



NEWSLETTER No. 2

JOS – Job open with Sign Language

Dear Sir or Madam:

With this Newsletter we would like to keep you informed about the JOS project that we are carrying out within a transnational partnership co-funded by the European Commission. As professional or organization working in the field of deaf/disabled people or person directly affected, the expected products and results of our project could be interesting for you.

This is the second newsletter informing about the JOS project in general. If you don't want to receive this free of charge newsletter, you can cancel it at any time emailing us to dlapukaite@siauliai.ldrmt.lt or gtrijonis@siauliai.ldrmt.lt

Best regards,

JOS Project team



„JOS - Job Open with Sign Language“
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NEWSLETTER

The situation for vocational training for and, in connection with that, social integration of deaf and hard of hearing people in Europe is alarming. The group of deaf and hard of hearing people, i.e. people who are prelingually deaf (born deaf or become deaf by the age of three) and people who are late-deafened or severely hard of hearing (the number of people in this field is sharply growing due to hearing impairment caused by occupational diseases or by harmful leisure activities of young people - noise) is constantly growing, whereas vocational training and development opportunities are still rare and, very often, unseizable.

For this reason the EU-project JOS – job open with sign language was started. The international JOS project team wants to set an example and come up with an innovative approach.

So the overall aim of the project Job Open with Sign Language is to improve access to highly-qualified technical education and training programmes for deaf people. The resulting general aim of the project is the development of a holistic-oriented, modular education and training programme in sign language that is comparable on a European level for the profession of a mechatronics engineer. It is to be adjusted to the needs of the target group and includes all relevant decision-makers and conditions for a sustainable effect.

It is particularly the CAD (Computer Aided Design) part of the mechatronics engineer training that is, at the moment, not at all accessible for deaf people. Therefore, the CAD training as part of the profession of a mechatronics engineer is a special focus of demand in this project. It will be the first time in Europe that deaf people will get the possibility to pass the standardised 'ECDL CAD' certificate.



The target groups of the projet are:

- Deaf people with a medium educational level
- Trainers in the field of mechatronics
- Training institutions
- Companies
- Education and training institutions
- Hearing participants in mechatronics trainings
- Hearing mechatronics employees (staff and/or managers) in companies
- The European society

The expected results of the Project:

1) An education and training comparison for the profession of mechatronics engineer in Europe (state-of-the-art) and a catalogue of criteria and demands for a target group-specific vocational training.

2) A holistic modular education and training concept for the Deaf in the field of mechatronics including all target groups that are part of the training and employment cycle.

3) Sensitisation and preparation material/teaching units for deaf people - for them to be able to prepare linguistically (e.g. special terminology) and culturally for the training. Therefore, all necessary material will be translated into the respective sign languages.

4) Sensitisation and preparation material/teaching units for hearing people - for them to be able to prepare linguistically (e.g. understanding the structure of sign language) and culturally (learning, thinking and communication culture of the Deaf) for the contact and the work with deaf people.

5) Specific socio-pedagogical training, sensitisation and preparation material/teaching units for trainers of mechatronics - to be able to prepare pedagogically, linguistically (e.g. understanding the structure of sign language) and culturally (learning, thinking and communication culture of deaf people) for training deaf people.

6) Special training and learning material in sign language for selected areas of mechatronics for the Deaf. This material can, in part, be adapted from the standard material (e.g. ECDL CAD) or must be especially developed. In any case, all material must be developed in the respective sign languages via complex video/DVD productions. That is the only way to make special learning content linguistically accessible for the Deaf.



The updates and activities done by each JOS Project partner:

1. Berufsförderungsinstitut Steiermark (Austria) (P1)

Changes in the project partnership:

P2 ("Steirischer Landesverband der Gehörlosenvereine) from Austria had cancelled their partnership in the project due to problems with staff resources. The partner from England (P10) also left the partnership. Bfi had to look for new partners covering the skills of deaf people and e-learning skills. To accelerate and to progress in the project it was necessary to replace the partners with organisations nearby bfi. Therefore, bfi appointed Mrs Heidi Stalzer (deaf person). She has worked with bfi in different EU-projects (Eurosigns2, VOGS) and has a lot of experience regarding the production of course materials for deaf people. One of the new partners was the University of Applied Sciences/FH Joanneum. They are experts in e-learning and worked together with the University of Graz on the Sign Teach DVD and are now responsible for the CMS, the DVD production and implementing the e-learning part of the JOS Mechatronic course. The Leonardo National Agency agreed on the suggestions regarding the exchange, and the amendment was done at the end of March 2008. The Interim Report was approved at the end of March 2008. In mid-June 2008, bfi had a monitoring visit by the LLL Agency in Graz. The next and final steps in the project were fixed.

Activities done:

In terms of content, bfi worked on the unfinished work-packages from the Deaf Association in Graz. The main part was WP 240 – JOS Mechatronics. bfi started from the beginning with the ECDL CAD. The Pneumatic and automation parts had been cancelled and will be used as add-on material only. In their work on the content for ECDL CAD bfi encountered a lot of difficulties to adapt the content of these materials for sign language and easy writing and reading.

It became clear that it would not be possible to adapt a difficult text like the one for pneumatics and automation for Deaf people within the overall scope of the project. That's why all agreed to change to electronics basics. bfi involved CAD and electronics experts who would be able to give advice and worked together with the Deaf colleague Heide Stalzer.

Bfi worked on the contents of WP210 and WP250 and finished the brochures in all languages and started to find a uniform layout for the brochures. bfi has hosted the project webpage during the last months and made a lot of dissemination activities - national and international ones.

2. Müzzzuschlager Innovations- und AusbildungsgmbH (Austria) (P3)

Activities done:

Project partner Worked on the contents of the pneumatic and automation modules and suggested topics for the electronics course. They had several dissemination activities with enterprises and worked on suggestions to transfer the content of WP230 to e-learning units.



3. Ceskomoravská jednota neslyšících Czech-Moravian Unity of the Deaf-CMUD (Czech Republic) (P5)

Activities done:

Project partner worked on the CAD content. Activities will start soon. They will start with producing the sign language in videos after the meeting in Graz. They had several meetings with subcontractors working on the translation of work packages.

4. CREA–Confederación de Empresarios de Aragón (Spain) (P6)

Activities done:

Project partner contacted several enterprises and had a meeting with the Deaf organisation in Saragossa. They worked on the preparation of the evaluation forms.

5. Anastasis soc. Coop. a r.l. and Fondazione ASPHI onlus (Italy) (P7/P8)

Activities done:

Project partners had problems in their relationship with companies because of the project interruption. The content for ECDL CAD is nearly finished. They are very satisfied with the Content Management System as introduced by P10 – the CMS fits the project. They had several internal meetings with enterprises and amongst each other. Next dissemination activity will be a big national fair in Italy in November.

6. Siauliai labour market training and counselling Office (Lithuania) (P9)

Activities done:

Project partner have organized 2 round table conferences during the last months (January, June). They worked on the translation of WP160, WP220 and WP230 and started with the dissemination activities (flyers, etc.).





7. University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Joanneum) - Partner 11

New project partner from Austria.

With currently 32 career-oriented degree programmes in the four subject areas of Health Sciences, Information, Design & Technologies, International Business, and Life, Building, Environment and two Postgraduate Studies in the area of management FH JOANNEUM is one of Austria's leading universities of applied sciences. The quality and practical relevance of our courses is guaranteed by our close contacts with partner businesses and institutions. Additionally, international cooperation and the mobility of students and faculty members in exchange programmes with partner universities help to maintain the international profile of FH JOANNEUM.

Department's website: <http://www.fh-joanneum.at/ima/>

Faculty's website: <http://dmt.fh-joanneum.at>

Activities done:

Project partner worked on the concept and the development of the CMS (Content Management System) in cooperation with bfi. They carried out several usability tests. They worked on documentation and produced the Austrian Sign Language videos.

Photo's of JOS Project partner meeting in Graz, Austria



For further information please visit also www.jos-eu.org