



THE ACCESS OF DEAF PEOPLE TO MUSIC (DEAF PEOPLE SURVEY)

CNSE

20/09/2024

Erasmus+ - KA210-ADU – Small Scale partnerships in Adult Education
(Duration: 01.02.2024 – 31.07.2025)

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
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1. INTRODUCTION

Deafness remains an invisible disability that makes deaf people feel excluded from the social and cultural world. There are many obstacles to overcome. There are many obstacles to overcome, and it would take the support of everyone, citizens and politicians alike. Unfortunately, deaf people are left to fend for themselves in many contexts. Unfortunately, deaf people must fend for themselves in many contexts, which results in their exclusion from the social and cultural world.

In fact, even in the field of music, as in so many other spheres of life, there is a lack of interpreting services that enable Deaf people to “feel” and appreciate music during events, concerts, festivals and other types of music based cultural occasions.

Hearing people listen to music every day, to let off steam or to feel carefree. Deaf people would need it too, with the difference that they must use other channels: signs and expressions.

Society is immune to people's difficulties, and people with disabilities are still caught up in methodologies that prefer to exclude them from certain activities rather than include them.

The DEMOO project provides an opportunity for Deaf adults to approach the world of music, without feeling inadequate just because they have a hearing defect that does not allow them to appreciate and enjoy the benefits of music.

2. OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the D.E.M.O.O. project is to create an inclusive learning environment that allows deaf adults to enjoy music by encouraging the breaking down of communication barriers and providing opportunities for expression, social inclusion and emotional well-being.

Specific Objectives:

- To develop an inclusive and experiential learning model aimed at Deaf adults to improve their sensory perceptions (visual and tactile) to better appreciate music.
- To promote the inclusion of the Deaf community in social life in the musical field as a form of socialization, communication, emotional well-being and stimulation of creativity.
- To develop the skills of educators of deaf adults and music professionals to be able to recognize the individual needs of deaf people and to know how to support them in their learning.
- Music as a form of communication, socialization and well-being.

3. SURVEY CHARACTERISTICS

The first phase of the D.E.M.O.O. project consists of collecting the experiences of deaf people with music through a survey. The survey from which this study on access to music for deaf people is based is made up of nine questions that analyze the knowledge and experience of professionals in the world of music with the accessibility of music for deaf people.

Data protection

The questionnaire has been carried out always maintaining the anonymity of the interviewees.

Platform

The Microsoft Forms platform was used to obtain responses, so that the participants, music professionals, could respond comfortably from anywhere, through mobile devices and computers, by simply accessing a link.

Languages

The survey was developed using the oral and sign languages of each participating country.

Diffusion

For its diffusion we have resorted to entities and professionals of the music world.

4. MAIN RESULTS FOR SPAIN

Age and sex

The survey registered a higher contribution from women (68%) than from men (31%).

The highest percentage of response was among people aged 40-59 years with 51% followed by people aged 19-39 years with 30%.

1. Sexo:

Masculino	31
Femenino	68
Prefiero no decirlo	2



2. Edad:

14-18	6
19-39	30
40-59	51
60-79	14
>80	0



Deafness

More than half of the people who responded to the survey are deaf since birth (57%) and 21% are totally deaf.

3. ¿Cuál es tu nivel de sordera?

● Total	21
● Parcial	11
● De nacimiento	57
● Adquirida	12



Frequency of listening to music

A very similar percentage, 17% and 18% respectively, listen to music several times a week or daily. A lower percentage than people who listen to music almost never with 35%.

4. ¿Con qué frecuencia escuchas música?

● Diario	18
● Varias veces a la semana	17
● Ocasionalmente	31
● Raramente	35

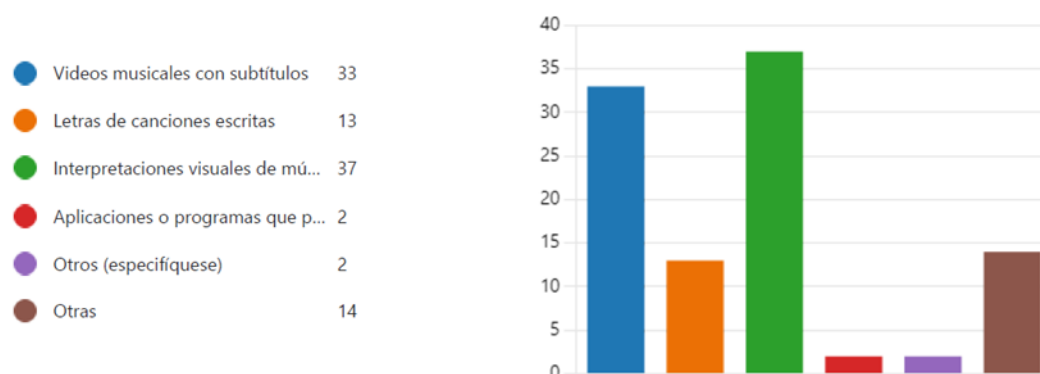


Methods used to access music

The most common option chosen by deaf people to access music is visual interpretations of the music with 37% of the responses, followed closely by music videos with subtitles with 33% of the responses.

To a lesser extent they use other methods, such as Bluetooth that connects the music directly to their hearing aids, videos with signers, specific applications or song lyrics.

5. ¿Qué métodos utilizas para acceder a la música? (Seleccione todas las que correspondan)

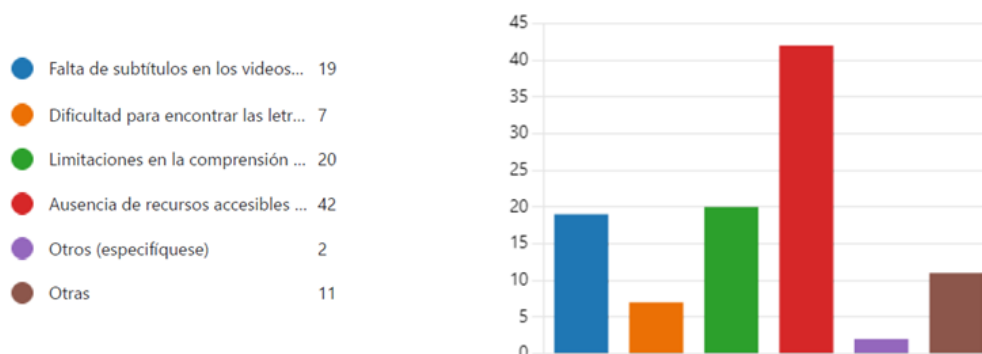


Barriers to accessing music

Almost half of the people surveyed find that their main difficulty in accessing music is the absence of specific accessible resources (42%).

Far behind with approximately 20% of the responses, we find the lack of subtitles in music videos and limitations in understanding the lyrics or meaning of songs.

6. ¿A qué retos te has enfrentado al intentar acceder a la música siendo una persona sorda?



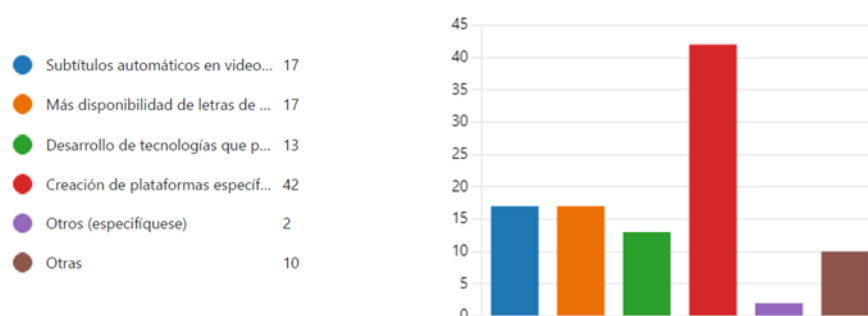
Improvements or solutions to facilitate your access to music

Almost half of the people surveyed believe that the solution would be the creation of specific music platforms for deaf people with 42% of the responses.

Far behind with 17% of the responses, automatic subtitles in music videos and more availability of song lyrics in accessible formats.

With a percentage of responses of 10%, we find others such as deaf signers who transmit music visually, musical groups with deaf interpreters, etc.

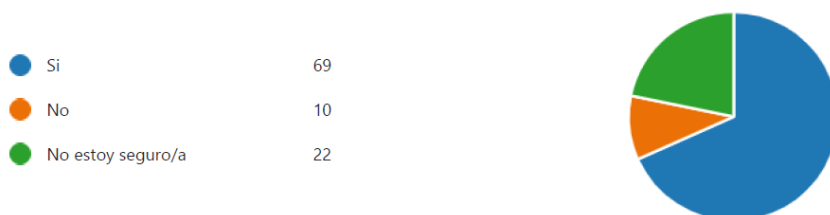
7. ¿Qué mejoras o soluciones crees que podrían facilitar el acceso a la música a las personas sordas?



Connection with culture and participation in society

Almost 70% of the people surveyed believe that the lack of accessibility in music negatively affects their participation in society and their culture, compared to only 10% who believe it does not.

8. ¿Crees que la falta de acceso a la música afecta a tu conexión con la cultura o la sociedad en general?



Positive experiences in their access to music

Their most positive experiences with music have mostly been when they have attended shows that had interpreters or deaf people specialized in music or adapted tools such as balloons, backpacks or vibrating elements.

Additional contributions or comments

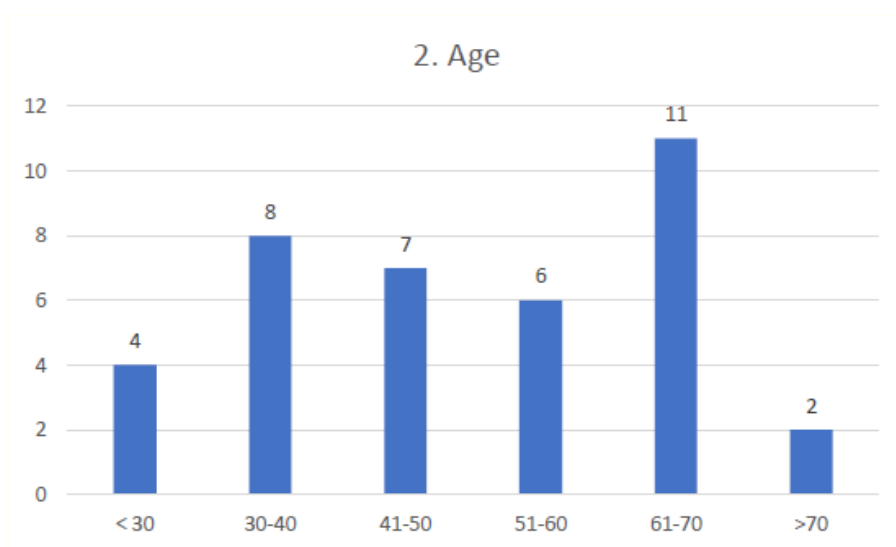
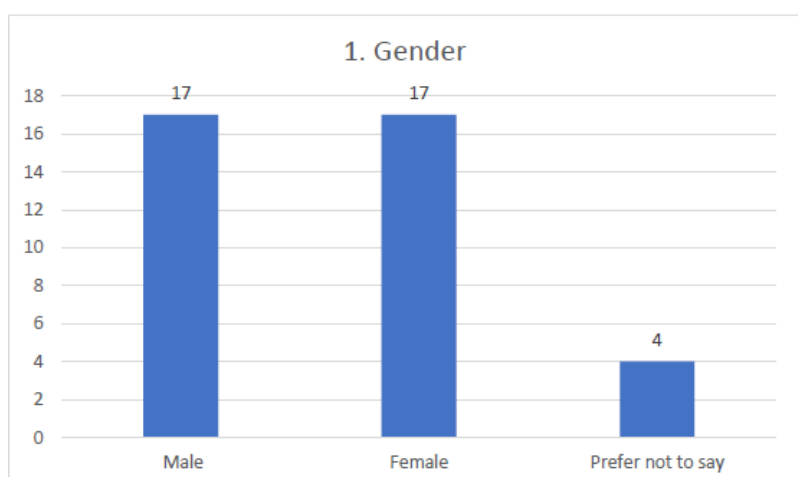
As contributions to improve their access to music, it is important to have musical training from an early age and the presence of sign language and deaf culture in music.

5. MAIN RESULTS FOR ITALY (TUCEP AND AUSRU)

Age and sex

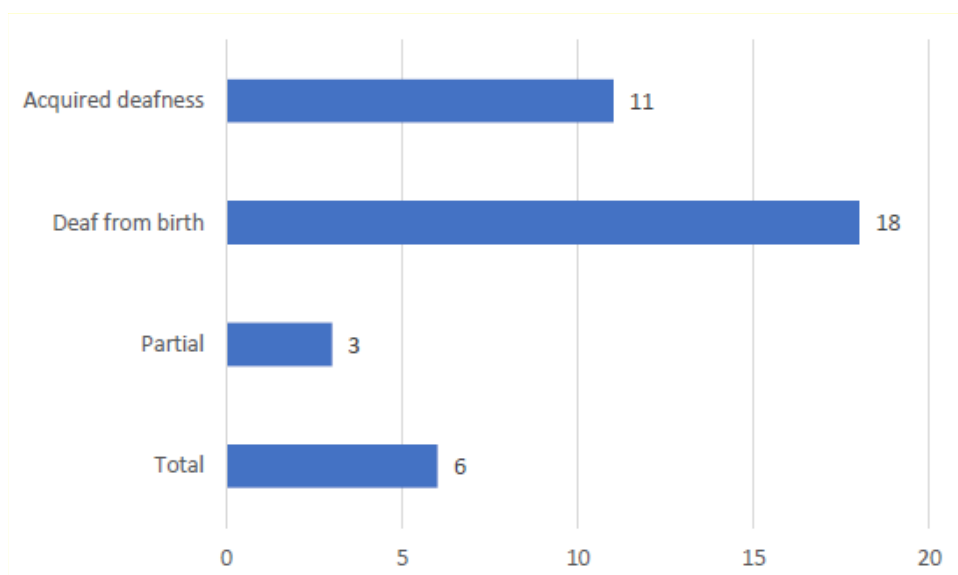
Of the 38 people who responded to the survey, 17 were men, 17 were women and 4 preferred not to say.

The highest percentage of response was among people aged 61-70 years followed by people aged 30-50 years.



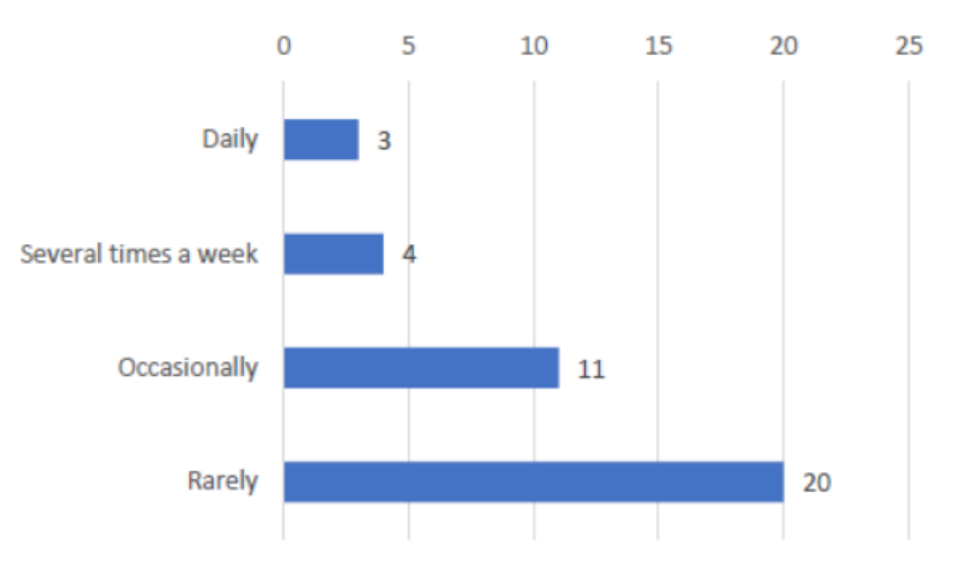
Deafness

More than half of the people who responded to the survey are deaf since birth (18) and 11 people had acquired deafness.



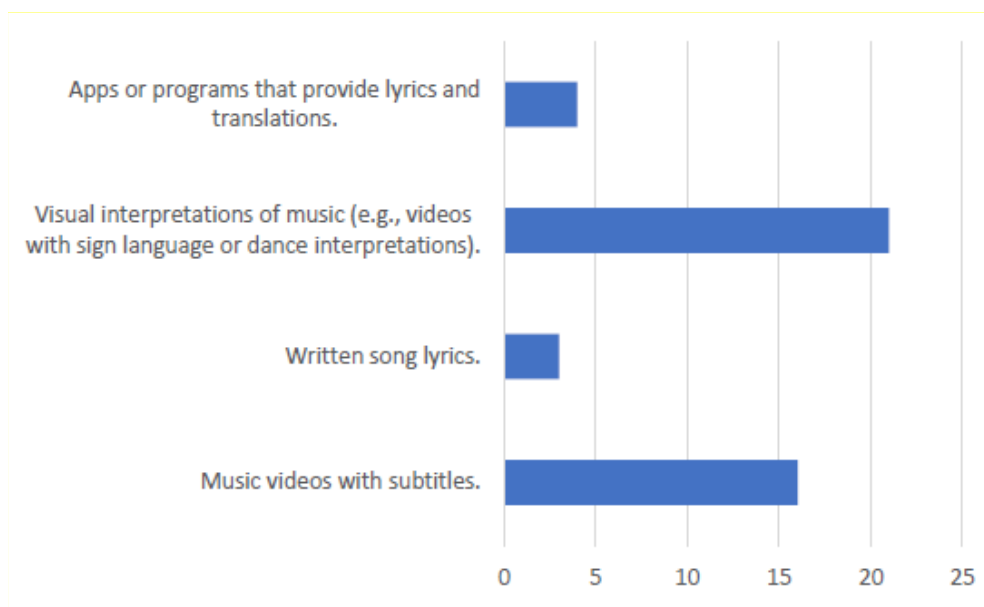
Frequency of listening to music

A very similar number of people, 3 and 4 people respectively, listen to music several times a week or daily; a much lower number than the number of people who hardly ever listen to music, with 20 people.



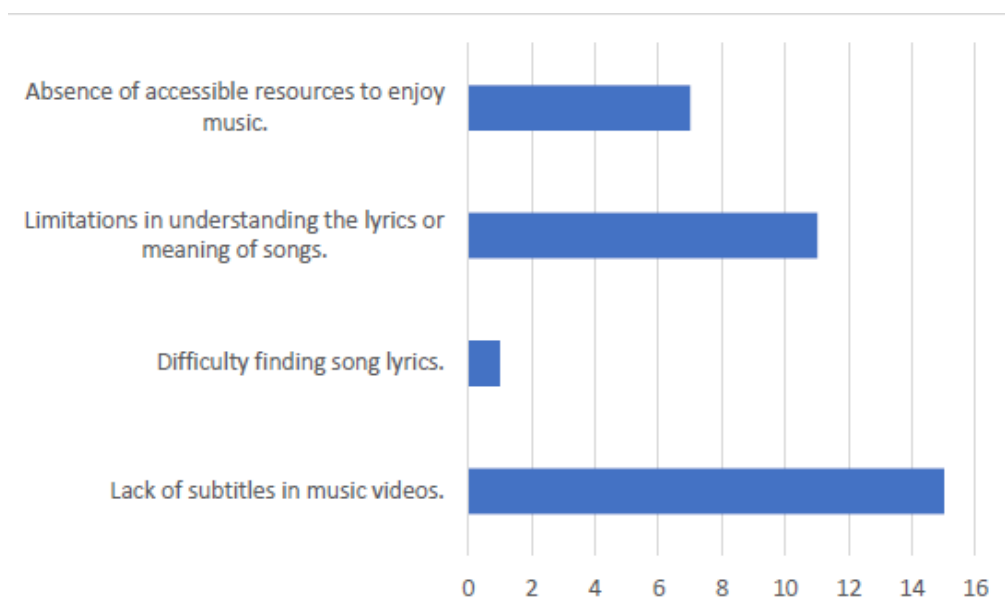
Methods used to access music

The most common option chosen by deaf people to access music is visual interpretations of the music with 21 responses, followed closely by music videos with subtitles with 16 responses.



Barriers to accessing music

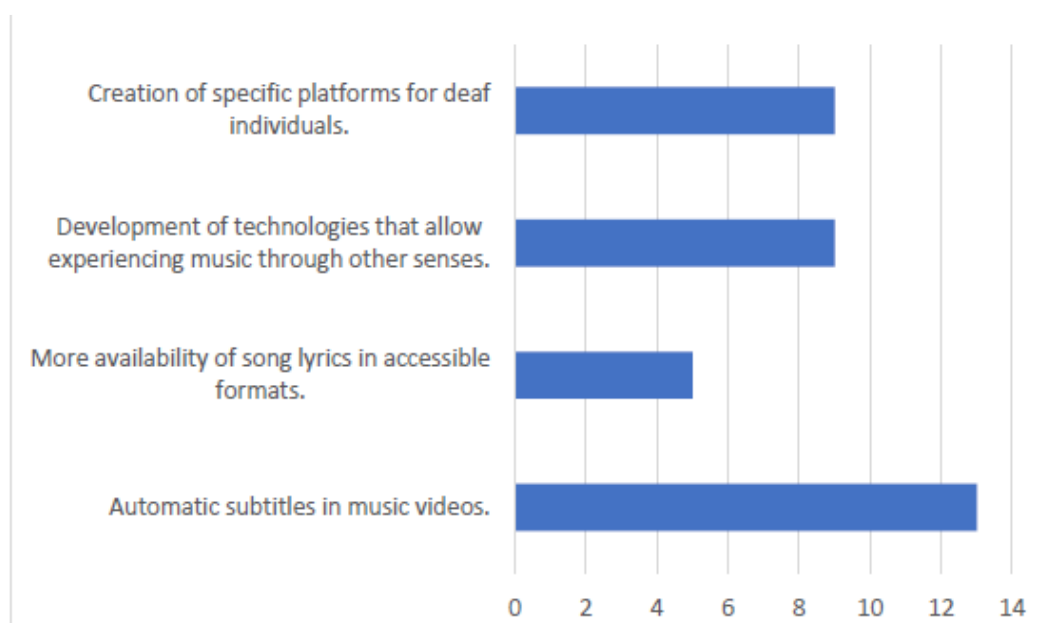
15 people responded that lack of subtitling in music videos, 11 lack of understanding of lyrics, 7 lack of accessible resources, and 1 difficulty in finding song lyrics.



Improvements or solutions to facilitate your access to music

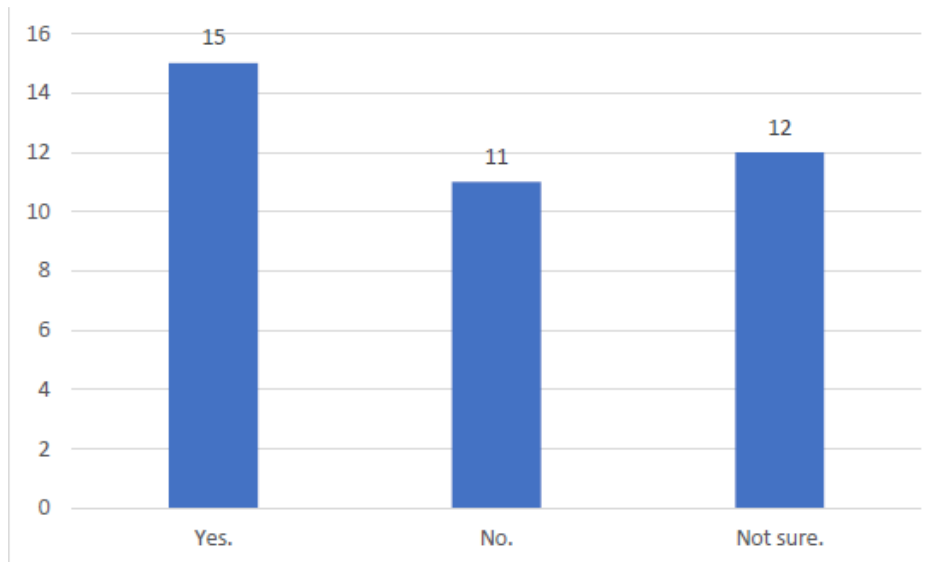
Most people (13) responded that automatic subtitling in music videos followed by the creation of specific platforms (9) and the development of new technologies to experience music.

As suggestions they added music events with giant screens that include subtitles and music connected to visual movements.



Connection with culture and participation in society

15 people responded that lack of access to music affects their connection to culture and society. 12 people who were not sure and 11 that it did not affect.



Positive experiences in their access to music

The following experiences were collected as positive ones:

- Accessible Sanremo LIS: Italian Song Festival made accessible from 2020 thanks to Italian Sign Language performers.
- Attending events and musical performances with sign language interpretation.
- Listening to music with subtitles.
- Touching instruments to feel vibrations.

Additional contributions or comments

Some of the most relevant comments were:

- Its important that hearing or deaf interpreters understand the meaning in order to translate accurately into LIS for the purpose of covering emotions.
- Many people do not understand what it means to be deaf.

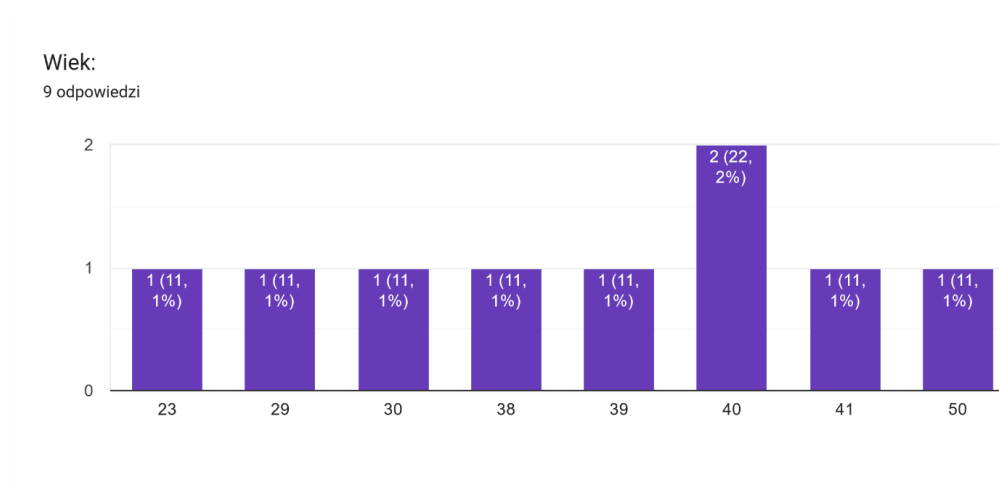
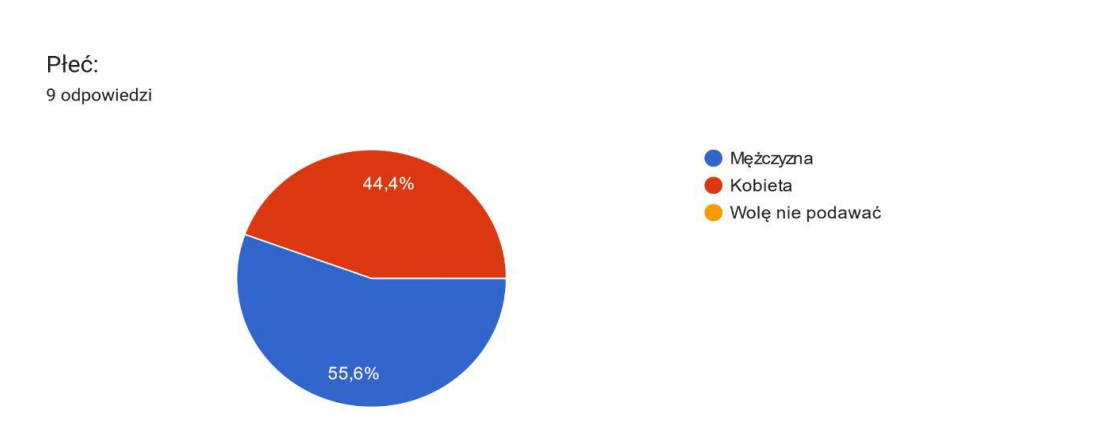
- The interpreters should not only perform songs, but use body movement to convey the rhythm.

6. MAIN RESULTS FOR POLAND (PITÁGORAS)

Age and sex

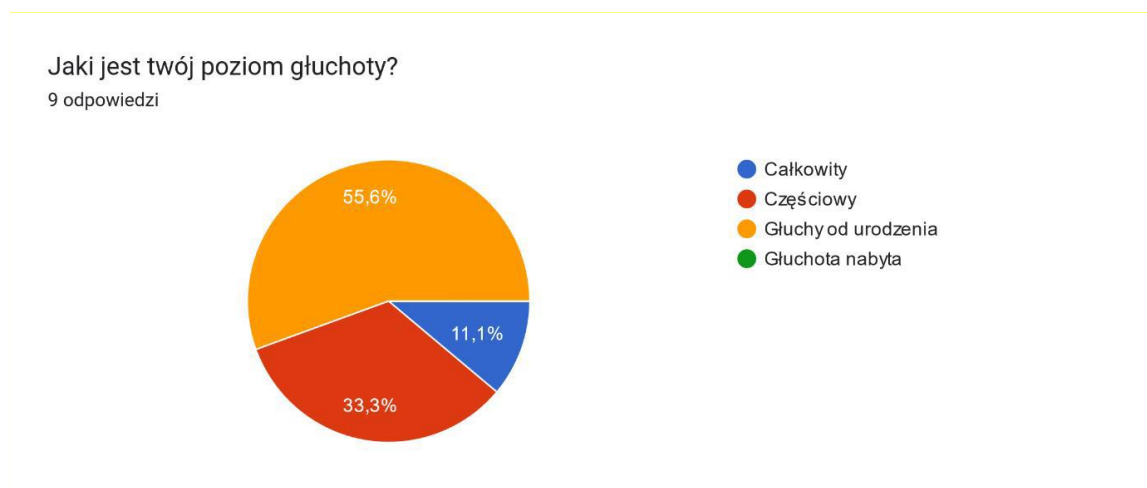
9 people took part in the survey addressed to the deaf, including 4 women and 5 men.

The respondents were aged 23-50 - one person aged 23, 29, 30, 38, 39, 41 and 50, and two people aged 40.



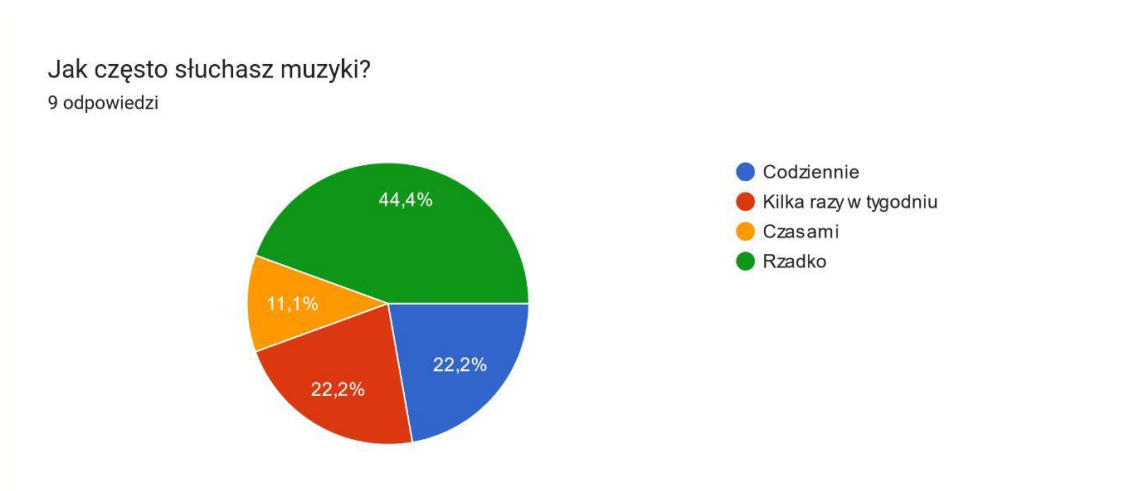
Deafness

They assessed their level of deafness as: complete (1 person), partial (3 people), and most of the respondents were deaf from birth (5 people).



Frequency of listening to music

The frequency of listening to music was at different levels. The majority (44%, i.e. 4 people) indicated that they rarely listen to it. 1 person listened to music only sometimes. In turn, the remaining 4 people admitted to more frequent contact with music: 2 people several times a week and 2 people every day.



Methods used to access music

The ways of experiencing music were varied, the respondents indicated four main methods: music videos with subtitles (5 people), Written song lyrics (3 people), Visual interpretations of music (e.g. sign language films, dance interpretations) (3 people), applications or programs providing texts and translations (3 people).

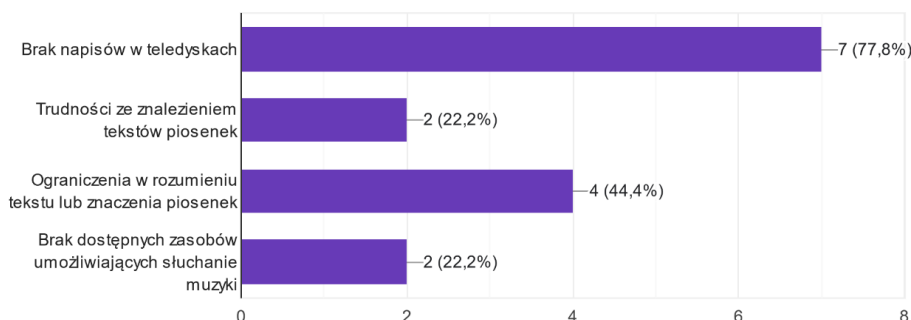


Barriers to accessing music

There was a similarly wide range of problems that deaf people faced when trying to listen to music. Most often, they indicated the lack of subtitles in music videos (7 people) and limitations related to understanding the lyrics or the meaning of songs (4 people). Fewer respondents indicated problems with finding song lyrics (2 people), as well as the lack of available resources for listening to music (2 people).

Z jakimi wyzwaniami musiałeś się zmierzyć, próbując uzyskać dostęp do muzyki jako osoba niesłysząca?

9 odpowiedzi

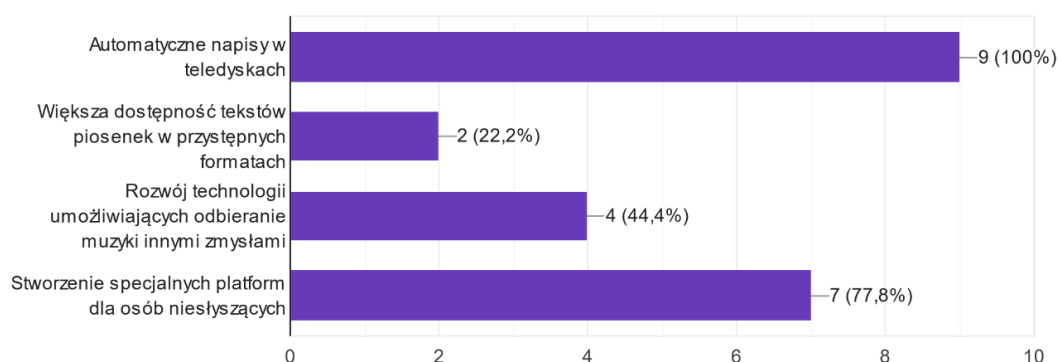


Improvements or solutions to facilitate your access to music

When it comes to solutions that can improve access to music for deaf people, the most popular was the idea of automatic subtitles in music videos (100%, 9 people), as well as the idea of creating a special platform for the deaf (78%, 7 people). Other indicated solutions were the development of technologies enabling the reception of music with other senses (44%, 4 people) and greater availability of song lyrics in accessible formats (22%, 2 people).

Jakie ulepszenia lub rozwiązania, Twoim zdaniem, mogłyby ułatwić dostęp do muzyki osobom niesłyszącym?

9 odpowiedzi

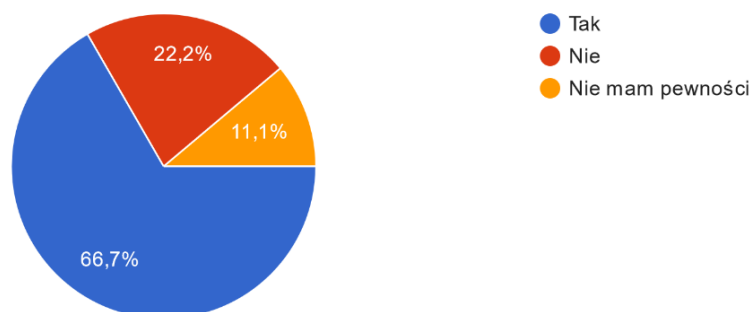


Connection with culture and participation in society

The majority of respondents, as many as 67% (6 people), believed that their problem with access to cultural content in the form of music affects their relationship with society and culture. 22% (2 people) of the respondents had the opposite opinion, their lack of access to music had no impact on their lives. 1 person was unsure about it.

Czy uważasz, że brak dostępu do muzyki wpływa na Twój związek z kulturą lub ogólnie społeczeństwem?

9 odpowiedzi



Positive experiences in their access to music

A much smaller proportion of respondents, only 3 people, had positive experiences with access to music. They described them as follows:

"a sign language interpreter at a concert organized by city offices abroad, where the interpreter previously prepared the lyrics and the appropriate sound and rhythm and could then "describe" the song using sign language."

"Possibilities of learning to dance" - It was probably about the ability to feel and understand music through body movements, both imitating the dance of hearing people and feeling the rhythm of loud music through vibrations.

"Musical performances with sign language translation, displaying song lyrics on screens during concerts".

Additional contributions or comments

Finally, one person pointed to desirable changes in the law that could definitely improve the accessibility of music for the deaf: "Legal establishment of mandatory disclosure of song lyrics in music videos and in music available on the Internet."

7. CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn:

- It is evident that deaf people encounter great difficulties and barriers to access music, being the absence of specific resources, the main one.
- These barriers have a very negative effect on their participation in the culture and society in which they live, resulting in discrimination in access to culture.
- These barriers may be the reason why most of the people surveyed do not enjoy music frequently.
- They currently access it mostly through visual interpretations of it and music videos with captioning, but they do not see it as sufficient and their access would improve with specific resources, such as music platforms for deaf people, new technologies, etc.
- Their most positive experiences with music have mostly been when they have attended shows with specialized music interpreters, subtitles or adapted tools such as balloons, backpacks or vibrating elements.
- As contributions to improve their access to music, they emphasize having musical training from an early age and the presence of sign language and deaf culture in music as well as the use of new technologies or specialized platforms.

