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PRESENTATION TITLE: *Across Borders: Supporting Families throughout Europe*

ABSTRACT

FEPEDA is a non-governmental umbrella organization founded in 1990 representing associations of parents and friends of deaf and hard of hearing children at a European level. Its mission is to promote the equal rights of deaf and hard of hearing children and young people and their families across Europe, by enhancing their life opportunities and their quality of life, irrespective of their social, cultural and financial status.

Representing families of hearing impaired children and young people currently from 20 European countries FEPEDA works in a multicultural environment, each member country having its own specific needs and issues of concern. The results of the previous family surveys carried out by FEPEDA show that despite the similarities there are still significant differences between the European countries in many issues e.g. early intervention and education. This presentation gives an overview of FEPEDA's activities and advocacy work introducing how FEPEDA provides support to European families coming from different backgrounds. The presentation also highlights the importance of cooperation and collaboration across borders valuing diversity and encouraging constant sharing and learning from each other.