

Dear International Students,

Finally we have finished writing our report of the "International Deaf Student Meeting" in Vienna on the 29th of December of 2005. Some notes were taken on the situation in each country that participated on this meeting. We must tell you that we are not completely sure that everything is correct. If there are some faults, please, mail to info@voegs.at and give us in short sentences the correct informations. Then we will give the corrected report online on www.voegs.at. Thanks!

Best regards and see you,

The VOEGS - Team

Report of the "International Deaf Student Meeting" in Vienna, 2005/12/29

In 2005/12/29 in the afternoon 68 deaf students and sign users from 13 different countries (Holland, USA, Italy, Belgium, Slovenia, Sweden, France, Germany, Lithuania, Finland, Australia, South-Africa, China) met in the „polycollege Stoebergasse“ for a big "International Deaf Student Meeting" in Vienna, Austria. First the VOEGS-Team welcomed all participants and afterwards the students met to know each other. Then they were introduced to the history, targets, organisations, student meetings and statistical research of the VOEGS-team (see www.voegs.at). There was an exchange about a lot of topics, for example:

- Do the other countries have a deaf student association?
- What is the number of deaf students in each participating country?
- What are the wishes and plans of the deaf international students?
- Are there researches and literature about deaf students in the different countries?
- How much do the interpreters cost in the other countries and does the interpret organisation manage their engagement (centre of interpreters)?

The situation of the interpreters has also been discussed for a long while and VOEGS told something about the typical study problems in Austria (Examinations, Lectures, Professors, Sign Language Interpreters, budget, barriers). Some very different positions seem to be common for the students' conditions in the different countries. The students in Scandinavia and the USA have already much more success in studying than those in the other countries. Unfortunately, the group did not have enough time to exchange all the special details on this subject.

VOEGS is very glad that many international deaf students visited the International Deaf Student Meeting and the students have given a lot of important information about their situation. We all together are a strong group and can support each other to handle successfully at the university. We hope that all students will reach their targets and we look forward to see them at the next meeting.

The pictures of the meeting are online on the website of VOEGS (www.voegs.at, Archiv 2005). A film was shot and some parts of it will probably be shown on our website online in the next months.

Some notes concerning the different countries:

1. Do the other countries have a deaf student association?

Holland: There is no association of deaf students, but they have plans to connect a deaf student group with the Deaf Association of Holland.

There is a special interpreter education for different departments.

USA: There is no general association for deaf students, but each university has activities and exchanges.

Italy: There are plans to connect a deaf student group with the Deaf Association of Italy. Now there is no deaf association of students in Italy.

Belgium: There is the intention to have a deaf student association but no preparations have been made up to now.
Oral teaching is still dominating in education.

Slovenia: There is no deaf student association but the students wish to connect a deaf student group with the Deaf Association of Slovenia.

Sweden: There is a university (in Örebro) for deaf students and thus they are quite good represented.

France: In October 2005 a Deaf Students Association has been founded which is connected with the Deaf Association of France.
In Toulouse oral teaching is still dominating in education.

Germany: There are the associations "BHSA" and the "Ideas" (Hamburg). In Munich the students' club is closing.

Lithuania: There are no plans for founding a deaf student association.

Finland: There is in the middle of Finland a university where 40 students are studying Finnish sign language and deaf culture. These Students fight together and have support.
In the south of Finland the students must more fight for support.

Australia: There is no deaf student association. 1990: Australian deaf students got the permit to study at the university. In Sidney there are 4 – 6 students.

China: There is no deaf student association. But there are 3 – 4 universities where all Chinese Deafs study. Most of them go in for arts and deaf students are not allowed to study what they want.

Austria: There is VOEGS which is not connected with the Austrian Deaf Association.

2. How much do the interpreters cost in the other countries and does the interpret organisation manage their engagement?

Interpreter costs /number of interpreters / organisation

Holland: 1 hour: 50 €with commuting expenses / 50 / centre of interpreters

USA: 1 hour: 55 – 70 €extra commuting expenses/ self-organisation

Italy: 1 hour: 20 – 45 €no commuting expenses/ 30 / self-organisation

Belgium: 1 hour: 28 €no commuting expenses / 5 – 10 / self-organisation

Slovenia: 1 hour: 15 € extra commuting expenses/ 7 / self-organisation and centre of interpreters

Sweden: 1 hour: 85 €no commuting expenses / 250 / self-organisation

France: 1 hour: 50 – 75 €/ extra commuting expenses (Paris) / 1000 / self-organisation and centre of interpreter

Germany: 1 hour 40 €plus commuting expenses/ 50 (full time)/ self-organisation and centre of interpreter

Lithuania: Monthly salary: 150 €/ 30 / centre of interpreters

Australia: Sydney: 1 hour: 25 – 50 €/ from 75 km commuting expenses / 100 (Sydney) / interpreter central

China: Monthly salary: 200 €/ deaf teachers -> there are no interpreters

Finland: 1 hour 25 €/ 600 / self-organisation and centre of interpreter

Austria: 1 hour 80 € 50/ self-organisation