

REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND THE WORLD OF TOUCH, SOUND, AND MAGNIGRAPHICS

The 19th edition of the conference

THE WORLD MEETING OF THE BLIND, PARTIALLY SIGHTED, THEIR FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS

"Accessibility for real"

POST-CONFERENCE BULLETIN

10-13th September, 2021

Copernicus Science Centre

PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE

Under the Honorary Patronage of the Spouse

of the President of the Republic of Poland

Agata Kornhauser-Duda

















Co-organizers

- Mazowieckie Voivodeship
- Aid and Social Project Office of the City of Warsaw
- The Center for the Blind in Israel
- Challenge Europe Foundation

In cooperation with

- World Blind Union
- International Mobility Conference
- Special Education Group at the Pedagogical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences

THE HONORARY COMMITTEE OF THE REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2021

- Adam Struzik Marshall of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship
- Paweł Wdówik Secretary of State, Plenipotentiary for Disabled Persons
- Prof. Piotr Gliński Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport
- dr n. ekon. Adam Niedzielski Minister of Health
- Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy
- Krzysztof Michałkiewicz President of State Fund for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PFRON)
- Anna Wandzel Director of PFRON, Mazovia Division
- Władysław Gołąb Honorary President of the Society for the Care of the Blind in Laski
- Martine Abel-Williamson President of the World Blind Union
- Fredric Schroeder past President of the World Blind Union (2016-2021)
- Nurit Neustadt-Noy International Mobility Conference
- Dr Monika Zima-Parjaszewska Chair of the National Consultative Council to the Minister of Family Affairs, Labour and Social Policy, President of the Main Board of the Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
- · Marta Zielińska Member of the Coun-

- cil of Patrons of the Chance for the Blind Foundation
- Tomasz Pactwa Director of the Aid and Social Project Office of the City of Warsaw
- Prof. UW Dr Hab Aloizy z. Nowak Rector of the University of Warsaw
- Prof. dr hab. inż. Krzysztof Zaremba Rector of Warsaw University of Technology
- Prof. Dr Hab. Bartosz Molik Rector of Józef Piłsudski University in Warsaw
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- Prof. UAM dr hab. Bogumiła Kaniewska
 Rector of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
- Prof. WSB Ryszard Sowiński Rector of WSB Poznań University
- prof. dr hab. Piotr Stepnowski Rector of University of Gdańsk
- Prof. Jerzy Lis Rector of the Stanisław Staszic AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow
- Prof. Dr Hab. Andrzej Sokala Rector of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun
- prof. ZW. Dr Hab. Marzenna Zaorska -Head of the Special Education Group at the Polish Academy of Sciences
- · Prof. zw. dr. hab. Jadwiga Kuczyńs-

- ka-Kwapisz Member of the Foundation's Council of Patrons, Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University
- Arch. dr inż. Maciej Kłopotowski Member of the Foundation's Council of Patrons, Chair of Building Constructions and Architecture, Białystok University of Technology
- Justyna Garbarczyk Director of the Central Library of Labour and Social Security
- Paweł Kacprzyk President of the Society for the Care of the Blind in Laski
- Sebastian Biały Director of the Special School and Educational Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Youth in Chorzów
- Marcin Dębski Director of the School and Education Centre for Blind and Visually Impaired Children in Kraków
- Beata Kotowska Director of the Special Education and Educational Centre for the Visually Impaired in Warsaw
- Joanna Majewska School and Education Centre for Visually Impaired Children and Youth in Lublin
- Bartłomiej Maternicki Director of the Special School and Educational Center for Blind Children in Owińska
- Małgorzata Szczepanek Director of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Special School and Educational Center no. 1 for the Visually Impaired Children and Youth in Bydgoszcz
- Anna Tomaszewska Director of the School and Educational Center for Blind

- and Visually Impaired Children in Łódź
- Violetta Trzcina Director of the Special School and Educational Center for Disabled Children and Youth in Dąbrowa Górnicza
- Robert Warchalewski Lower Silesian Special School and Educational Center No. 13 for Blind and Visually Impaired Students and Students with Other Disabilities in Wrocław
- Jacek Kwapisz Member of the Foundation's Council of Patrons
- Przemysław Żydok President of the "Aktywizacja" Foundation
- Ewa Pawłowska President of the "Integracja" Association

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE REHA FOR THE BLIND 2021

- Marek Kalbarczyk Chairman of the Council of Founders of the Foundation
- Klaudia Olejniczak Deputy-head Chance for the Blind Foundation
- Janusz Mirowski chairman of the Council of Patrons of the Foundation
- Igor Busłowicz Member of the Council of Patrons
- Milena Rot International Department Manager of the Foundation
- Maciej Motyika Manager of the exhibition REHA 2021



AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE MEETING

REHA is a multi-threaded event during which we manifest solidarity with our guests and present ideas for a world as open as possible to our community and all people who are weak, disadvantaged, elderly, lonely, or have any disability at all. Together with our guests and supporters we strive to change the perception of disability and its consequences, as hindering everything, but nevertheless not forbidding or blocking anything. During the meeting and in the content of this bulletin we promote the most modern ideas on how to arrange the world in order to achieve the long-unattained goal of real equal life opportunities for people who are still largely excluded. To the guests gathered in the Palace of Culture and Science, Copernicus Science Centre as well as to the online viewers and listeners in many countries we presented the achievements of scientists, engineers, rehabilitation specialists, organizations and institutions working for the benefit of the blind and visually impaired, especially the Polish ones. The aim of the Conference and accompanying exhibitions is to provide an opportunity to learn about the latest technical and methodological solutions created for this group of citizens. For 22 years we have been meeting with thousands of users of such products and services and have noticed a huge progress not only in the field of electronics, IT, pedagogy etc. but also in their implementation.

REHA grows year by year and has become a project tailored to our dreams and the needs of this community. It is realized not only in Warsaw in a form of a huge, central, meeting, but also in other, biggest Polish cities. This extraordinary event consists of sixteen regional conferences in the capitals of all regions, which complement the four-day central meeting. It is thanks to such events and the presence of so many guests that we can trust that the lives of the blind, visually impaired and other disabled people will be comparable to the lives of non-disabled persons.

A SCHEDULE OF THE REGIONAL CONFE-RENCES TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE REHA FOR THE BLIND 2021

Miasto	Konferencja	Akcja integracyjna
Kielce	09.06	12.06
Łódź	11.06	12.06
Szczecin	22.06	23.06
Gdańsk	24.06	25.06
Bydgoszcz	29.06	30.06
Lublin	08.07	09.07
Białystok	8.07	09.07
Olsztyn	13.07	14.07
Rzeszów	23.07	30.07
Kraków	04.10	03.09
Zielona Gá	ora 06.08	07.08
Katowice	18.08	19.08
Opole	06.10	05.10
Warsaw	30.08	31.08
Poznań	31.08	01.09
Wrocław	07.10	08.10



Since 1999, the REHA Conference has featured pioneering solutions for visually impaired attendees: speaking solutions for operating systems (DOS, Windows, IOS), print and image recognition software, web applications, smartphone software, specialized Braille note-takers, Braille text and graphics printers, 3D technology, navigation solutions, etc. This was the case this year and will probably be the same in the future.

For years REHA has been organized under the honorary patronage of the Spouse of the President of Poland. This year, it was the same. It was not possible for the Spouse of the President to come to us, but let us remind you that she met with REHA participants in 2016. We had the honor to appoint the Conference Honorary Committee, whose members were prominent representatives of the world of science, politics and NGOs. The Foundation also appointed the Organizing Committee, which watched over the best possible organization of the Meeting.

The conference events were covered by central and regional media. Keynote speeches, presentations and panel discussions were broadcasted through the Internet for Polish and foreign audience. While in previous years they were interpreted into two languages: English and Russian, this year they were interpreted into 13 languages. In this way, we will achieve another important goal of making REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND a worldwide event. The Foundation cooperates with blind people and their organizations in many countries, especially in Israel, Arab countries and Central Europe. Everything is done to make Poland famous. The Foundation's initiative receives a great interest. We welcome guests from various countries, both regular conference participants and speakers, who want their speeches to be broadcasted worldwide via the Internet.



Accessibility for real is:

- Empathy and understanding of the public and authorities
- Significant funds allocated for this purpose
- Activity of educational institutions and the media

- Access to innovative technologies
- · Real access to information
- Effective support for institutions and citizens
- Individualized approach to each citizen with a disability
- Ensuring education, work, leisure and fulfilment of ambitions
- Treating each person as an individual.



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The target outcome of our organization's efforts is:

- · creating an accessible environment,
- adaptation of public buildings so that they can be independently accessed by blind and partially sighted people,



- provision of all information intended for the general public, including books, press, announcements, screens, news on the Internet.
- employment of the visually impaired through creation of modern workplaces,
- access to information by promoting the practice of universal design for all servi-



- ces and products,
- realization of the rights of this group of citizens (UN conventions and EU directives),
- emancipation of our community as far as possible and success of our organizations.

The Foundation today is:

- 17 offices in all regions,
- 56 employees,
- · activities in neighboring countries,
- periodic conferences, with the International Conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND as the most important one,
- close cooperation with the media, central and local authorities,
- numerous contacts with our community: associations and foundations as well as outstanding blind and partially sighted people,
- · cooperation with outstanding experts,
- thousands of beneficiaries and hundreds of volunteers,
- one of the first among organizations working for people with disabilities,
- Participation in advisory bodies of the Polish Government.

REHA IN NUMBERS – OUR RECORDS

- 33 meetings in one year (conferences and social events), forming a coherent, project-based REHA,
- Approximately 3,500 attendees during the central REHA meeting,
- approximately 6,000 attendees at REHA meetings across the country,
- 62 exhibitors
- 70 employees
- 245 volunteers
- 885 beneficiaries hosted in Warsaw hotels
- 21 foreign delegations

TECHNOLOGICAL EXHIBITION REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2021

For the second time in a row we had a serious problem. During the preparations for the Conference no one could foresee the epidemic situation on the planned date of the Meeting. We hoped that the fourth wave of Covid-19 would not attack us and the REHA Meetings organized by us would take place in the largest possible numbers.

We prepared for both onsite and online variants. All visitors could either come to us or stay at home and connect with us via the Internet. Similarly, we organized the exhibition. The exhibition stands were available at the Copernicus Science Centre, but the producers and sellers could also present their products and services remotely. In this case, they could take advantage of a special broadcast and interpretation of the speeches into 13 foreign languages.



THE IDOL COMPETITION 2021

Since the first edition of the International Conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND we have been organizing the IDOL competition. Individuals and institutions that set an example for others are honored in this competition. In 1999, during the first edition, the members of the community elite indicated persons and institutions which have done the most for the emancipation of the blind and visually impaired. At that time, outstanding rehabilitated blind people who had achieved success in their personal and professional lives were honored, as well as sighted people who had devoted many years of their work to them. Our beneficiaries liked the competition so much that we decided to make it grow and grow every year. We distinguished several categories, e.g. idol of the community, the media friendly to the blind and partially sighted, etc. When the number of candidates exceeded the acceptable limit, we decided to divide the Competition into two stages: regional and central. Regional competitions are held in all regions of Poland and their winners become candidates in the national competition.

This year's regional stages of the competition attracted over 8,000 voters who could choose from several hundred candidates. We are entitled to say that the idea of the competition is well accepted and gains more and more supporters. We sincerely congratulate the winners.







THE WORLD IDOL OF THE BLIND

For the first time ever we have chosen a World IDOL of the blind community. The original idea of the contest was modest. However, already then, i.e. during the first edition of REHA in 1999, it exceeded our wildest expectations. It has grown with each passing year. We started with people and institutions who gained trust of the elite of the community. After a few years, we appointed the Chapter, which consisted of IDOLS selected in the previous years, to also turn this into the most objective Internet voting. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Foundation, we wanted to do something on an even larger scale and decided to organize the Global Competition. Everyone could take part in this voting - the blind and visually impaired, and their relatives from all over the world. Together we chose the most outstanding person from among 26 submitted candidates.

Below, we present the list of them:

Ahmed El Jeilany – Kuweit
Ahmed Hossam Ahmed Mohamed – Egypt
Andrea Bocelli – Italy
Andrey Tikhonov – Poland
Ben Lou Poggo – South Sudan
Dr Sadiq Hussein Qnaij – Iraq
Esma Gumberidze – Georgia
Fredric K. Schroeder – The USA
Hassan Agufana Jackson – Kenya
Ishaq Hersi – Saudi Arabia
Jan Bloem – The Netherlands
Khomraj Sharma – Nepal

Mais Ahmed – The Emirates
Mikhail Antonenko – Belarus
Nati Bialistok-Cohen – Israel
Nikoloz Cercvadze – Georgia
Pawan Ghimire – Nepal
Minister Paweł Wdówik – Poland
Razzaq Muhsen Wadi - Iraq
Sally Farouk Nashed Abadeer – Egypt
Shereen Aqa Siddiqi – Afghanistan
Sherif Youssef Abdelaty Youssef – Egypt
Stanislav Tsibulski – Georgia
Tudor Paul Scripor – Romania
Vojin Perić – Croatia
Zaki Ali – Egypt

THE WINNERS

First prize – Khomraj Sharma Second prize – Ahmed El Jeilany Third prize – Fredric K. Schroeder

SPECIAL IDOLS

For years we have been organizing a competition in which the IDOLS are chosen by Internet users, but we leave ourselves the right to identify and award our heroes. After all, not everyone can compete in an Internet competition. A good example of such people are, among others, scientists, who perfectly represent our community, but for obvious reasons cannot be widely known. Scientific work does not consist of constantly showing oneself to thousands of voters. Here are this year's

SPECIAL IDOLS:

Piotr Dukaczewski – A great, Polish, blind chess player

Marek Jakubowski – educator, expert in the field of a tactile graphics

Renata Janik – a representative of Polish local authorities (from Świętokrzyskie region)

Maria Kaliszan-Kazimierczak – mathematics teacher, she has many experiences with teaching mathematic to the blind and visually impaired The Museum in Szreniawa – a museum that remembers about visitors with various disabilities, including those with visual impairments Museum in Zielona Góra – another museum that is accessible to the blind and visually impaired

Sławomir Piec – a blind musician and music producer

Justyna Rogowska – a blind activist, employed as a Plenipotentiary for students with disabilities at the University of Gdańsk

WSB University in Poznań – a university in Poznań that is open to blind and partially sighted students

Monika Zima-Parjaszewska – a lawyer, activist, president of a main board of the Association for Persons with Intellectual disabilities.





























THE PRESIDENTIAL HONORS

30 years and ceremonies related to this anniversary is a great opportunity to honor people who have very important qualities, namely they are wise, hard-working, outstanding, wonderful and generally great. It is an honor for us to know them and to watch their growth and activities. Having the opportunity to present these candidates to the President is a great pleasure in itself, let alone to learn that they have succeeded and then to participate in the ceremony of awarding these distinctions. And that is exactly what happened on September 10 this year. The Foundation nominated 12 candidates. They were all recognized and honored. Each of them is a separate book of work and struggle for the best possible world, in which the good overcomes all difficulties and makes even the weakest find a worthy place for themselves. We recommend them to your attention. It is not difficult to meet them and find out how wonderful they are. We know them personally and we confirm - they are amazing people. Each of them is like ten others. We congratulate them on their awards, and we thank the President and the many people who have read the biographies of our heroes and decided that they should be honored.

Below is a list of those who were decorated. Please note how different their activities are: a scientist, a chess player, a translator, a manager, a rehabilitator, a musician, and all of them - activists in our community.

The Gold Cross of Merit (for the second time) was awarded to:

Piotr Zygmunt Dukaczewski

The Gold Cross of Merit was awarded to:

Wojciech Zbigniew Maj

The Bronze Cross of Merit has been awarded to:

Ewa Katarzyna Bąk
Dagmara Katarzyna Cichos
Adam Marek Kalbarczyk
Anna Koperska
Maciej Motyka
Sławomir Marian Piec
Justyna Rogowska
Milena Rot
Gabriela Rubak
Malwina Wysocka-Dziuba













OUR GREAT WORK: REHA 2021

This has been the biggest event of its kind in the world for years. We are visited by over a few thousand guests and assisted by a few hundred volunteers, and the event takes place in two places at once: Copernicus Science Centre and the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. Every year we try to beat the records of previous editions and add something new.

We initiated the REHA conference in 1999 on the occasion of 10th anniversary of starting the plan of modern rehabilitation of blind and partially sighted people. Today, REHA is a worldwide event. We combined this year's REHA Conference with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Chance for the Blind Foundation and organized:

- 16 substantive conferences and 16 separate integration meetings in the capitals of all regions of Poland
- Central Meeting and Conference in Warsaw on 10-13th September 2021 - at the Copernicus Science Centre and the Palace of Culture and Science
- Substantive Sessions on the topic of accessibility in the broadest sense as well
 as requirements for true rehabilitation
 and emancipation of the blind and visually impaired
- On the inauguration day of the Conference, 10th September, a concert of various Polish artists
- 3-stage IDOL Contest: regional, national and world; we presented blind and visu-

- ally impaired people as well as non-disabled people, devoting their time and talents to our community, who are role models for others
- Popular and scientific lectures and panel discussions in 6 thematic blocks (over 30 panels in total)
- A technological exhibition, which welcomed over a thousand visitors, an exhibition of activities of NGOS, institutions and organizations, and a special exhibition, The World of Touch and Sound
- Gala dinner "30 years of the Chance for the Blind Foundation" for 900 people (beneficiaries of the REHA FOR THE BLIN-D®IN POLAND 2021 project and special quests)
- Chess tournament Szansa Chess Open Warsaw 2021 in the Palace of Culture and Science. Within this event 2 tournaments were held: Blitz and Rapid Tournament, with total prize pool 12 500 PLN
- Rubik's Cube Solving Tournament (FM andblind) Szansa Cubing Open Warsaw 2021

The Mother Elżbieta Róża Czacka cycle slam of the blind - Mother Elżbieta Czacka was a founder of the institute for the blind in Laski. She also founded the Society for the Care of the Blind that works till this day and takes care of children and youth with vision impairment from all over the country. Laski, according to the founder of the Chance for the Blind Foundation – Marek Kalbarczyk, is the beginning of the activity of the foundation.

For this reason, it was a starting point of this event)

- Holy Mass for the intention of the blind on Sunday 12th September
- Live Chopin Piano Concert in Żelazowa Wola
- The manifestation, We see you, and you?
 Do you see us?" in front of the Presidential Palace
- Visits to cultural institutions and other public places to check their accessibility for the visually impaired.

REHA has been reported on via the Internet for years. We realized that despite so many guests, not all of them would manage to reach us. First it was audio recordings in the form of interviews, then audio broadcast via the Internet, and finally full audio-video production. (In 2020, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we introduced simultaneous interpretations into foreign languages and broadcast of the entire event on our online channels.) We interpreted the online broadcast of the first day of the Conference into 13 languages: English, Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, German, Lithuanian, Georgian, Romanian, French, Spanish, Italian, Bulgarian. On the second day, the main panel was interpreted into 4 languages: English, Arabic, Russian and Hebrew, and the other panels into English. Other elements of the event, such as exhibitions, chess tournaments, and a cycle slam, were carried out by the mobile studio of the Foundation. For this purpose, the Foundation employed 44 interpreters and 6 teams of experienced webcasters. We know from the statistics that it was worth it! The online broadcast was extremely successful. The reach of all mentions on the Facebook platform was 79.3 thousand, the reach of all Facebook broadcasts was 7165.

We also provide the reach of selected broadcasts:

- FB day 1 Opening, substantive session and concert 1: 414 viewers
- FB day 2 Panel D: Culture for all: 846 viewers
- FB cycle slam: 744 viewers
- Broadcast of the exhibition on Sunday: 468 viewers
- Broadcast of the demonstration: 311 viewers.

Separate new initiatives of unprecedented scale, were tournaments:

- Szansa Chess Open Warsaw 2021
- Szansa Cubing Open Warsaw 2021.

Instant chess in the Palace was watched by 23.8 thousand people, and rapid chess by 58.8 thousand people.

These are just some sample numbers, we hope that next year our REHA will be even bigger and will have more and more visitors, those personal and online!











THE PRESENTATION OF VISPERO COMPANY

Vispero combines two Latin words: visio and spero. Visio means "the vision"; and spero, "hope". At Vispero we are driven in our mission of providing hope, determination, and independence through our complementary family of brands.

Vispero is the world's largest assistive technology provider for the visually impaired. Although officially formed in 2016, our brands Freedom Scientific, Enhanced Vision, Optelec, and TPG Interactive, share a long, rich history as industry leaders dating back to 1975.

We develop and deliver innovative solutions that enable blind and low vision individuals to reach their full potential – to gain an education, obtain employment, succeed in professional careers, and live independently throughout their lives.

Vispero is proud to operate in 90 countries worldwide, with products localized in over 24 languages.

As the prevalence of age-related eye diseases like macular degeneration steadily rise, assistive technology plays an increasingly vital role, resulting in a growing demand for low vision devices and services. Vispero is uniquely positioned to address these challenges head-on by providing the tools necessary to meet the needs of the low vision population through our far-reaching distribution network.

Our family of brands deliver a superior line of optical and video magnifiers; wearables; scanning and reading devices; and easy-to-use software. Vispero's partnership with key organizations and

advocacy groups keep us in the forefront of the low vision industry.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE DOLPHIN COMPUTER ACCESS

Dolphin Computer Access develops assistive technology for people who are visually impaired.

We develop software to support users in employment, education and the home, to improve accessibility and independence in all stages of life.

Assistive technology from Dolphin includes SuperNova, GuideConnect, EasyReader and EasyConverter Express. Each empowers users with visual impairments to use computers independently, in ways that suit their sight and experience with technology.

All Dolphin software is designed and built at our offices in Worcester, UK. Dolphin also has offices in USA and Sweden and a dedicated support team of assistive technology experts to support our global community of users.

Visit the Dolphin website at www.YourDolphin. com to find out more.

Find us on social

Twitter: @YourDolphin

Facebook: @DolphinComputerAccess LinkedIn: @dolphin-computer-access

YouTube: @YourDolphin

THE PRESENTATION OF THE VIEWPLUS TECHNOLOGIES

ViewPlus Technologies is a manufacturer of braille and tactile graphics embossers and other technologies that make information accessible to the visually impaired.

Since 1997 ViewPlus has developed many braille printers, hybrid ink/braille printers, touchpads and scalable Software solutions. The printers span a range from a small portable personal braille printer to large production hybrid printers. Our patented embossing technology enables ViewPlus to be the industry-leading manufacturer of both high-definition tactile graphics embossers and Braille printers.

Our tools and applications are modeled on familiar mainstream procedures, so the average per-

son can produce documents for braille and tactile readers.

ViewPlus Technologies is based in Oregon, USA, but our products are distributed world-wide through business partners. Our German office maintains stock and provides support to our European partners.

Browse www.viewplus.com for information and testimonials.

The project "Great Meeting of the Blind, Visually Impaired and Their Relatives - REHA FOR THE BLIND® IN POLAND 2021" is co-financed by the State Fund for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

The Chance for the Blind Foundation also finances the Conference from its own resources.

