Special Olympics and Easy to Read Language
Why easy to read language?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy Level</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Provided Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Level</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Level</td>
<td>36.85%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Level</td>
<td>35.55%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Level</td>
<td>18.05%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- Statistik Austria PIAAC 2011/13 (average of Austrian and German population)
- General assessment of websites, contracts, brochures
Why easy to read language

- **A1** 60%: easy to read language and plain language
- **B1**: everyday language
- **C1** 68%: complex language
- **C2**

www.capito.eu
Barrier-free Information – Easy Language

• For 10% of the Population it is indispensable
• For 40% of the Population it is necessary
• For 100% of the Population it is comfortable and a quality feature

Access for all!

(Neumann P.: Action Concept of the Cologne Disability Policy, Chairman of the European Institute Design for All in Germany e.V.)
Why do you need to access information?

- To make (good) decisions
- To exercise your rights
- To know your duties
- To get orientation

Autonomous life vs. depending on others
Easy Language and Core values of Special Olympics

Easy Language helps people/athletes to:

• learn new things, understand the rules of competition and self management of personal fitness and health
• know the rights and stand up for them
• make their own decisions
• take part in sports and everyday life opportunities
• Greater independence from others

Inclusion starts with Easy Language!
Special Olympics International
Global SOI strategy in Easy Language

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS CHANGING IN THE NEXT 4 YEARS?**

- 2021
  - Focus more on sports and fitness at the local level.
- 2022
  - Be more inclusive in hiring.
- 2023
  - Reach out to communities that have less inclusive opportunities.
  - Use technology to reach more people and create more activities.
- 2024
  - Become an athlete-led movement through the Unified Leadership approach.
  - Provide more training and tools for volunteers and staff.
  - Focus more on results. We will evaluate and measure the results of our programs to see how we are progressing towards our vision.
  - Share our stories and show our impact in a way that inspires donors and supports fundraising.

**WHAT IS OUR VISION AND MISSION THAT GUIDES THIS PLAN?**

**OUR VISION**
Our VISION is an inclusive world for all, driven by the power of sport, through which people with intellectual disabilities live active, healthy and fulfilling lives.

**OUR MISSION**
Our MISSION is to provide year-round sports training and competition. Both children and adults with intellectual disabilities can:

- improve physical fitness
- show courage
- experience joy

This gives athletes the chance to share their gifts, skills, and friendship with the community.

**UNIFIED LEADERSHIP**
Leadership where people without intellectual disabilities can learn from and empower people with intellectual disabilities.
Special Olympics Israel

“We believe that people with ID should have the same rights and choices as everyone else in society.”
Hello,

In this questionnaire, there are questions about:
- things you want doctors and nurses to know about you.

When you answer the questions,
- please try to tell us about yourself as much as you can.
That way, the medical team (for example: doctors, nurses) can get to
- know you better.
That way, the medical team can give you better medical care.

You can answer the questions by yourself.
- You can answer the questions with a person who knows you.

For example: a family member, your caregiver, or your regular doctor.
- You can answer some of the questions by yourself,
- and some of the questions with another person.

You can go back and forth between questions to change your answers, if needed.

After you answer all the questions,
you will receive a letter with the information that you gave.
You can give this letter to the medical team who takes care of you.
The letter will tell the medical team what you need to get accessible (right for you, suitable) medical care.

Good luck.
Online platform: „Understanding Health Easily“
Special Olympics World Games
Berlin 2023
The 5 pillars of Easy Language at the organizational level of the World Games

- **Accessibility**
  - translate different types of documents into Easy German and Easy English.
  - develop tools (e.g. glossaries) to enable everybody to use Easy Language
- **Involvement**
  - involve athletes in different kinds of projects, e.g. in our review groups
- **Raise awareness**
  - offer trainings and workshops on Easy German and Easy English, take part in special actions, like the National Reading (Aloud) Day (today 😊)
The 5 pillars of Easy Language at the organizational level of the World Games

**Network**
- aim to create a network with other SO programs and, in a more general way, with different organizations that use Easy German / Easy English, in order to exchange information and / or documents and to create a broader network.

**Science**
- We take part / conduct scientific studies on Easy German / Easy English (Easy Italian “linguaggio facile” is also possible)
Thank you