

Visually impaired people and the informatics

Motto: „Nothing about us without us!”

If we see a blind person on the bus, we immediately start to feel pity for him and wonder how it would be if we lost our sight. Even more we close our eyes and feel very uncomfortable and lost because ignore that sense that is used the get the most information for the orientation. In the next moment we open our eyes and relieve that we are not in this situation. After this experience we feel not only pity for the blind people but think they are as „lost” in the world just like we have been before with closed eyes.

But it isn't true! Visually impaired people can get the information they need with help of the other senses (hearing, touching) and it makes them possible to handle themselves in every field of life. They can manage themselves in the world of informatics too by using aid devices that work up all the information they can get through the senses except for the sight.

The purpose of this presentation is to introduce devices and practices that are used and well-known among visually impaired people and that are not described as the unauthentic experiences of sighted people.

The topics of the presentation are:

Brief introduction of IT Foundation for the Blind (activities, purposes)

How do blind people use the computer? (Principles of JAWS, NVDA, Magic)

What does universal design mean? (Accessibility, how can you realize equality in accessibility?)

Assistive hardware for visually impaired people (Focus, Ruby, Topaz, Onyx)

Software used by visually impaired people (Standard: JAWS, NVDA, Magic, ZoomText, software developed by IT Foundation for the blind: BeLin, Dex)

Usage of smart devices (TalkBack, VoiceOver)

Presentation of the Lapról hangra Android app

Brief presentation of other useful apps on smart phones