



On Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, 32 participants, Hearing care professionals and important stakeholders like; the hard of hearing association, the men's health forum, hearing instruments manufacturer association, medical economists, and more ... joined the AEA\_ECAT mini symposium at the Brussels Audiology University College – Vinci.

Here is the program with some of the key statements.

- **Hearing Care in Portugal** - Associação Portuguesa de Audiologistas & Associação Portuguesa de Audioprotésistas
  - Goals are to increase access to Audiology care and stimulate training and scientific development
  - Join forces with both associations to regulate hearing care professionals in order to ensure end-user will get quality care.
- **Improving outcomes by embracing user/patient involvement** – Lidia Best (EFHOH)
  - “Nothing about us without us” – the hard of hearing people want and need to be involved ... participation is essential
  - Critical constructive analysis and recommendations for the EN standard on services provided by hearing aid professionals and the AEA code of conduct.
  - Getting our numbers right ... the use of self-reported hearing loss.
- **Hearing Aids improve Hearing ... and a LOT more** - Soren Hougaard (EHIMA)
  - Perceived hearing solution performance is key driver for satisfaction - Binaurally fitted users are more satisfied - People with hearing aids sleep better – Hearing care improves quality of life.
  - Getting our numbers right ... how many of hearing care recommended people use hearing aids?
- **The importance of early diagnosis ... for Men**– Ian Banks (Men's Health Forum)
  - FRANCE - Retirement age up by 2 years to 62 in 2010 - Life Expectancy: 81
  - GERMANY - Retirement age increasing from 65 to 67 between 2012 & 2029 - Life Expectancy: 79

- *ITALY - Retirement age increasing by 3 or 6 months - Life Expectancy: 80*
- *SPAIN- Retirement age may increase by 2 years (65 – 67) - Life Expectancy: 80*
- *UNITED KINGDOM - Retirement age to increase by 1 year to 66 by 2020; and to 67 by 2050 - Life Expectancy: 79.*
- *Awareness and intervention is important to ensure that “men” actively stay involved in society ... but we need to convince them in a different way!!!*
- **The Economic Impact of Hearing Loss in France and Europe – Laurence Hartmann (Economist - France)**
  - *HL is considered as a major public health issue in the scientific literature and by international agencies*
  - *The burden of illness concerns more than 5% of the global population that is 360 million people (and one third of the population aged over 65 years)*
  - *Main consequences of HL are due to the decrease in communication and human interaction, which has an impact upon mental, psychological and cognitive dimensions of the person’s health status*
  - *Causal relationships between HL and each of these dimensions are better quantified in the recent literature*
- **Assessing “Central Auditory Processing” in clinical practice – Mark Laureyns**
  - Both Localization and Binaural Masking Release are aspects for which we have useful assessment procedures for clinical practice - Both can be assessed unaided and aided
  - This procedure for Binaural Masking Release procedure taps into multiple aspects of auditory performance
    - Audibility – MCL for running speech
    - Speech in Noise – SNR when you start missing words (perception!)
    - Binaural Masking Release – Central Auditory Processing
    - Binaural Masking Release is related to Localisation