# Concept Note: WFDB 2nd Technical SHAPES Workshop

## Geneva –11-13 July 2022

## **Background**

The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) is a global non-governmental advocacy organization by and for persons with deafblindness. WFDB is a consortium member of the SHAPES Project (Smart and Health Ageing through People Engaging in Supportive Systems), an Innovation Action funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme involving a total of 14 European countries. WFDB’s role in SHAPES is to bring the perspective of the deafblind community, coordinate and facilitate the participation of older persons with deafblindness across Europe into the project and contribute with the unique knowledge and understanding of deafblind people and their diverse needs, including through the production of more evidence and recommendations to improve inclusion of persons with deafblindness. [More information on WFDB’s role in the project can be found here.](https://wfdb.eu/shapes-project/)

## **Rationale**

The 1st Technical Workshop was held online due to COVID restrictions in December 2021.

The 2nd Technical Workshop will be held in person in Geneva and includes the participation of the Executive Council (EC), which is the main governance organ of WFDB, elected by the WFDB General Assembly and supported by the Regional Representatives as an advisory group, as well as representatives of the European Deafblind Union (EDBU). Therefore, one of its aims is to ensure proper knowledge of, and ownership of the ongoing work of SHAPES at the EC level, as well as strengthen ties with European deafblind organisations and SHAPES partners.

This workshop must be seen as an excellent opportunity to connect SHAPES with persons with deafblindness, as well as gather feedback and engage in discussions with this particular sample group. SHAPES partners and representatives are invited to the meeting and encouraged to make use of this unique opportunity to gather the input and views on research being conducted, technological solutions, accessibility considerations, etc.

1. More concretely, the 2nd SHAPES Technical workshop objectives can be summarised as follows:
2. Provide updates and information on the progress of the SHAPES project to the EC, EDBU and strengthen ties between WFDB and Maynooth University in Ireland, as project leaders, as well as with other consortium partners.
3. Involve participants and guide interpreters in the testing of two different digital solutions, in collaboration with SHAPES technical partners, as part of Pilot Theme 7: Cross-border Health Data Exchange Supporting Mobility and Accessibility for Older Individuals.
4. Gather stories and good practices on older persons with deafblindness that could be relevant for WFDB 2nd Global Report, and also SHAPES stories.
5. Collect information from WFDB EC members on the needs, barriers and priorities of older persons with deafblindness on different topics relevant for SHAPES such as physical and digital accessibility, technology and care systems.
6. Create opportunities for future participation of persons with deafblindness in SHAPES activities, including dialogue workshops and WFDB’s 3rd technical workshop, which is planned to be held in 2023.