in cases where compensation schemes are in place (see our [statement](#)).

## Some indicators

Our **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning** framework engages us to collect data on determined indicators. You can find some noteworthy elements below:

### Meetings and events

Our networking **cocktail event at the European Parliament** in Brussels gathered **34 participants**, just under half of which MEPs from a variety of political groups and countries, including, as **host of the event**, the **Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee**. This provided a good opportunity to voice the EBU key issues for the new legislature. Some EBU Members had bilateral meetings with (other) MEPs before or after the cocktail. One such meeting led to an MEP offering to submit a written question on accessibility of household appliances, which in turn led to an enlightening written reply from the Commission, a milestone for our future campaign.

We actively attended the following events: **three Disability Platform plenaries and one Disability Platform ad hoc consultation meeting** on the top priorities of civil society organisations for the continued Disability Rights Strategy; one meeting of the **Disability Platform's Employment Subgroup**; two **EU Presidency disability conferences** (Poland and Denmark); six **Strategic Dialogue meetings**; the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 Conference** (with a delegation of three persons, including a representative from our Lithuanian Member) and the attached **Access City Award event**.

We also participated in **three AccessibleEU** European-level events, respectively on tourism, banking services (organised by us jointly with the European Banking Federation, EDF and AGE Platform), and on the entry into effect of the European Accessibility Act – with various EBU experts actively participating.

Besides, the European Blind Union also attended many other events organised by other CSOs, the European Parliament (including the Disability Intergroup), and the EESC.

## Position papers and press releases

We published three position papers: a [Statement](#) - ‘Wake up call for the European Accessibility Act to become a reality for consumers with a visual impairment’; a [response](#) to the Commission’s call for evidence: “A strategic vision for sport in Europe: reinforcing the European Sport Model”; and a [response](#) to the Commission’s call for evidence for evaluation and impact assessment of the Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS) Directive.

And three press releases, respectively, about the EBU [cocktail event at the European Parliament](#) and our expressed main concerns for the new legislature; about [the UN CRPD’s review of EU’s compliance on disability rights](#); and about our [meeting with the Equality Commissioner](#) and our asks for an ambitious update of European Disability Strategy.



## Consultations

We responded to ten EU public consultations, respectively, on road safety, the EU long-term budget, the AI Strategy, European statistics, the Consumer Agenda 2025-2030 and action plan on consumers in the Single Market, the Civil Society Strategy, the revision of the EU Standardisation Regulation, the Anti-Poverty Strategy, the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, and the Strategic vision for Sport in Europe.

We participated in two targeted consultations, respectively on harmonised waste sorting labels and on the features of physical versions of the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities.

We had four bilateral consultation meetings with the European Commission: with DG CNECT on accessibility codes of conduct in DSA; with DG IND about accessible energy efficiency labels; with DG EMPL to provide volunteers for a Europass accessibility testing exercise; and with the EDPD 2025 organisers to remedy accessibility defaults of interaction consoles.

We also provided input for some EDF responses (accessibility of rail transport, work programme of the EU Disability Platform, review of the AVMS Directive...).

## Alliance building and liaison with other civil society actors

Throughout the year, we were in close liaison with the European Disability Forum (EDF) and other of its members about a variety of issues, including: the UN CRPD review of the EU; the next EU long-term budget (MFF); the response to DG CNECT about the Digital Services Act-related code of conduct; and the review of the EU Standardisation Regulation. EDF was very active with us, at our cocktail event at the European Parliament, to criticise the Commission's announced intention to withdraw the Equal Treatment Directive proposal.

As said before, we co-organised a European-level AccessibleEU event on the accessibility of banking services, in collaboration with the European Banking Federation, EDF and the AGE Platform.

We signed a European Association of Service Providers (EASPD)-led joint statement on ESF+ in the next MFF and a joint letter to the European Council. We also signed a joint open letter by the European Emergency Number Association (EENA) on the accessibility of emergency numbers, and we asked our members in the EU to be vocal about it at national level; and a joint letter together with ONCE, EDF, and EASPD about accessible labelling. And we sent a letter of support to EDF for their youth-related project.

We contributed input or comments to EDF documents, including their draft Toolkit for national implementation of the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities, their position paper on assistance dogs in air travel, and survey about the practical experience of persons with disabilities with the EU Rail Traveller Rights Regulation.

# 2. Empowering blind and partially sighted persons enabling full participation in all aspects of life





## Building capacity for Low Vision professionals

The **Low Vision Forum** successfully launched and disseminated the [EBU Facilitator's Toolkit for Raising Awareness about Visual Impairment](#) through European-level webinars and national and international presentations.

The **Toolkit** was established as **a practical and experiential resource for awareness-raising and inclusive practice**, providing a sustainable foundation for continued capacity-building among professionals and organisations.

Furthermore, the beforementioned Forum hosted several online meetings to continue with the work done by the previous working structures in that domain.

## Protecting our rights in the digital era

In the field of digital accessibility, EBU delivered **European-level training to empower blind and partially sighted users** to identify accessibility barriers and provide constructive feedback on websites and mobile applications, while strengthening awareness of rights under EU digital accessibility legislation and international anti-discrimination frameworks. This directly supported equal participation in digital environments and contributed to the practical implementation of EU accessibility obligations.



## Supporting personal growth amongst younger generations

The European Blind Union contributed to youth empowerment and skills development by supporting the organisation of the **ICC Camp**, an annual international training event for blind and partially sighted young people aged 16–21.

The **2025 edition**, held at the University of Aveiro (Portugal), combined **peer exchange with training in information technology, communication, and independent living**. EBU provided coordination support and facilitated accessibility through financial support for five participants, thereby enabling broader and more inclusive participation from across Europe.

During the camp, EBU further promoted engagement and knowledge-sharing through the delivery of two dedicated workshops. The first, led by EBU Board Member **Anja Uršič**, introduced **our mission and governance** while encouraging youth involvement in advocacy and organisational life. The second workshop, delivered by **Faruk Demir**, focused on the **opportunities and challenges of studying abroad** as a blind or partially sighted student.

## Taking care of elder people

A December 2025 survey by the **EBU Older Persons Forum**, drawing responses from nine European countries, highlights both the **persistent challenges and emerging good practices** affecting blind and partially sighted older people. Key issues include widespread isolation and loneliness, transport and mobility barriers, gaps in rehabilitation and mental health services, inconsistent housing support, and a significant digital divide that cuts many older persons off from essential services.

On the positive side, **peer support groups, inclusive cultural events, awareness campaigns and innovative outreach** projects show that meaningful participation is achievable when accessibility is prioritised. The survey concludes with calls for better funding for assistive technologies, expanded community programmes, and stronger rehabilitation services, serving as a foundation for future advocacy and awareness-raising across EBU's 40 member countries.

## The essentials behind good Audio Description

EBU strengthened capacity for **accessible audiovisual production by organising a three-part webinar series on the basics of Audio Description** for short videos, led by a dedicated taskforce. This initiative supported participants in developing practical skills to create inclusive content and promoted the integration of accessibility considerations from the early stages of video production.

## Underlining inclusion in accessing the labour market

The European Blind Union advanced its work on inclusive employment by producing an “**In-Work Support**” brochure (available in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#)) and an **awareness-raising video promoting the employment of blind and partially sighted people**

These outputs challenged persistent misconceptions, promoted reasonable accommodation, and highlighted the added value of inclusive workplaces, as well as the expertise brought by workers with visual impairment.

## Women leadership and Gender Equality

Our organisation advanced its work on gender equality by developing an **awareness-raising video** highlighting the experiences and representation of blind and partially sighted women.

The initiative combined personal **testimonials and data** to address barriers related to **employment and work-life balance**, while encouraging women to act as agents of change and calling for **stronger policy action on inclusion**.

Produced in four languages ([English](#), [French](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#)) to maximise reach and accessibility, the video strengthens **visibility of gender-specific challenges and supports more inclusive policymaking** and practice across Europe.

Logistically, EBU’s Women and Gender Issues Forum carried out thematic “**Tea Talks**” as discussion-based sessions. Those were conceived to **identify key priorities**, such as violences against women with disabilities, reproductive health and maternal care and women’s leadership in EBU’s organisations.

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# 3. Strengthening the capacity of organisations of blind and partially sighted people across Europe



## Operational Structures

Following its **12th General Assembly**, EBU restructured its operations to support its **2024–2027 Strategic Plan**. The new framework is built around three core elements: **Committees, Working Groups, and Forums**, all overseen by the General Assembly and EBU Board.

**Three permanent Committees** cover **Advocacy, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Leadership Exchange**, each reporting directly to the Board. **Six Member-led Working Groups** tackle thematic priorities such as **Accessibility, Braille, Communication, Digitalisation, Mobility and Training**, with the flexibility to spin up temporary taskforces when needed. **Five Forums** covering **Low Vision, Member Exchange, Older Persons, Women and Gender Issues and Youth** ensure a broad range of perspectives are heard. The whole system runs primarily through e-discussion lists to keep communication flowing, while EBU also looks to deepen alliances with external organisations to extend its impact.

In 2025, particularly after a string of meetings, visits and webinars with members, the **subscriptions to the e-discussion lists** were updated to match the organisations ongoing shifts and rose to **630 email addresses** successfully registered, ensuring robust and widespread participation within the EBU's new empowering operational framework.

**Antoine Fobe, Head of Advocacy and Campaigning**, leveraged the e-discussion lists as a segmented **mobilisation tool**, targeting specific Committees, Working Groups and Forums with tailored policy requests aligned to EU consultations, standardisation processes and advocacy opportunities. This allowed **rapid, issue-specific engagement across Member States**, generating differentiated responses depending on topic relevance, capacity, and national positioning. Across all requests listed, responses were recorded from 25 EBU Member Organisations.

In addition, our **Communication and Project Officers** routinely use the same lists for **calls for participation in surveys, studies and consultations**, while the **Board, Director, and Membership Officer** rely on them for **organising events and structured member engagement processes**, including consultation exercises with external partners such as questionnaires and requests from organisations like the World Blind Union.

## 2025 report from the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

The **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC)** was formally established **at the end of 2024** and began its **operational work in 2025**. This new structure held its inaugural meeting on **16 December 2024**, marking the start of a formation phase focused on defining its mandate, priorities, and working methods.

The primary objective of this Committee is **to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion principles** across the EBU governance, policies, forums, and activities. In 2025, the DEIC focused on **building foundations, modernising key policy frameworks, and activating participatory structures** rather than delivering finalised regulatory outcomes.

During 2025, it operated with a **small membership**, consisting of Board Members and representatives of EBU Member Organisations. Initial members included representatives from Ireland, Estonia, Slovenia, and later more people of Members from Italy, Iceland and Norway joined it.

Given its early stage of development, the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Committee **does not yet have a steering group**. In line with EBU's Constitution, it acknowledged the need to appoint a Vice Chair; however, this decision was postponed until the later part of the year once the Committee' structure and workload were clearer.

Objective-wise, the DEIC deliberately prioritised **flexibility and openness**, recognising that Additional Members—particularly **forum coordinators**—are expected to join as the forums become more active.

Logistically, the Committee operated primarily through **e-mail-based coordination, several online meetings** (including meetings in January, March, and November) and **strategic alignment discussions with the Board and EBU Office**.

From a strategic point of view, it was agreed that the DEIC would aim for a **one face-to-face meeting per year**, ideally merged with a **Board or Advisory Committee (AC)** meeting to optimise resources. At the same time, it also recognised the need for additional online meetings to support policy development and forum activation.

A central priority throughout 2025 was the **development of a comprehensive EBU Code of Conduct**, responding to the Board's expectations and operational needs identified by the EBU Office.

During the year, it was agreed that the Code of Conduct should be **proactive and values-based**, setting clear behavioural expectations. When it comes to its scope, there was consensus that it should apply initially to the EBU Office, Board Members, National Members and Volunteers. From an internal point of view, the DEIC also concluded that this Code should complement, but remain distinct from, the Anti-Harassment Policy.

Parallel to that, the Committee also recognised the absence of **clear role descriptions, complaint mechanisms, and response protocols** within EBU structures (gaps that became a guiding objective for the draft of the Code of Conduct).

**By the end of 2025, a first working draft** of the Code of Conduct had been prepared. As part of the next steps in this domain, the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Committee agreed to present **a more detailed draft to the Board in 2026**, together with recommendations for implementation, training measures and communication (including dissemination via EBU's newsletters).

In the meantime, the DEIC also revised our organisation's **Anti-Harassment Policy** but decided not to take any action at this point since it is a legally grounded, reactive document aligned with applicable French national legislation. At the same time the Committee considered that perhaps it would benefit from updates to reflect organisational learning and alignment with the future Code of Conduct.

## Solidarity Fund and Capacity Building

The **Terms of Reference for the EBU Solidarity Fund** were revised to systematise a dedicated portion of Membership fees flowing into it. Group 4 countries (those with the lowest resources) were then encouraged to submit project and activity proposals for funding consideration, with Project Officer Andrea Bila on hand to help applicants refine their submissions where needed.

# 4. Strengthening EBU as an umbrella of organisations of blind and partially sighted people to improve impact and sustainability



## Members' visits and international exchanges

### Discovering RNIB's (UK) new headquarters



On 22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, EBU Executive Director, Lars Bosselmann, and Membership Officer, Valérie Bertrand-Vivancos, visited RNIB's new London headquarters for a two-day knowledge exchange with key staff.

The first day focused on refining the 2025 EBU Members Survey and discussions with RNIB's Head of Policy on advocacy priorities including accessible transport, employment, digital inclusion, and healthcare accessibility.

The second day featured a presentation by the EBU delegation on its history and activities, encouraging deeper RNIB engagement in European initiatives, alongside contributions from regional staff representing campaigns across England and Wales.

The visit also included a tour of RNIB's newly adapted headquarters, recognised as a model of inclusive design accommodating a wide range of disabilities.

Overall, the exchange strengthened ties between the two organisations and identified key areas for future cooperation in advancing the rights of blind and partially sighted people across Europe.

## A visit from our Norwegian Member and a keynote by French CRPD specialist

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the **European Blind Union (EBU) Office in Paris hosted a delegation from the Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP)** as part of their project “Think Globally, Act Locally,” which aims to promote the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at the municipal level across Norway.

The programme, held from 10:00 to 16:00, included a presentation by academic and CRPD expert Bachir Kerroumi on France’s implementation of the Convention, as well as an overview of NABP’s grassroots initiative to establish CRPD contact persons in 32 Norwegian municipalities. **EBU’s Executive Director, Lars Bosselmann**, introduced the organisation’s history and mission, while our **Head of Advocacy and Campaigning, Antoine Fobe**, outlined EBU’s strategic work at the EU level and its relevance to Norway through the European Economic Area.

The visit provided the Norwegian delegation with valuable insights into how international frameworks translate into national and local action. Both organisations reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing disability rights and expressed openness to continued collaboration bridging policy, advocacy, and grassroots practice.

## WBU’s General Assembly: meeting our colleagues worldwide

The **World Blind Union (WBU) General Assembly** took place in **São Paulo, Brazil, in early September 2025**, alongside the **World Blindness Summit**.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September, EBU Members convened to discuss key matters including EBU’s mid-term strategy review, the Accessible Household Appliances campaign, and a significant initiative to have Braille recognised as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage (with Spain, Italy, Finland, France and Germany already working towards national recognition).

At the same time, **Ana Peláez, Secretary General of the European Disability Forum**, delivered a notable update on violence against women with disabilities, urging the EBU community to report human rights violations to multiple UN bodies beyond the CRPD Committee.

While the Summit offered valuable networking and an appreciated tech fair, the governance side of the Assembly was widely criticised for poor organisation, accessibility failures, and lack of procedural rigour. Following the Assembly, a **new WBU leadership team was elected for the 2025–2029 term**, headed by **President Santosh Kumar Rungta** of India.

### Meeting the new faces of our French National Member

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025, a small EBU Delegation went to pay a visit to French member **CFPSAA (now CFHV)** to meet its new **Coordinator, Sarah Kefi**, and **Employee in charge of Advocacy, Nathan Pasco**. Another active team member, **Pierre Marragou**, was also present via a video call.

Both organisations talked about their current priorities, operational structures and means of strengthening their collaboration. The meeting was very fruitful overall, helped by the fact that this new team is happy to speak English and is keen to take part in international actions.

### A Czech-French exchange in EBU's Office

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, a delegation of 18 representatives from **Czech Blind United (SONS)** visited Paris for an exchange with **French counterpart CFPSAA (now CFHV) and the European Blind Union (EBU)**.

The meeting covered key topics including accessibility in built environments and digital domains, employment challenges, public transport solutions, and accessible media.

Both countries shared their approaches (notably France's smartphone-based tools in contrast to the Czech Republic's multi-button remote systems) while acknowledging common struggles with outdated legal frameworks and low employment rates among visually impaired people during the morning session.

The afternoon included a visit to the EBU Office, where staff discussed European-level advocacy and member engagement. All parties expressed

a commitment to ongoing collaboration around digital accessibility, employment integration, and technological innovation to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people across Europe.

## Meet the EBU Members Webinars

On **11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, representatives from the **Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union (UNSS)** presented an overview of their organisation, which has been supporting visually impaired people in Slovakia for 35 years.

With approximately 3,000 members, 8 regional centres and 47 local organisations, UNSS offers a wide range of services including social counselling, rehabilitation, advocacy, and community engagement through an integrated dual structure combining social services and membership activities.

The organisation highlighted several successful initiatives such as White Pencil Day, a White Cane Day road safety campaign, vision screening in kindergartens, and youth leadership projects connecting sighted and visually impaired young people.

Key challenges include better understanding member needs, advancing digital accessibility, and developing partnerships with companies and local authorities. UNSS also makes available EDI and youth leadership toolkits in English, reflecting their commitment to broader knowledge sharing across the sector.

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## Annual Leadership Exchange Committee meeting



The European Blind Union's **Leadership Exchange Committee held its annual meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia (27<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> September 2025)**, bringing together CEOs and executive leaders from 15 Member Countries.

The two days of working sessions covered several key themes. On the Membership side, there was a push to broaden engagement beyond single contact points, with proposals for webinars, resource-sharing forums, and dedicating at least one hour per week of staff time to EBU matters. Language barriers and limited capacity were flagged as persistent obstacles, with AI translation tools suggested as a partial remedy.

A significant strategic development discussed was the plan to open a permanent branch office in Brussels to strengthen EBU's EU advocacy presence. This hinged on a funding decision expected in November 2025, with recruitment potentially beginning in early 2026.

On funding, presentations from EDF and Spanish representatives highlighted both opportunities (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, CERV) and threats, notably the end of the EU recovery fund in 2026 and shifting EU priorities towards defence and competitiveness at the expense of social and disability funding.

Members were urged to diversify income and reuse unsuccessful grant applications.

Other notable discussions included the drafting of a Code of Conduct for EBU, a mid-term review of the 2024–2027 Strategic Plan being conducted by an external consultancy, and a presentation of the UK’s “New Horizons”, the successful leadership programme for blind and partially sighted leaders which could be adapted across Member Organisations.

The meeting closed with Croatia proposed as host for the 2026 gathering, timed to coincide with its 80th anniversary in June.

## EBU Members survey and statistical analysis

The **2025 EBU Members Survey**, drawing on responses from 22 Member Organisations across Europe, **offers a broad snapshot of the sector’s landscape, challenges, and priorities.**

Organisations are predominantly **disability-focused, operating as OPDs with overlapping advocacy, service, and membership functions**, and rely largely on national government funding supplemented by diverse income streams (though financial sustainability remains a central concern, with over a quarter anticipating deterioration in their financial outlook).

Most maintain strategic plans centred on advocacy, accessibility, and education, yet face a clear East-West resource divide. Participation in EBU structures is active, particularly in the **Advocacy Committee** and key **Working Groups**, but barriers such as limited finances, time, and language constraints hold back fuller engagement. Communication is predominantly digital, with Facebook and YouTube leading, while data collection on visually impaired populations remains inconsistent across countries due to differing national definitions.

Overall, respondents expressed strong appreciation for **EBU’s role in fostering cooperation and rights advocacy**, while calling for more multilingual resources, greater financial support for participation, and clearer communication (signalling a membership committed to collective action but in need of better-resourced, more inclusive structures to fully deliver on it).

The outcome of the survey was subsequently presented and discussed with Members, first at a webinar hosted by EBU's President and then during the annual **Leadership Exchange Committee meeting**.

A statistical analysis was subsequently produced by the expert team at RNIB (the EBU's UK Member Organisation), underscoring the need for standardised data collection on visual impairment across countries and organisations.

## Starting preparations for EBU's GA in 2027

The groundwork for the **2027 EBU General Assembly got underway in 2025**, with a call for host applications issued and a dedicated toolbox of guidelines and templates developed to support the process. EBU also engaged with WBU to draw on their own GA manual and documentation.

When the Swiss Member Organisation signalled its intention to put forward a candidacy, a series of bilateral meetings took place with the EBU Executive Director and Membership Officer to work through the practicalities of the budget and organisation. After several meetings, the EBU Board decided to hold its 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2027 in Zurich.

## Actively Strengthening Membership engagement

Several initiatives were undertaken to **re-engage less active or absent Member Organisations**.

Notably, the former **Maltese Member** reached out to rejoin EBU after a prolonged absence and was supported through the process of submitting a **renewed candidacy to the Board**.

Less active members were also approached with a proposal for EBU delegations (drawn from the Office and/or Board) to visit their countries over the coming years, with the aim of building closer relationships and strengthening cooperation.

These visits will be planned thoughtfully, timed where possible to coincide with significant national events and tailored to each organisation's specific context and needs.

## Strengthening the visibility of EBU

As done in recent years, the European Blind Union disseminated its position papers, press releases and other materials through its **website** and **Social Media** channels.

On one hand, [EBU's webpage](#) serves as the main anchor of our current communication' strategy. The information in it is constantly being updated and classified in several sections according to thematic areas of action. Overall, our website attracted an average of **8,500 visitors per month**. However, bearing in mind the drafting of EBU's new communication' strategy for the 2026-2028 period, it will be restructured and updated following good accessibility and dissemination practices.

At the same time, and as part of our commitment to echo the activities that our members carry out in their organisations, we produced a monthly **Members' Newsletter**, where we also provided the latest news around our organisation. Our **Head of Advocacy and Campaigning, Antoine Fobe**, also helped in the production of the Members' Newsletter by featuring entries about our latest advocacy updates.

On the other hand, the European Blind Union relies on its **Social Media** platforms to amplify the information published on our website. By the end of 2025, EBU used [Facebook \(565 followers\)](#), [LinkedIn \(1,341 followers\)](#) and [X \(5,119 followers\)](#) as its main platforms in this domain. The stats included in brackets reflect the final number of followers on each platform by the end of last year; while Facebook and LinkedIn registered a followership growth of **23.1%** and **36.8% respectively**, our **audience on X continued to decrease**, showing the same tendency that was already detected in our [2024 Annual Report](#).

As already outlined by several organisations of people with disabilities, X has suffered a downgrade in its accessibility features during the last years. Even if third parties and external collaborators have suggested EBU to leave the platform, deleting our account on the application is a delicate move from a strategic point of view.

In this sense, we must bear in mind that it has our biggest group of Social Media followers and many of the stakeholders we usually liaise with are still active there. To help us find a solution to this scenario, our organisation will consult **its Communication Working Group** and **its Board** to study a slow transition to a platform with a similar interface, but more accessible for users with disabilities.

Even with the setbacks found on X, 2025 served as an excellent year for EBU to revitalise its [YouTube channel](#) (**122 followers by the end of 2025**). With some CERV25-funded deliverables requiring the use of real-life images, the European Blind Union purchased new audio-visual equipment. Beyond the projects expected to take place during last year, the EBU Office saw this as an opportunity to re-think the formats used to create content for our Social Media channels.

For instance, when drafting institutional messages, our new recording tools allowed us to produce videos with a higher quality than those produced in the past. That was the case of **our Executive Director's, Lars Bosselmann**, [statement on Human Rights Day](#) or **our Head of Advocacy and Campaigning, Antoine Fobe**, **main takeaways from the [European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025](#)**.

Coming back to our organisation's mission to strengthen its visibility, it must be noted that the beforementioned **Communication Working Group** became fully operational throughout 2025. A structure conceived as part of **EBU's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan**, it consists of people affiliated to several of our National Members who have expertise in the communication domain.

Among others, this body will play a key role in re-defining the European Blind Union's **communication strategy for the 2026-2028 period**. By the end of last year, participants of this Working Group had already shared their suggestions on the foundations of a solid communication plan.

Their proposals will be compiled as part of **a document which will be the cornerstone of EBU's communication strategy**.

At the same time, EBU continued to expand its outreach by constantly sharing information about its materials to the members of our institutional and journalistic database. Overall, the European Blind Union was mentioned **52 times in external outlets** and was requested **14 times for an interview on EU or disability-related topics**.

When announcing the launch of a press release, a position paper or another kind of deliverable, our organisation has relied on its contacts in organisations such as the [European Disability Forum \(EDF\)](#), the [World Blind Union \(WBU\)](#) or the [European Economic and Social Committee \(EESC\)](#).

In recent years, those institutions and others have allowed us to have access to forums such as **EDF's Communication List** or the **CRPD List** of the [International Disability Alliance](#). In 2025, our presence on those mailing lists has helped us in keeping our outreach at a European and Worldwide level.

For instance, EBU-related information was featured **18 times in EDF's Weekly Member's Newsletter** last year. Among others, we can underline EDF sharing our press releases about our [Cocktail event at the European Parliament in February](#), [the UN's review on the EU's compliance on Disability Rights](#) or [our meeting with Equality Commissioner Hadja Lahbib in June](#).

Whenever our organisation organised an online event, we also counted on their support to spread the word about our activities through this channel. This was the case for the [Presentation of our Facilitator's Toolkit](#) in June and the hosting of our [Digital Accessibility webinars](#) in November.

Having analysed the main channels through which EBU spread information about the organisation's activities, 2025 was a year full of opportunities content-wise. One of our highlights was **the production of a biographical documentary about our Executive Director, Lars Bosselmann, personal and professional background**. Back in late 2024, the EBU Office was contacted by **French filmmaker, Hélène Jousse**, who expressed her interest in pitching the portrait's proposal to France Télévisions, France's main public TV broadcaster.

Shooting of the different sequences took part mostly in February, displaying a wide variety of sets from the EBU Office to Lars' sporting sessions. Extra filming was required in March, since the Production Team wished to introduce the audience to Lars' commitment as a disability advocate in Europe through a meeting with MEP Katrin Langensiepen.

The recording logistics of the whole documentary were provided by French production company bleu Krystal Media (bKM). Through a convention signed with EBU, they engaged themselves to launch **a French and English version of the documentary**.

The **French version** was finalised in late April and launched on **France 5**, one of France Télévisions channels, on **May 5<sup>th</sup>**. The piece was later replayed on the same channel on **May 11<sup>th</sup>** and uploaded to [France TV's website](#). Before the documentary's release, bKM produced a trailer in French that was uploaded to [EBU's YouTube Channel](#). Our organisation used it to get the attention among French-speaking followers on our Social Media platforms and internal mailing lists.

Once the release of the French version took place, EBU liaised with bleu Krystal Media to finalise the production of the **English version**. Although slightly different from the former, most of the audio-visual sources used in the French version were re-used for the English one. Since translation of the original voiceover was required, the **EBU Office** offered its support in fulfilling that task. Our **Executive Director, Project Officer and Information Officer** were the people chosen to help bleu Krystal Media for that purpose.

Timewise, the English version of Lars' portrait documentary was finalised by **early September**. The European Blind Union proceeded to publish it on [its YouTube channel](#) and publicly disseminate it through its internal and external communication' channels. Among others, the **European Disability Forum** spread the word about its launch in one of their [Weekly Members' Newsletter](#).

In the meantime, and as done for many years, EBU continued to produce its **four annual episodes** of its podcast "**EBU in Action**", which served as a good channel to discuss the latest updates regarding the blindness and partial sight community across Europe.

Bearing in mind that one of the highlights of the year was our **cocktail event at the European Parliament**, the EBU Office produced a focus episode for the occasion, featuring an interview with **MEP Li Andersson**, who kindly sponsored our event.

The **bicentenary of the braille code** and the deadline to implement the **European Accessibility Act** were also two of our main subjects of our 2025 "EBU in Action" season. Additionally, we also covered the theme of **persons with disabilities in humanitarian responses**, which gave us the opportunity to learn more about this subject through the voices of testimonials like **Larysa Baida**, from the **National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine**, and **Talal Waheed**, from the **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**.

Upon finalisation, every episode was uploaded to [Apple Podcasts](#), [Podbean](#) and [Spotify](#). They were also included in [the focus section on our website](#), alongside a transcript. As done with other deliverables, our organisation used its Social Media channels, internal mailing lists and the contacts of our institutional and journalistic database to announce the release of each episode.

Regarding “EBU in Action” outreach, it’s worth noting that our Podbean account has allowed us to better understand our episodes’ performance. Overall, all the podcasts produced until the end of last year registered a combined number of **420 downloads in 2025, 342 of which were from the last five episodes.**

When analysing deeply the insights of each source where our podcast can be found, **Apple Podcasts** was the main source of downloads, with **175** people listening to our episodes from there, followed by **Podbean’s hosting site (56 downloads)** and **Google Chrome (43 downloads)**. **Spotify** was our fourth source of downloads, with **18** people listening to our segments from there.

As said previously, the **bicentenary of the braille code** was undoubtedly one of the most recurrent items content-wise throughout 2025. Our **Executive Director, Lars Bosselmann**, was requested for an interview on that subject by outlets such as [the UN Regional Information Centre for Western Europe](#) or [Vision Radio Australia](#). Austrian Public Broadcaster, **ORF Connect**, also took advantage of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the code’s invention to produce a short piece on **Lars’ commitments as a disability rights promoter and sportsperson in April.**

Apart from our Executive Director, our **braille Working Group** was also requested for contributions commemorating the 200 years of braille. Our umbrella organisation, **World Blind Union**, included an entry about their commitments in the promotion of the code’s use in their [March 2025 Newsletter](#).

Furthermore, thanks to our Spanish National Member, ONCE, they also got the opportunity to talk more in detail about their activities in the [“Para que veas” segment in Radio Nacional de Espana](#) (Spain’s main public radio station). At the same time, they also drafted a written contribution to the [European Economic and Social Committee’s September 2025 Newsletter](#).

On a brief note, the **EBU Office** also gave visibility to the bicentenary of the braille code's invention through its [YouTube channel's playlist "Video chronicles of inclusion"](#). Two of the three videos produced last year featured stories concerning the beforementioned subject.

On one hand, a small EBU delegation produced a [short video coverage on a commemorative event, that was organised in Louis Braille's hometown Coupvray](#) where many disability advocates and promoters gathered on a special day to learn more about the different uses of the code. On the other hand, our organisation was also invited to attend a series of roundtables on the same subject at the **French National Library on 15<sup>th</sup> November**. We produced a [short documentary on the event too, featuring the different activities that were carried out during the day](#).

One of the other main topics that was highly important in the EU Agenda was the deadline to implement the **European Accessibility Act (EAA)**. In one of [its 2025 press releases](#), EBU echoed the **United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** regrets on the limited scope of the act, leaving products such as household appliances out of it.

Media-wise, **Spanish News Agency Servimedia** [echoed our press release on their website](#), which was later on shared by other Spanish Media, such as [La Vanguardia](#) or [Prensa Social](#). Our organisation's **Head of Advocacy and Campaigning, Antoine Fobe**, was approached by **BBC Radio 4 show "In Touch"**, since they were interested to learn more about the [impact of this development on UK citizens with visual impairment](#). Antoine was also contacted by **Euractiv** journalist **Emma Pirnay**, who interviewed him as part of the drafting of [an article about the products and services which were expected to be accessible after 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025](#).

Putting our media contributions aside, the **EBU Office** also strengthened the visibility of the organisation through the launch of its [#a11y Techies series](#) on our YouTube channel. This initiative consists of interviews to professionals **working to develop innovative solutions for blind and partially sighted people**. Our organisation launched the series **by mid-2025**, establishing a frequency period of one month and a half between interviews to smoothen planning and production. By the end of the year, we had published four interviews covering the following subjects:

1. On the first episode, EBU had the chance to talk to **Johannes Střelka-Petz** about the [Metabrilie keyboard](#), a device that he had been developing from the idea of creating a remote control for smartphones as a replacement for touchscreens.
2. Afterwards, for the [second interview](#), we spoke to **Jukka-Pekka Piimies**, Digital Accessibility Officer at the European Parliament's Interpretation and Conference Service, **who reflected on how technology can be conceived in a way so blind and partially sighted people's rights can be guaranteed**. Strategically, EBU launched this episode on **International Democracy Day** to help us increase the production's outreach.
3. Next on the list of themes to cover was **braille displays**, a topic which gained some notoriety in a year marked by the bicentenary of the braille code. For this episode, [EBU interviewed María García Garmendia](#), a lawyer and translator from Spain who counts with expertise about the different models of those devices in the market.
4. Finally, our 2025 #a11y Techies series of episodes concluded with an insightful interview to **Mihajlo Kovačević, CEO of Anon, about the BLAIND project**. Through this initiative, Mihajlo told us more about how he's currently working to bring a solution to the traditional accessibility problems posed by information on paper to blind and partially sighted people.

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