



The voice of blind and partially sighted people in Europe

## **Glossary of terms and acronyms in common use by the European Blind Union.**

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### **Accessibility**

Refers to measures to ensure that all goods, services and the built environment can be used by all, irrespective of their special needs

### **Accessible formats**

Refers mainly to large print, braille and audio.

### **Activity**

Within EBU an [activity](#) is work carried with a specific goal within a designated area leading to a concrete result.

### **AFUB**

Acronym for the African Union of the Blind

### **Arne Husveg Award**

An award given every four years, half-way through a work period, to women and men having worked for EBU and having rendered outstanding service to the organisation. It is named after Arne Husveg, one of the founding fathers and the first President of EBU.

### **Assistive Devices**

Refers to the whole range of aids (technological, mechanical, and other) available to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people.

## **Associate Members**

Associate membership is available to individuals or organizations that don't meet the criteria of national membership, but who are interested in being part of EBU, [see article III of the EBU Constitution](#).

## **ASTF**

Acronym of the AFUB Solidarity Trust Fund. Co-managed by AFUB and EBU, it provides funding for small-scale, mainly income generating, projects in Africa.

## **Blind**

EBU adopts in principle the [definitions](#) used by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for blindness and partial sight.

## **Campaign / campaigning**

EBU carries out [ongoing campaigns](#) at EU level on key issues to our community to ensure that EU law takes into account as fully as possible our rights and demands for an inclusive society with equal opportunities for all. Campaigning is about influencing and achieving change and may involve a range of other activities, including:

- using the media (issuing press releases and engaging with journalists in order to get them to write about an issue)
- using social media
- involving beneficiaries
- undertaking research to support your campaign (and publishing results)
- writing and disseminating policy briefings and position papers
- responding to consultations

## **Children**

Within EBU, refers to blind and partially sighted people below 18 years of age.

## **Clear Print Guidelines**

A [document](#) offering basic principles with good practice examples that you can easily apply in all your printed and electronic communication activities, for producing information that is also legible for persons with reduced vision.

## **Commission**

In the past EBU functioned by a system of working areas and nominated a Commission to oversee work in each area. These Commissions were abandoned at the EBU General Assembly in 2015 with a couple of notable exceptions. They have been replaced by networks to ease the exchange of information and expertise between EBU members.

## **Constitution**

The [EBU Constitution](#) is the governing instrument of EBU.

## **Constitution Committee**

Makes recommendations to the Board on amendments required to improve the constitution.

## **Deafblindness**

[Deafblindness](#) is a condition that combines in varying degrees both hearing and sight loss.

## **Deliverables**

Tangible or intangible result from an activity or project (reports, videos, training courses).

## **EBU**

Acronym of the European Blind Union

## **EBU Board (aka the board)**

The EBU is led by a board consisting of 5 officers (President, first and second vice presidents, treasurer and secretary general) and up to 8 ordinary members, see [article V of the EBU constitution](#)

## **EBU Focus**

A three-monthly thematic newsletter in English, French, German and Spanish, introduced in 2018

## **EBU Member's newsletter**

A monthly newsletter in English for EBU members and partners launched in 2018

### **EBU office (aka the office)**

The EBU Office is based in Paris, France. It supports the Board and the other working bodies, and is a central contact point for information to the EBU membership, partners, external parties and the general public.

### **EDBU**

Acronym of the European Deafblind Union.

### **EDF**

Acronym of the European Disability Forum

### **EGDF**

Acronym of European Guide Dog Federation.

### **Elderly**

There is a prevalence of sight-loss amongst an increasing population of elderly people in Europe. When speaking of elderly within EBU the term refers generally to blind and partially sighted people over 65 years of age.

### **European Accessibility Act (EAA)**

The [European Accessibility Act](#) aims to ensure all goods and services are accessible to persons with disabilities, and to improve the functioning of the internal market for accessible products and services by removing barriers created by divergent legislation.

### **FFC**

Acronym of the Finance and Fundraising Committee. It provides advice and makes recommendations to the Board on ways and means to secure sound finances for EBU

### **Flash News**

A brief news item sent by email to EBU members whenever necessary.

### **GAOC**

Acronym of the General Assembly Organising Committee. It monitors arrangements made by the host to make sure the assembly is successful.

## **General Assembly**

The General Assembly of Members is EBU's supreme governing body, and is held every four years, [see article IV of the EBU Constitution](#).

## **Honorary Life Members**

In addition to organizations, EBU honors individuals who made special contributions to the visually impaired community, see [article III of the EBU Constitution](#)

## **How to Sheet**

Internal EBU documents produced to assist members and collaborators with important technical topics.

## **IAPB**

Acronym of the International Agency For the Prevention of Blindness

## **IDA**

Acronym of the International Disability Alliance.

## **ICEVI**

Acronym of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

## **IGDF**

Acronym for the International Guide Dog Federation.

## **Lobbying**

Lobbying is a key part of political campaigning. The work carried out by EBU members, experts and consultants to ensure that the voice of blind and partially sighted people, and the position of EBU, is taken into account by decision makers. It is the term used when the 'targets' we want to influence are either legislators (e.g. MEPs or MPs), or officials from a government or institution (e.g. the European Commission)

## **Low Vision**

[Low vision and partially sighted](#) are used as equal indication of limited sight, to differentiate between this group of people and fully blind people.

## **Mainstreaming (disability)**

Making the concerns and experiences of persons with disabilities an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic, and societal spheres (Handicap International, 2009).

## **Marrakech Treaty**

Refers to the WIPO [Marrakesh Treaty](#) to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, which sets the legal frame for needed modifications in national copyright regimes and which enables authorized entities to share their accessible book collections across national borders with other entities and with blind, low vision and print disabled individuals.

## **Members**

EBU currently has [42 member countries](#), each represented by a national delegation.

## **Network**

Groups of experts from within EBU designated to contribute their expertise to EBU's work in specific areas and activities. These networks replaced the previous structure of Commissions and are designed to have a more flexible approach.

## **Nominations Committee**

Works to support and ease the election process at general assemblies. It is elected by the general assembly.

## **Organisations of and organisations for blind and partially sighted people**

"Organization of the blind and/or partially sighted" means a body representative of blind and/or partially sighted people having a substantial number of members and with a majority of its membership

consisting of blind and/or partially sighted persons, and having a governing body with a majority of blind and/or partially sighted persons elected by the membership at regular intervals.

"Organization for the blind and/or partially sighted" means a body established for providing goods, services and facilities for blind and/or partially sighted people whether or not some of its members or of its governing body are blind and/or partially sighted.

### **Partially Sighted (or partial sight)**

[Partially sighted and low vision](#) are used as equal indication of limited sight, to differentiate between this group of people and fully blind people.

### **Position Paper**

Official EBU responses to consultations, regulatory frameworks etc. often but not exclusively concerning the EU.

### **Press Releases**

Announcements of key events and milestones for EBU and its work

### **Project**

Within EBU a project is a large scale, carefully planned and structured topical collaboration aiming to achieve specific objectives with budgetary and time constraints.

### **REC**

Acronym of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union. REC co-funds projects and work programmes.

### **SDG**

Acronym of Sustainable Development Goal (United Nations). Disability is referenced [in various parts of the SDGs](#) and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements.

### **Silent Cars**

Refers to the EBU campaign to highlight and limit the dangers electric vehicle (EV) and electric-hybrid vehicles (EHV) present to blind and partially sighted people.

## **Solidarity Fund**

An EBU fund intended to provide a mechanism for organisations of blind and partially sighted people to seek support/relief if they experience financial difficulties in, among others, paying their membership fees, developing projects, organising or participating in meetings.

## **Sponsors**

A grant given to EBU by a private concern – manufacturer of an assistive device or a pharmaceutical company working on the prevention or treatment of an eye condition – in return for informing or raising awareness about a new product, treatment or process through EBU communication channels.

## **Strategic Plan**

The key objectives and priorities are articulated in the [EBU Strategic Plan](#) for the four year working period.

## **UEA**

Acronym corresponding to the French name of EBU, l'Union Européenne des Aveugles

## **UNCRPD (aka CRPD)**

Refers to the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities](#)

## **Universal Design**

[Universal Design](#) is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.

## **VISAL**

Acronym referring to [Visually Impaired Seniors Active Learning](#), a project led by EBU in 2013/14 and extended until 2017. 13 EBU members implemented it.

## **Vision2020**

A [global initiative](#) that aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

### **Vision for Inclusion award**

An award given every four years at EBU general assemblies to distinguish individuals, organisations or companies having made an outstanding contribution to the full inclusion of persons with a visual impairment in society.

### **Visually impaired**

The term 'visually impaired' is used to indicate blind plus partially sighted people together.

### **WBU**

Acronym of the World Blind Union

### **WHO**

Acronym of the World Health Organisation

### **Work period**

The four-year period between two general assemblies.

### **Work programme**

A Board structured document identifying activities for a given year and planning deliverables, timeframe, resources and impact. Every year, this work programme is submitted with small adjustments to the European Commission ([REC work programme](#)).

### **Youth**

Within EBU, refers to the group of young people ranging from 18 to 30 years of age.