

EURO-CIU

Association sans but lucratif

European Association of Cochlear Implant Users



eAccessibility by Voice: VOICE Regognition supporting people with hearing or other disabilities

JRC at Ispra/Italy 24 – 25 Nov. 2003

“The needs of users with hearing
disabilities”

Prof. Dr. Hendrik Fehr,

President of EURO-CIU a.s.b.l.

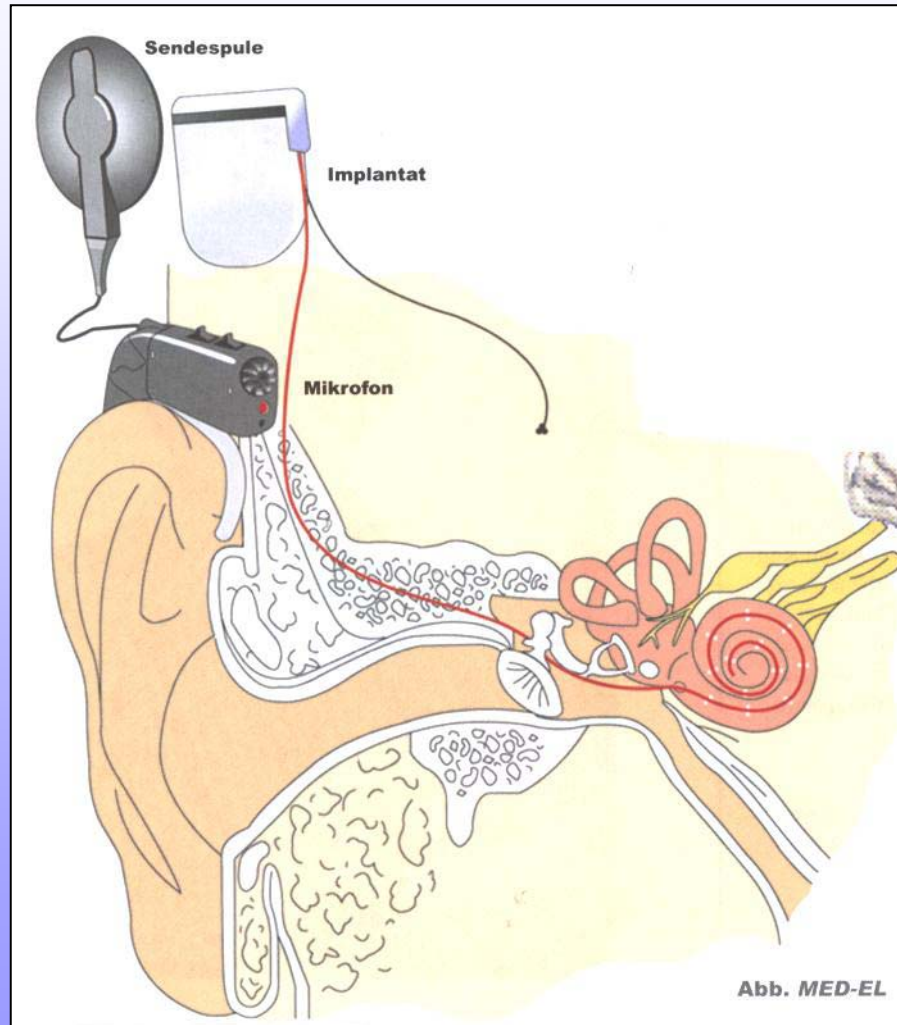
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Cochlear Implant CI



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4th Int. Symposium EURO-CIU

Presentation of the Voice project



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Purpose of EURO-CIU

- **Representing on European level interests of deaf/hearing impaired people using a Cochlear Implant (CI)**
- **Founded 1995 in Luxemburg;**
- **19 Countries represented with Members (A, B, CH, D, DK, E, F, GR, FIN. I, L, LV, NL, P, PL, S, T, UK,**
- **Member of Europ. Disability Forum EDF**

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Objectives and Tasks

- **Recognition of CI as part of health insurance's coverage**
- **CI related training for pedagogical experts**
- **Guarantee individual habilitation and rehabilitation for CI users**
- **Promotion of communication and info.systems adopted for CI users**
- **Stimulating research and development in medical and technical fields**
- **Public relations**

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Some events in the past

- **General annual assemblies always in another European Country (so far: L, D, CZ, A, F, UK, NL, E, D)**
- **4 International symposia (in Prague, Salzburg, Barcelona, Berlin)**
- **Active role in EDF and European conferences on disabled persons**
- **Supporting also general interests of deaf persons**
- **EURO-CIU demanding since many years **increase of subtitling in public TV channels****

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EURO-CIU:

- **Insisted at EDF to use **all** technical support for hearing impaired persons**
- **Got support from EDF in requesting more sub-titles for public broadcasting**
- **Requested at EDF that Commission should establish an inventory on research projects for disabled persons**

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- 4 deaf persons
- 4 parents of deaf children
- From 7 countries



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Supporting oral communication

- **Auditive (hearing aids incl. CI; inductive loops)**
- **Visual**
- * **speech oriented: lip reading (video); LPC/Cued speech**
palantype (VOICE)
- * * **Sign language**

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Why sub-titles?

- **Hearing impaired persons do not use and/or understand sign language**
- **Sign language interpreters difficulties to follow spoken word and/or to “translate” correctly**
- **Articulation of speakers not good enough or not visible enough for lip-readers**
- **Written text easier to follow for those who have reading comprehension capacity**
- **Auditive deficiencies for hearing impaired persons using hearing support device (and CI) can be overcome in offering the written word in parallel**

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Who needs sub-titles?

- **Deaf persons**
- **Hard of hearing persons**
- **Persons for whom speaker's language is not mother tongue**

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Application where?

- **In TV broadcasting where sub-titles cannot be prepared**
- **In teaching environment**
- **At service points to facilitate communication between hearing and hearing impaired persons (e.g. Railway, postal offices, other public services)**

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**Thank you very much for your
attention**

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