



Fédération Européenne des Associations de Professeurs de Déficients Auditifs  
The European Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf  
Europäischen Föderation von Hörgeschädigtenpädagogerverbänden

## History of FEAPDA

### What is FEAPDA?

Mr. Walter Wouts established the Federation in 1969 in Brussels (BE). He was at that time principal of a school for deaf children in Belgium (Woluwe) and was one of the most active promoters of the Federation.

The setting up of this Federation came from a very strong desire from teachers of the deaf to play a more active role in discussions and to allow them to express and exchange ideas about the education of the deaf in a smaller setting instead in the big international congresses.

A congress is held every second year in one of the member countries. The aim of these biennial congresses is to spread good practice, to hear about new developments in the field and to allow teachers of the deaf to meet each other to discuss their work. The congress language is English. A congress is mostly visited by over a hundred participants.

The following countries are members of the Federation:

Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia and Sweden. Unfortunately France (keymember) has left the Federation a couple of years ago, because they have no longer a French association of teachers of the deaf.

### How is FEAPDA organised?

FEAPDA's headquarters are located in Luxembourg. The work in FEAPDA is regulated in its constitution. FEAPDA operates through the **Council** and the executive **Committee**.

The **Council** is the deciding institution of FEAPDA. Each associated country is represented in the Council by 2 or 3 delegates. The Council meets every year. The delegates are elected for a period of 4 years. These delegates are representatives of their own respective countries. They are responsible for spreading all information about FEAPDA and also for the country presentation during the congress. The subject of a country presentation is related to the congress theme.

The **Committee** is composed of five members: the president, the vice-president, the secretary and the treasurer. The members of the Committee are elected for a period of 4 years. The Committee meets twice a year and is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Council.

## **How does FEAPDA work?**

The work in FEAPDA is totally based on voluntary contributions and has no permanent employees.

One of the most important tasks for FEAPDA is to arrange a congress every second year. The theme of the congress is decided the year before the congress after suggestions from the different national associations. [Themes of the previous congresses.](#)

The congresses last three days: Friday, Saturday and a part of the Sunday. There are usually a couple of main lectures (keynotes) and reports from the national associations (country presentations) are presented. During the congress there are discussions in various linguistic groups.

After the congress the lectures will be published on the website.

## **FEAPDA: goals for the future**

It's important to emphasize that FEAPDA is an organisation above all for teachers involved in the education of deaf and hard of hearing impaired children and youths. FEAPDA focusses on the professional teachers and workers in the field to give them a change to meet, to discuss, to exchange experiences and ideas about their work. FEAPDA tries to get more European associations as members.

For more information, please contact the president.