



<https://www.uni-siegen.de/zew/insign/>

Newsletter

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News

The InSign project, “InSign Advancing inclusive education through International Sign”, is an ERASMUS+ funded project that started on 1st of November 2019 under the coordination of the University of Siegen (DE) and a partnership of another 4 organizations, namely, Instituto Politecnico Do Porto in Portugal, European Association of Career Guidance in Cyprus, the Hellenic Mediterranean University in Greece and the Univerza v Mariboru in Slovenia.



InSign Project partners gathered at the Kick-off-Meeting in Siegen



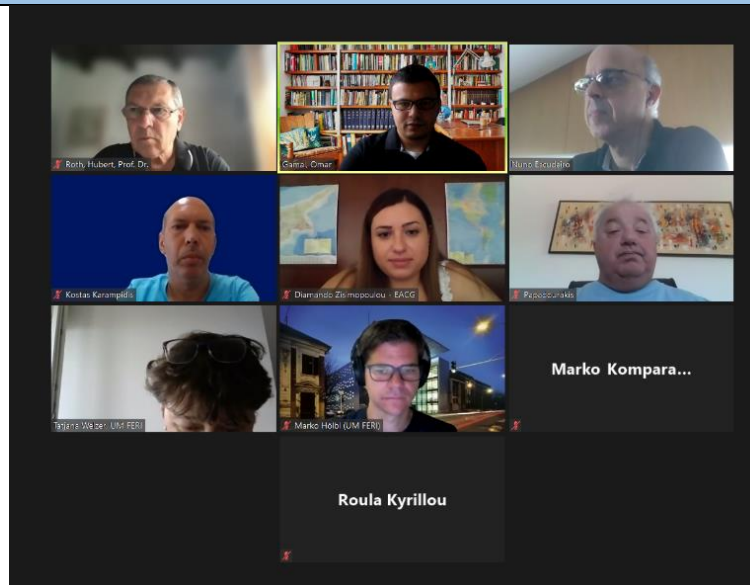
Deaf students experience difficulties in communicating with non-deaf as well as with other deaf students from different nationalities due to the different languages used by both. Communication among deaf students through written text is not effective since deaf people are used to visual sign languages and not to oral languages being expressed orally or in writing.

InSign promotes the internationalization of education and the international mobility of deaf students which is a specific cluster in the European Higher Education Area where students have little support that might be largely extended by InSign. By raising awareness and promoting the use of International Sign by deaf and non-deaf users, InSign tears down barriers to communication with deaf students and opens the doors of internationalization and globalization to young deaf students.

In this project we intend to develop:

- An **automatic translator** from several European languages to International Sign using a 3D avatar
- A **certified course on International Sign** and a **MOOC** addressed to the deaf and non-deaf that want to learn a simple sign language
- A **book with ISBN** published in five European languages describing the main aspects of IS as a globalized lingua franca

InSign partners Online meetings



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the InSign partners had to adopt their meetings and work process according to the safety measures taken by all countries. Therefore, the project continues its work between the partners through online communications. The partners had seven online meetings discussing their work progress and setting their next goals.

The INSIGN project encompasses three Intellectual Outputs (IO) namely IO1 “Communication challenges”, IO2 “Automatic International Sign Translator” and IO3 “International Sign Certified Course, and MOOC”. At this point, we have reached our goals for the first 15 months of the project.

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 1: Communication Challenges

The aim of this Intellectual Output is to grasp a first-hand informed understanding of the main challenges faced by deaf and non-deaf students, teachers and staff to communicate with each other in educational settings, in the classroom and in daily life.

The main achievements are:

- Five national reports discussing:
 - The communication difficulties faced by deaf people in educational settings and daily life
 - Characteristics, legal status, and learning of National Sign Languages
 - and the current standing of International Sign as a globalized lingua franca
- An e-book in five European languages describing the main aspects of IS as a globalized lingua franca
- An executive summary video in all partner languages aiming to raise awareness to the communication gap between hearing and deaf people in education and on the tools developed by InSign to overcome them

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 2: Automatic International Sign Translator

The aim of this Intellectual Output is to adapt VirtualSign translator to International Sign and extending the VirtualSign vocabulary of the partner sign languages GSL, LGP, CSL, ESL and SSL

The main achievements are:

- Upgrade of VirtualSign platform to accommodate International Sign
- Upgrade of the configuration app to load International Sign signs animations

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 3: International Sign Certified Course, and MOOC

The aim of this Intellectual Output is to promote the inclusion of deaf students in higher education by delivering a course, available also as a MOOC, to teach International Sign, a simple form of sign language, to deaf and non-deaf students and teachers.

The main achievements are:

- Drafted a coursebook "International Sign everywhere - level A1.1" consists of an introductory chapter and 7 lessons, each target different communication competencies in everyday situations.

DAAD Euroletter

The InSign project together with its aims and objectives was presented in the DAAD [Euroletter](#)

Article in Patris Newspaper

The InSign project together with its aims and objectives was thoroughly presented in "[Patris](#)" newspaper by Professor G. Papadourakis

Presentation of InSign to Khaleej Times

Professor G. Makrides presented the InSign project to [Khaleej Times](#)

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