

REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND

WORLD MEETING

**OF THE BLIND, PARTIALLY SIGHTED,
THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

**THE WORLD OF TOUCH, SOUND
AND MAGNIGRAPHICS**

18th edition of the conference
under the slogan

**Education and activity
as your chance**

11-14/09/2020

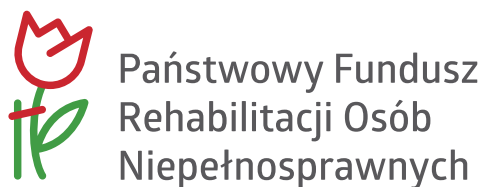
Copernicus Science Center (Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20 in Warsaw)

The Palace of Culture and Science (Plac Defilad 1 in Warsaw)

**Under Honorary Patronage of the Spouse
of President of Republic of Poland**

Agata Kornhauser-Duda

Warsaw 2020



המרכז לעיוור בישראל
THE CENTER FOR THE BLIND IN ISRAEL



Media Patronage:



Event Partner:

- Self-government of Mazovian Voivodeship

Co-organizers:

- Welfare & Social Projects Department of the Capital City of Warsaw
- The Center for the Blind in Israel
- The Challenge Europe Foundation

In cooperation with:

- World Blind Union
- International Mobility Conference
- The Group for Special Education at the Committee of Educational Sciences of Polish Academy of Sciences.

The Honorary Committee

Adam Struzik – Marshal of Mazovian Voivodeship

Joanna Fabisiak – Member of Parliament of Republic of Poland

Paweł Wdówik – Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for People with Disabilities

Krzysztof Michałkiewicz – President of State Fund for Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities (PFRON)

Tomasz Pactwa – Director of Welfare & Social Projects Department of the Capital City of Warsaw

Władysław Gołąb – Honorary President of Blind Care Society in Laski near Warsaw

Marta Zielińska – Education Center for the Blind in Laski near Warsaw, member of Patronage Council of Chance for the Blind Foundation

Dr Fredric K. Schroeder – President of World Blind Union

Rodolfo Cattani – President of European Blind Union

Nurit Neustadt-Noy, PHD – International Mobility Conference

Nati Bialistok-Kohen – Center for the Blind in Israel

Dr Monika Zima-Parjaszewska – President of National Consultative Council (MRiPS), President of Polish Association for Persons with intellectual disability

Professor Alojzy Z. Nowak – Rector of Warsaw University

Professor Krzysztof Zaremba – Rector of the Warsaw University of Technology

Professor Tadeusz Słomka – Rector of AGH UST in Cracow

Professor Barbara Marcinkowska – Rector of Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw

Professor Bartosz Molik – Rector of Józef Piłsudski University in Warsaw

Professor Leonora Buzanska – Director of Mossakowski Medical Research Centre Polish Academy of Sciences, Member of Patronage Council of Chance for the Blind Foundation.

Professor Marzenna Zaorska – Leader of Special Education Group of Polish Academy of Sciences

Professor Jadwiga Kuczyńska-Kwapisz – Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Patronage Council of Chance for the Blind Foundation

Małgorzata Wypych – The Constitutional Tribunal, Founder of Parliamentary Group for People with visual disabilities

Anna Woźniak-Szymańska – President of Main Board of Polish Association of the Blind

Dr Maciej Kłopotowski – academic teacher, Director of University Archive and Białystok Technological University History Center, Patronage Council of Chance for the Blind Foundation

Marcin Bajerowicz – President of Disabled Persons Help Foundation „Filantrop”, Editor in Chief of „Filantrop Naszych Czasów” monthly

Andrey Tikhonov – Doctoral candidate at Wrocław University, Member of Patronage Council of Chance for the Blind Foundation

Jacek Kwapisz – Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Member of Patronage Council of Chance for the Blind Foundation

PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE

Day 1 – Friday 11.09.2020 (Palace of Culture and Science)

14:00 Opening ceremony of the conference – Presenter: Maciej Iwański (Polish Television)

Welcoming guests

- Malwina Wysocka-Dziuba – President of Chance for the Blind Foundation,
- Marek Kalbarczyk – Honorary President of Chance for the Blind Foundation, Chairman of REHA 2020 Organizing Committee
- Adam Struzik – Marshal of Mazovian Voivodeship
- Tomasz Pactwa – Director of Welfare & Social Projects Department of the Capital City of Warsaw

Persons with disabilities support system in Poland – Minister Paweł Wdówik

Is the XXI century like XX or like XXII? – blind and partially sighted want to see and know as much as possible – Marek Kalbarczyk

The technology of XXI century – Tobias Winnes (Vispero)

Mission of Chance for the Blind Foundation – Joanna Szafrńska

Announcing results of IDOL Competition organized by Chance for the Blind foundation

Introducing Special IDOLs 2020

Substantive session

Education and activity as your chance – Andrey Tikhonov

Schools and universities accessible for all desiring to study – Professor Marzenna Zaorska

Modeling retinal disorders with stem cells: therapeutic perspectives – Professor Leonora Bużańska

Mission of NGOs – Stefan Dunin-Wąsowicz (member of Blind Care Society in Laski near Warsaw)

18:30 „We are together” – concert by disabled and non-disabled artists: (

- Naira Ayvazyan
- Patryk Matwiejczuk kwartet
- Sarsa
- Zakopower

Day 2 – Saturday 12.09.2020 (Copernicus Science Center, Palace of Culture and Science)

10:00 – 14:00 Discussion panels and presentations of solutions compensating results of visual disabilities

A. Education and activity as your chance, hosted by Tomasz Jankowski (Palace of Culture and Science, Skłodowska Hall)

- 10:00** Opening of the panel – Tomasz Jankowski
- 10:10** European Blind Union facing the crisis resulting from COVID-19 pandemic – Rodolfo Cattani (president of the European Blind Union)
- 10:20** Presentation of Union of the Blind – Yamin Ohnmar Ohnmar (Myanmar)
- 10:50** Presentation of Nepalese Union of the Blind – Nar Bahadur Limbu (Nepal)
- 11:20** Presentation of South Sudan Union of the Blind – Mauot Anyang
- 11:40** Teaching science among blind persons – Zaki Ali (Egypt)
- 12:10** Key issues of special education for the blind and related field – monograph presentation – Professor Jadwiga Kuczyńska-Kwapisz
- 12:40** Difficulties in learning foreign languages experienced by blind persons – Esra Emhemmed Elghli (Libya)
- 13:00** Presentation of the ChildVision School – Geraldine Neil (Ireland)
- 13:30** World Blind Union – Dr Fredric K. Schroeder

B. Accessible public space hosted, by Izabela Bańska (Palace of Culture and Science, Starzyński Hall)

- 10:00** Opening of the panel – Izabela Bańska
- 10:10** Tactile markings as a way of adapting public space – Sławomir Seidler
- 10:50** Accessibility in culture – Anna Knapik (National Museum in Warsaw)
- 11:10** Presentation of public library in Saudi Arabia which makes its collections available to the blind – Ishaq Mohammed Hersi (Saudi Arabia)
- 11:40** Poland, country worth visiting – architect Maciej Kłopotowski
- 12:10** Alfons Karny Sculpture Museum friendly to persons with visual disabilities – Cezary Szymaniuk (Alfons Karny Sculpture Museum)
- 12:30** Space accessibility – law aspects in Poland and in the world – Adam Kalbarczyk
- 13:10** “Different” – Restaurant in darkness – Anna Bocheńska

C. Technology equalizing life opportunities hosted by Joanna Szafrńska (Copernicus Science Center, First floor Conference Hall)

- 10:00** ElBraille Braille note taker of the future – Henryk Rzepka
- 10:20** Focus and other Braille Displays – are they still necessary? – Igor Busłowicz
- 10:40** Presentation of „SHARKY” – new JAWS function – Jan Bloem (Vispero (the Netherlands)
- 11:20** Alphabet of colors: presentation of „The Scripor Alphabet” patented and currently implemented in Romania – Tudor Paul Scripor (Romania)
- 12:00** Presentation of technology by ViewPlus
- 12:20** Presentation of technology by InView Medical
- 13:00** Presentation of technology by Dolphin – Steve Bennett
- 13:20** Presentation of start-up for the blind – Izidor Gershkovich (We go Vision, Israel)

D. Digital accessibility and accessibility of information hosted by Krzysztof Kiepus (Copernicus Science Center, Ground floor Auditorium Hall)

10:00 Opening of the panel – Krzysztof Kiepus

10:05 Presentation of activity of the Kołobajki foundation – the foundation that produces tactile books for the blind children

10:20 Innovative products by Altix: Talking Chess, Interactive globe and talking world map – Janusz Mirowski

10:40 Accessible websites – What does WCAG 2.1 require – Henryk Rzepka

11:20 Students with visual disabilities and remote learning – Karolina Jankowska (Coordinator for digital accessibility at Wrocław University of Technology), Marek Tankielun (Manager of Typhlo computer scientific laboratory)

11:40 Reading by blind in Poland – The Department of Collections for the Blind of the Main Labor and Social Insurance Library

12:20 Mountain tourism by the disabled – Bogumił Kanik (President of the Borderland without barriers Foundation)

12:40 Your Way – innovative in-door navigation system – Sławomir Seidler

10:00 – 18:30 Exhibitions accompanying the conference:

- Exhibition of technological solutions
- Exhibition presenting activities of nongovernmental organizations
- Exhibition entitled „World of Touch and Sound”

Day 3 – Sunday 13.09.2020

09:00 Holy Mass in intention of the Blind, partially sighted, their families and friends – in the Temple of Divine Providence in Wilanów

12:00 Visits in Warsaw and Mazovian museums

12:00 – 18:00 Exhibition of technological solutions and „World of Touch and sound” (Copernicus Science Center)

16:00 Sightseeing Warsaw and its surroundings

Day 4 – Monday 14.09.2020

10:00 Annual manifestation of community of visually disabled people under slogan: „We can see nothing and you – can you see us?”

11:30 Warsaw and Mazovian universities.

ABOUT THE CHANCE FOR THE BLIND FOUNDATION

The goals of our activities are the following:

Creating an accessible space for people with visual disabilities

- Adjusting public buildings so that blind people can get there by themselves
- Making all the information and websites accessible
- Employing the visually impaired by creating modern workplaces
- Access to information through a practice of universal design for all services and products
- implementing the rights of this group of citizens (UN conventions and EU directives).

What do we care about most? Social empathy, necessary to achieve a wide range of goals. It is about the widest possible openness to the problems of blind and partially sighted people. The Foundation deals with the world of touch and sound, in which sight is replaced by other senses. This is possible thanks to the innovative electronic and IT solutions. That is where the idea of organizing such events as the REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND exhibition comes from.

The Chance for the Blind Foundation today is:

- 17 branches,
- 45 employees,
- Activities in several neighboring countries
- Various conferences, among which the international conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND is the most important
- Close cooperation with the media, central and local authorities, the community of the blind: associations and foundations and outstanding blind and partially sighted people, experts in our field
- Thousands of beneficiaries and volunteers
- One of the first organizations working for people with disabilities
- Participation in advisory bodies of the Polish government.

THE EXHIBITION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

This year, the Foundation as the main organizer of the Conference had a serious problem - during the preparations for the Conference, at the turn of July and August, nobody knew the epidemic situation that we would have in Poland, Europe and the world in mid-September. We believed that Covid-19 would weaken and the meetings we were organizing would gather as many people as possible. However, we were prepared for different scenarios. We could participate in the Conference either in person or on-line. Exhibitors could also take advantage of this choice. And so it happened. The Foundation organized exhibition stands for the most courageous and those who care the most about the Polish market and the rehabilitation of Polish blind and partially sighted people. Producers and sellers could be present at their stands on site or remotely. When they chose the latter option, our Beneficiaries could listen to their audio-video presentations. They were watched by guests present at the conference halls and by Internet users from Poland and abroad. A special broadcast and interpretation of speeches into many popular languages was used.

The exhibition was attended by companies known to Polish customers. Some of them sent their representatives to Poland, others set up their speeches on-line.

Here is a list of this year's exhibitors and stands:

Altix sp. z o.o.

Dolphin Computer Access

Comde-Derenda GMBH

Vispero

BlindShell

InView Medical

JKJ – tactile paths

View Plus and Index Braille printers

Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (School and Educational Center for the Blind in Cracow)

Polish Association of the Blind

Fundacja Widzimy Inaczej – a Polish NGO

Tactile graphics

Independence in public space - a stand with white canes

Daily living solutions

Games for the blind

Accessibility of the environment - YourWay

Talking Braille globe, talking Braille chess and talking Braille map of the world

Smart home

Braille displays and ElBraille note taker

REHA in numbers - our records of all time

- 62 exhibitors
- 5000 participants of conference meetings in 16 regions and during central REHA
- Over 3000 guests during the conference days
- 17 separate events constituting a coherent whole REHA
- Approximately 100 employees for event management
- Over 250 volunteers from all over the country
- 6 large halls where lectures and discussions took place
- 35 discussion panels
- 15 coaches that brought Beneficiaries from across Poland
- 21 foreign delegations.

MUSEUMS THAT WE VISITED

The Foundation has proposed to the Warsaw and Mazovian museums to meet with our Beneficiaries. As always, as organizers, we were optimistic and believed that despite the epidemic we would be able to visit and check the accessibility of museums. Our co-workers made every effort to ensure that the Beneficiaries who came to us and others who stayed at home and took advantage of the on-line conference attractions were satisfied.

Visits to the museums were an idea from 2019, but it was not possible to realize it then, because the Foundation lacked the funds for additional accommodation in Warsaw hotels. This year we received such funds, so this important goal was achieved. We checked whether the museums are ready to welcome visually impaired guests. Accessibility is a very high-profile issue today. According to EU directives and decisions of the Polish authorities, all public facilities must be adjusted accordingly. Blind people want to have the same opportunities as other citizens. When these guidelines are taken seriously, there cannot be a museum, to which everyone can come, but not the blind and partially sighted.

What should be available? Both the museum itself and its surroundings. Blind people must have the opportunity to reach the museum and get to its entrance. Similarly, they should be able to move around the museum by themselves. Is it so? Our visits show that much has

improved in this area. The point is that this process must continue and lead to ultimate success. The same applies to museum collections, exhibitions and exhibits presented there. All that makes sense to show should be accessible. The museum should have descriptions printed in Braille and large print, including those depicted by sound. In cases where it is reasonable, copies of the exhibits should be presented, for example in 3D technology. The audio guides should lead the educational path in such a way that the blind can participate in a group tour without losing the substance

Here is the list of museums we visited during REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2020:

National Museum, Warsaw Uprising Museum, Museum of the History of Polish JEWS POLIN, Brane graduation tower in Konstancin-Jeziorna, Museum in Otwock Wielki (a branch of National Museum in Warsaw), Maria Curie-Skłodowska Museum, Copernicus Science Centre, MUSEUM OF KING JAN III'S PALACE AT WILANÓW, Royal Łazienki Museum, Zoological Garden in Warsaw.

VISITS AT WARSAW UNIVERSITIES

The idea of these visits referred to the main theme of the Conference „Education and Activity as Your Chance”. Where to pursue this goal, if not at universities? This is where students are educated to prepare them for work. Can blind and partially sighted people benefit from their educational mission? We wanted to check it out. In the era of the Accessibility Plus program it seems yes, but is it really so? We see progress in making these educational institutions accessible, but there is still much to be desired. We wanted to give our Beneficiaries the opportunity to talk about the mission of the university, their favorable attitude towards our community, practical preparation for teaching the disabled, especially young students with visual impairment. Due to the unprecedented development of technology, eliminating the effects of disability, the blind and partially sighted can already study at various faculties. We have therefore asked many universities to meet with their representatives. Unfortunately, even though, we did not have a lockdown in Poland in September, the universities avoided external contacts and only a few decided to accept our Beneficiaries. These are the universities that did a good job and proved that this is where our young people and, of course, the elderly at the Universities of the Third Age should study: Warsaw University, Józef Piłsudski University, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

HOTELS WHERE OUR BENEFICIARIES STAYED

Despite the epidemic and various restrictions that were in force in September 2020, during the opening of the REHA, more than a thousand guests sat in several large rooms of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw! Over 800 people were Beneficiaries of the project. The remaining guests were special guests, participants from Warsaw, who were not Beneficiaries, and several dozen service people, including many volunteers. The Foundation, with the financial support of State Fund of the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PFRON), organized 3-day accommodation for over 800 Beneficiaries of the project. The choice of hotels was not easy. On the one hand, many of them have difficulties related to Covid-19, others are not suitable for blind guests, and finally various hotels are simply too expensive. In this situation, we warmly thank the hotels that welcomed us at this difficult time. Here is their list of them: U Witaszka, Bella Vista, Atos, Aramis, Fotex, Hit, Poleczki, Wald, Ibis.

REGIONAL REHA FOR THE BLIND CONFERENCES IN THE CAPITAL CITIES OF POLISH PROVINCES (VOEVODESHIPS)

For several years now, our Conference has been organized not only in the capital, but in 16 provincial cities. This is of course due to the popularity of this initiative, the great rehabilitation needs of the community and the growing support from the authorities. The „Accessibility Plus” program is not accidental. State aid for people with disabilities has been growing for years. One of the effects of this support is the possibility of organizing meetings (lectures, discussions, shows, exhibitions) as close to the Beneficiaries as possible. While during the central meeting it is possible to present the world's achievements in this field, during the regional meetings there is a grassroots initiative, realizing our ideas and implementing the latest inventions and methods for improving the blind and partially sighted. Due to the Covid-19 epidemic it was not possible to organize regional meetings before the central conference. Instead of being the final meeting, the central REHA became the initiation of this year's rehabilitation, promotion and integration activities.

THE IDOL COMPETITION 2020

Since the first edition of the International Conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND, the Foundation has been organizing the IDOL competition, in which both individuals and institutions that set an excellent example to others are awarded. In 1999, during the first edition, members of the elite of the blind community identified the individuals and institutions that have done most to emancipate the blind and partially sighted. The distinction was then given to the well rehabilitated blind who have achieved success in their personal and professional lives and to the sighted who have devoted many years of their work to our community. The competition pleased our Beneficiaries and became more and more complex every year. The Foundation initiated the distinction within various categories, such as: education, office, institution etc. candidates. When the number of candidates exceeded the allowed limit, it was decided to organize two stages of the competition: regional and central. Regional competitions are held in all provinces of Poland. The winners of these competitions become candidates in a national competition.

The regional competitions were attended by 8 thousand voters and several hundred candidates. It can be said that the idea of this competition has been accepted and is gaining more and more supporters. We warmly congratulate the winners and wish them success in continuing their activities.

RESULTS OF THE IDOL COMPETITION

Idol of the community:

Lucyna Zaleska – a teacher in the Educational Center for the Blind in Cracow

Anita Nowicka – a well-rehabilitated and successful blind woman

Dominika Putyra – a very active woman with a visual disability.

Media

Andrey Tikhonov – a blind person who comes from Russia but lives and works in Wrocław. He writes articles in various languages. He is very active in the social media too.

Radio Leliwa – creates and popularizes programs related to people with disabilities, including persons with visual problems

A blog Słabowidzący - dobrze myślący and **the YouTube channel „słabowidzący”** – both present life of the blind and partially sighted. The author of them – a student, Mikołaj Jabłoński who is partially sighted himself, together with his friends, in a very pleasant way, shows what life of blind and partially sighted people looks like.

Office opened to the blind:

Krystyna Anna Jurys – a person greatly involved in the issues of people with disabilities

Powiat Disability Evaluation Board in Rybnik – an institution that treats its beneficiaries with great care and caution

An Information Center for the disabled in Olsztyn – an institution opened to people with visual impairments

Education:

A Section for the Students with disabilities in Rzeszow University

Elżbieta Neroj

State Higher Vocational School Memorial of Prof. Stanislaw Tarnowski in Tarnobrzeg

Institution / culture center / company

Silesia Bank Branch in Bytom

The Museum in Tykocin

The Invisible House

THE IDOL COMPETITION IN THE CATEGORIES OF PRODUCT AND COMPANY OF THE YEAR 2020

Every year, during the conference in Warsaw, we always organize the IDOL competition in the categories company and product of the year. Usually, the voting took place within the REHA exhibition. This year, however, because of the pandemic, our beneficiaries voted online for the best company and product of the year.

THE RESULTS OF THE IDOL COMPETITION IN THE CATEGORIES OF THE COMPANY AND PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Company:

1. Altix
2. Caretec, FeelSpace, InView Medical.

Product of the year:

1. Talking and tactile Globe (Altix)
2. OrCamMyEye 2.0 (submitted by InView Medical produced by OrCam)
3. Accessible communication system (StepHear), Independent (Caretec), NaviBelt (FeelSpace), Zeitgeist 2 (Caretec)

SPECIAL IDOLS OF THE YEAR 2020

During the Conference in Warsaw, the Foundation announced two separate lists of IDOL 2020 winners: SPECIAL IDOLS and IDOLS chosen in particular categories, which were selected from among the winners of 16 regional competitions. In the national competition, just like in the regional ones, they were chosen in an online voting. However, the SPECIAL idols were awarded to people by the foundation to emphasize their involvement in the issues, concerning the blind community. The list of SPECIAL IDOLS of the year 2020 include many prominent figures both blind and sighted, who are extremely active, helpful, and devoted to persons with disabilities.

Special idols were given to the following persons:

- Minister Paweł Wdówik – a Plenipotentiary of the Government for Persons with Disabilities
- MR. Piotr Krasuski – the director of the Department of European Social Fund
- Świętokrzyskie Voivodship Office Department of Social Policy
- MR. Wojciech Maj – a great, blind translator and interpreter, a musician, and manager
- Dr inż. arch. Maciej Kłopotowski – an academic teacher, an architect
- MRS. Anna Wandzel – director of Mazovia Department of State Fund of the Rehabilitation of the Disabled
- MR. Sławomir Strugarek – a coo-creator of the “Seeing Assistant” – a collection of mobile application for the blind and partially sighted
- Dr Włodzimierz Wysocki – a great, blind mathematician
- Dr Stanisław Jakubowski – a blind manager, computer scientist, translator with many hobbies and passions
- Maciej Motyka – a specialists in the field of new technologies for the blind
- Dagmara Cichos – a trainer, specialists in various trainings for the disabled and non-disabled people
- Elena Świątkowska – a person with visual impairment, coordinator of many projects for the blind and partially sighted.

Chess that speaks and can play with us from Altix

Welcome to chess, product of the year 2019! When in 1989 Altix produced the first Polish-speaking speech synthesizer, a wide range of equipment and computer programs started to talk, including the chess program. The „whole Poland” was playing it. What was the main goal of the author of this undertaking - Marek Kalbarczyk? The idea was that everyone could play chess. The program created by him was therefore distributed free of charge. This time he designed Braille, computerized chess for the blind - an electronic device with a computerized board and running gear. The development of IT technology and artificial intelligence make it possible to design such inventions. Everybody can play chess: educated and uneducated people, the non-disabled and disabled, the blind and the sighted, the home-dwellers and guests. Everybody plays as they can and everyone can have a lot of fun and satisfaction. Play between weak player and a master is as pleasant as playing with an equal partner. In the first case, it is fun to watch the master, in the second case you can have a reasonable hope that you will win. Also, fascinating are the games with an intelligent computer program, which usually wins, but even more so teaches to play.

Chess looks like a standard sports game with a board size of 520 mm and 50 mm side fields. On the board there are some sticks of sufficient size. White differs from black not only in color, but with a nail on top. Inside the chessboard there is a microcomputer with a speaker that speaks Polish and English. (Other languages are available on special request.) Black fields are four millimeters higher than white. On each field there is a sensor that detects what kind of a beetle is standing there and a magnet that guards the beetle setting. In the area of the E1 field there is a button for traffic approval for white and for D8 for black. At the right edge of the board there are navigation buttons: up, down, left and right and OK button, which allow you to navigate through the software menu and change settings on the board. It is possible to play with the computer or use its hints when instructing how to move the fences. Two people can also play the game - both the sighted and the blind. The computer checks the correctness of the movements and records the course of the game. It is possible to play back the take-offs setting when you return to the game after it is interrupted.

The computer can teach chess and suggest optimal solutions. You can also play remotely over the Internet. It is enough that the opponent has his own talking chess.

Talking, tactile globe - IDOL product from this year's competition

Altix has produced an innovative talking Globe, which is an irreplaceable didactic aid in the study of geography. The Globe solves the problem of Braille's limitations of tactile maps, where a limited number of convex signs can be placed. Thanks to its sound, the globe becomes a modern geography textbook. Underneath the highlights of geographical objects there are sensors, to which a fingertip approach activates a speech synthesizer. Then we hear messages about the objects they point out.

Many pages of text are stored in the memory of the globe. When you bring your finger close to a given country, you will hear the following information: capital city, area, population, information about administrative and national division, the largest rivers, lakes and highest peaks, a musical piece being the anthem of that country, etc.

Under the plastic case there are many such sensors. When inside a relatively small globe it is not possible to place too many of them, some sensors are associated with information about several neighboring geographic and political areas. For example, there is one sensor for the Benelux countries and another for the British Isles.

The diameter of the globe is 40 cm; it has a convex, tactile layer and a colorful under printing. It is attached to the base, which contains the electronics of the device and a control panel with loud/quiet buttons, stop, turn off speech, mode and headphone jack. Color printing is a physical and political map of the world. On the touch layer there are convex: land surfaces of different levels, markings of the most important national capitals, borders of some countries, selected major rivers, zero meridian and other meridians, equator and parallels, Braille abbreviated signatures.

VIEWPLUS TECHNOLOGIES

ViewPlus has been innovative since its inception in 1997, and while 2020 is a difficult year for many around the world, we are very excited about the extremely positive response to Power Dot Braille, which is found in our Columbia 2 and Delta 2 printers. Our unparalleled touch graphics and the world's best braille is a unique combination that sets new standards for desktop printers. The combination of our printers with mobile printing capabilities through the use of Wi-Fi, provided by the Tiger Box, opens up Braille to more new users. This makes it easy to combine touch graphics, braille and a normal print. For scientific purposes, touch graphics is a must. The „IVEO hands on learning” system in version 3 has been enriched with new tools that make it even easier to create sound and touch graphics from existing images. With a talking chart calculator and a Braille Excel plug-in, creating charts

and diagrams is a snap. Our Braille Word plug-in with the „MathType” editor supports both beginners and advanced Braille users in their scientific activities.

Dan Gardner

Executive director, ViewPlus Technologies Inc.

Corvallis, Oregon USA

INVIEW MEDICAL

InView Medical is a company that, for over a decade, has been introducing innovative solutions for the protection of sight on Polish and European markets. It specializes in modern and advanced ophthalmology technologies, constantly looking for novelties that can help both patients with eye diseases or vision disorders and their doctors.

The wide offer of InView Medical includes devices supporting the blind and partially sighted, diagnostic equipment, but also modern preparations for vision protection.

Particularly noteworthy are OrCam’s solutions, OrCam MyEye 2.0 and OrCam MyReader 2.0

These revolutionary devices are designed especially for blind and partially sighted people.

InView Medical also offers a wide range of eye protection products to help treat eye diseases.

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THE BLIND AND INDEPENDENT THANKS TO TECHNOLOGY

Until recently, people with vision impairment have often been victims of social, professional or cultural exclusion. But this is a thing of the past. Advanced technological solutions dedicated to such users, facilitating their independent functioning in normal life, come as the help.

Talking glasses break down barriers

Such a solution is the intelligent OrCam MyEye 2.0, which was quickly nicknamed „talking glasses”. The device’s software is based on artificial intelligence and allows you to read both printed and digital text from any surface, such as a newspaper or smartphone screen.

However, this is only a part of the capabilities of the device, which can also recognize banknotes or objects, and even faces of the people it meets.

Especially the face recognition allows to break down the barriers and works well in all kinds of interactions with other people. The other functions may allow a person so far dependent on the help of others to do the shopping on their own, because a properly configured device allows to find the desired product on the store shelf.

The device is small and lightweight, mounted on a user's glasses, which ensures discretion. For many people it can be an important advantage, allowing to avoid stigmatizing stereotypes. The information is given by means of voice messages and it is to this functionality that the device owes its nickname.

Great potential

OrCam MyEye 2.0 is an opportunity for many people who for various reasons still have to rely on the help of others. Its capabilities are impressive, but most importantly, it can bring people with visual impairments back to independent living and offer them the joy of independence.

The Project entitled „Wielkie Spotkanie Niewidomych, Słabowidzących i Wszystkich Niepełnosprawnych – REHA FOR THE BLIND® IN POLAND 2020” [the great meeting of the blind, visually impaired and all the disabled – REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2020] was co-financed by the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled. The conference was also co-financed by the Self-government of Mazovian Voivodeship and Welfare & Social Projects Department of the Capital City of Warsaw.

The conference was co-financed by the Capital City of Warsaw.

The Chance for the Blind Foundation financed the conference with its own funds as well.

The World Meeting of the Blind, Partially Sighted, their Families and Friends 19th edition of the Conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2021 (10-13th September 2021)

THE INVITATION

We invite you to participate in our next REHA meeting. The 18th edition of REHA proved that it is worth being with us. Despite the pandemic and the difficulties connected with it, over a thousand brave and interesting guests came to Warsaw.

In order to enable as many people as possible to participate in the conference, we have also prepared the largest Internet broadcast in our history. The conference speeches have been interpreted into many languages of the world. This has been very well received not only in Poland, but also in Europe and worldwide. This year, we plan to develop in this field; the conference will be interpreted into several languages: English, Russian, German, Lithuanian, Georgian, Hebrew, Arabic, Romanian, French, Spanish, Italian, Bulgarian, and Swedish.

Do you know how nice it is to present Polish achievements to blind people from all over Europe, the USA, and even more: Asia and Africa? Do you know, what our satisfaction was when blind people from various countries wanted to tell us

about their activities and situation. So we invite you to the September “show” about the world open for the blind, the world of touch and sound, which lacks images, but not active-ness and hope!

REHA 2021 will be a record. Why? Because We hope that the pandemic will stay behind us and then we can all celebrate a great victory over the mean SARS-CoV-2 virus - we blind and visually impaired people together with our relatives and those who are not indifferent to the fate of other human beings. Once again, we will organize a great meeting of experts, scientists, physiotherapists, technologists, IT specialists, guests

from Poland and abroad, which will certainly be bigger than all the previous ones. We expect that the REHA exhibition will be visited by more than 3.000 guests, and about a thousand more people will take part in the sessions and discussion panels held in the Copernicus Science Centre, another thousands in 16 regional capitals and Internet users from around the world. After this years' experience, blind people from countries like Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, not to mention European countries and the North America, know about our meeting.

REHA is growing!

Our goal is to promote the blind among the non-disabled, as well as to promote our country abroad. The Chance for the Blind Foundation wants to present our Polish character, capabilities and innovative initiatives that result from them, hospitality, cordiality, as well as great atmosphere, cuisine and monuments. During REHA we will not only be in Warsaw, but also visit several historical places in Mazovia. The 4 days will be filled with a huge number of attractions, prepared for both stationary and online participants. The beneficiaries will have the opportunity to take part in a substantive session and discussion panels, as well as visit public facilities such as museums, sports facilities, parks, cultural institutions and others. We cordially invite both beneficiaries and co-creators of particular elements of the meeting. Our common goal is to achieve success through the emancipation of the visually impaired. We will warmly welcome the blind who want to be with us as well as representatives of companies and organizations. It should be noted that the Polish rehabilitation market is growing. Polish authorities are allocating more and more funds for these purposes. They have started a very important and long-awaited Accessibility Plus program, thanks to which the blind and visually impaired can get funds to help them purchase special equipment, and facility managers can receive funds to make their buildings accessible. Significant amount of money is spent on the accessibility of information: the Internet and all public websites. For more information, concerning REHA, please register [here](#). If you wish to contact us, please write an email to: reha_in_poland@szansadlaniewidomych.org or milena.rot@szansadlaniewidomych.org. You can also call us, using the following telephone number: +48 664 101 900.

We warmly invite you to Warsaw!

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