

What is speech-to-text?

How does it help us?

About 50 million Europeans are affected by deafness and hearing loss.

The term "hard of hearing" is used as a definition that covers all the variations of hearing loss, ranging from light hearing loss to adult, profoundly deafened users. Unlike pre-lingually deaf people, hard of hearing people develop and use the *spoken language*.

Because of the hearing loss and therefore the decreased capacity of receiving auditory information, hard of hearing and late deafened people are reliant *on visual text* to ensure access to information on equal basis with hearing people.

Hearing aids or Cochlear Implants are **not enough** in complex auditory environments, such as big conferences or multiple speaker gatherings. Therefore inductive hearing loop systems might not suit everyone as they are not able to follow many speakers with hearing and lipreading alone. To make matters worse, the equipment tends to malfunction.

Speech-to-text reporting provides a crucial help to hard of hearing and late deafened people. The speech-to-text reporter writes down everything that is been said and the hard of hearing person can read the spoken discussion in the form of text. This text can be read on a computer screen or if there are multiple speech-to-text users, on a large screen via a projector.

The visual way of showing what is being said enables people with hearing loss to understand the conversation and to take full and equal part in any given situation on the same level as hearing people with accurate and full information.

Speech-to-text translations serve the same purpose as sign language for pre-lingually deaf people. However, in addition, they support any person who might find it easier to understand written rather than spoken language, for example in a situation where there are variations in accents spoken.

It is our door to information and equal participation!