

The 10th anniversary educational seminar of ANEPL brought inspiration from home and abroad

On April 18-19, 2026, the 10th anniversary educational seminar of the Association of Deaf Educators and Deaf Lecturers of Czech Sign Language (ANEPL) took place in the premises of the Fortress in Prague.

The two-day meeting offered deaf educators, teachers and lecturers of Czech Sign Language new professional knowledge, a space to share experiences and inspiration from the Czech Republic and abroad. The tenth year has confirmed that such meetings are of enormous importance for the professional community.

text by Ivana Hay Tetauerová
photo ANEPL Archive



Group photo of participants at the 10th anniversary educational seminar of ANEPL

After the initial welcome and presentation of news from ANEPL's activities, the following a lecture by **Ivana Hay**, a teacher and vice-chair of ANEPL, and **Jaroslav Struhařová**, a teacher and member of the ANEPL committee. Together, they presented the most interesting findings from the international conference ICED 2025 in Rome, which is one of the most important world meetings of experts dealing with the education of the deaf. The conference had an extraordinary symbolic significance because after 145 years it returned to Italy, where the famous Milan Congress took place in 1880. At that time, it led to the long-term suppression of sign languages in the education of the deaf. The current ICED, on the other hand, emphasizes the importance of sign languages, bilingual education, Deaf culture and the active involvement of Deaf experts in decision-making processes.



The next part of the program was dedicated to professions that are crucial for the Deaf community. **Kristýna Šimková** from the Czech Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters (ČKTZJ) presented the results of the census of interpreters and translators of Czech Sign Language. **Radka Nováková**, Operations Director of Pevnost, followed up on the results of the census of Czech Sign Language lecturers. ANEPL Chairwoman **Žaneta Petráturová** subsequently presented the upcoming census of deaf educational workers in the Czech Republic. Although the individual presentations focused on different professions, together they showed how important quality data is not only for planning educational activities, but also for professional support or promoting the needs of the community towards state institutions.



ANEPL Committee with foreign lecturers

The biggest attractions of the seminar were two foreign guests from Great Britain. **Dani Sive**, the deaf director of the Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children in London, presented the functioning of one of the most famous schools for deaf children in the United Kingdom. In his lecture, he focused on bilingual education based on British Sign Language (BSL) and written English. The presentation of the BSL curriculum, thanks to which British Sign Language is taught systematically - similarly to other school subjects, aroused great interest. Sive also emphasized the importance of deaf educators as linguistic and personality role models and the need to create an environment that supports children's positive relationship to their own language, culture and identity.

No less inspiring was the lecture by **Lesley Reeves Costi**, the deaf principal of Heathlands School for the Deaf. In her presentation, she presented her professional journey from teacher to school leadership and opened the topic of Deaf leadership, i.e. the representation of deaf people in leadership positions. She emphasized that deaf children need to see successful deaf adults around them who can be natural role models for them. She also devoted a significant part of the lecture to the development of reading and literacy through the connection of British Sign Language with written English. Both foreign lectures provoked lively discussion and were among the best-rated points of the program.

The second day of the seminar was opened by the President of ASNEP **Lucie Sedlářková Pýlpánová**. In her presentation, she introduced the activities of ASNEP and the Expert Commission on Education Issues (EKOV), which has been dedicated to improving the conditions of education for pupils for a long time.

lecture, she introduced the Znakopedia project and drew attention to the diversity of language experiences of deaf people. The discussion included language deprivation, autism, neurological differences and other factors that can influence the form of sign language.

She emphasized that a different way of signing does not necessarily indicate low language competence, but is often related to the individual experiences and needs of a particular person. The topic aroused great interest among the participants and offered a number of ideas for pedagogical and teaching practice.

The 10th anniversary educational seminar of the ANEPL once again confirmed the importance of such meetings for the professional community of deaf educators and Czech Sign Language lecturers. In addition to new professional knowledge, it also brought a space for sharing experiences, establishing contacts and inspiration from the Czech Republic and abroad.

The organizers thanked all the speakers, interpreters to/from international airport system and the participants and is already looking forward to the next meeting at 11. educational ANEPL seminars in 2027.

ANEPL celebrated 10 years of its activity



and students are
The participants gained

overview of the commission's
cooperation with the ministries
you, commenting on
legislative proposals
and resolving suggestions
coming directly
from practice.

The final expert block
belonged to
psychotherapist and
linguist **Kateřina**

Holubová, an expert on
the topic of Deaf+

and language development
of deaf people. In her