



Leonardo da Vinci



## NEWSLETTER No. 4

### 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 last newsletter informing and summarizing about the JOS project in general.

Best regards,

JOS Project team



## **„JOS - Job Open with Sign Language“**

**No. 2006 A/06/B/F/LA-158.300**

### **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 JOS Project partners:

### **1. Berufsförderungsinstitut Steiermark (Austria) (P1)**

#### **Project's declarant updates:**

Dear Sirs/Madams:

The JOS project is completed and the results have been very satisfactory. This last newsletter in the series is summarises the final products and results of the project from September 2006 to December 2008.

Partners not yet introduced in these newsletters now appear in this final issue.

For general information about the JOS project, please refer to newsletter no. 1, 2 and 3.

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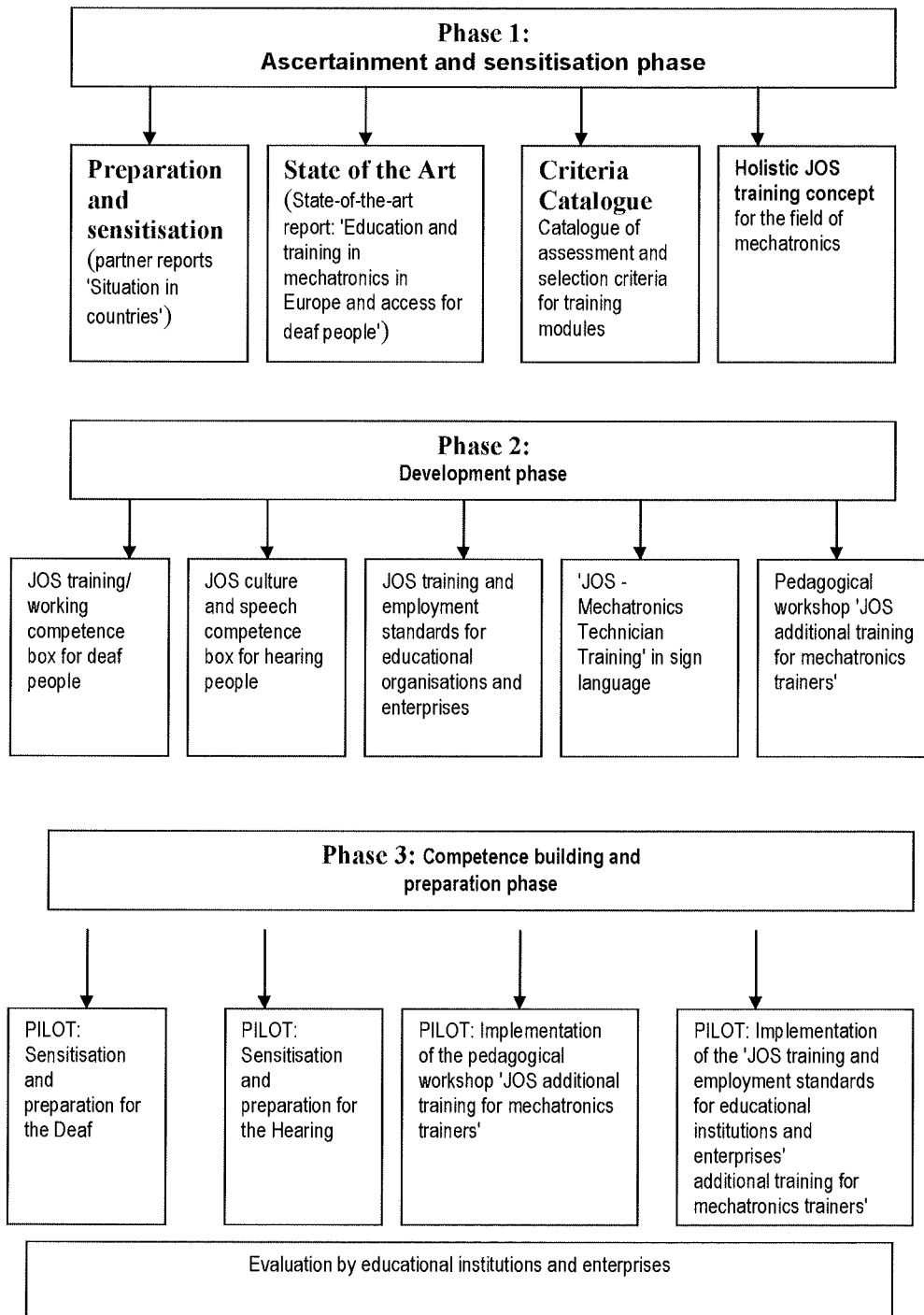
### 1.- PHASES AND PRODUCTS OF THE PROJECT

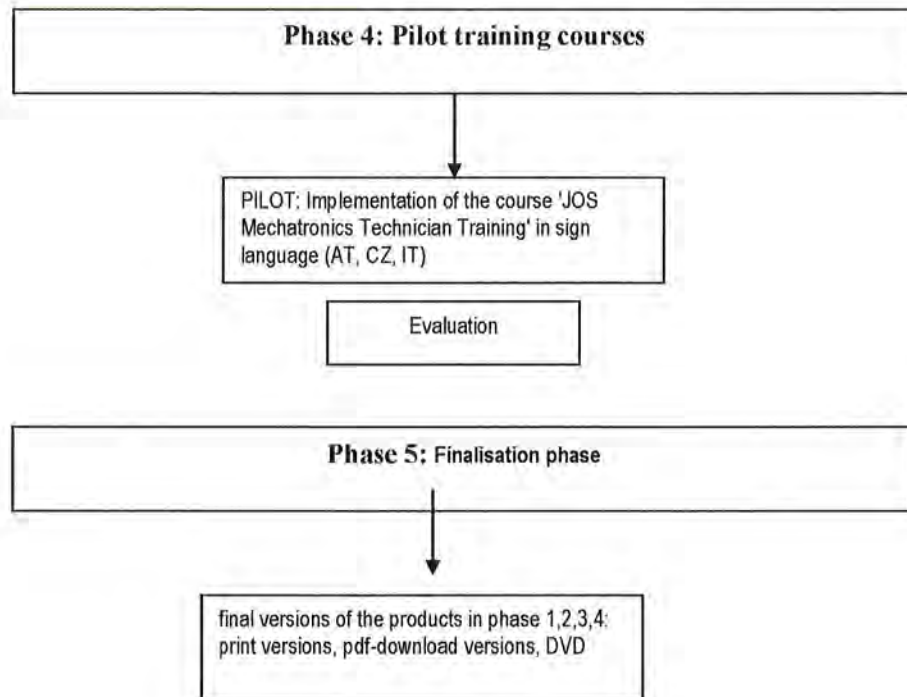
- The first phase of the project, **Ascertainment and sensitisation phase** had the objective of producing a State of the Art Report (Education and training in Mechatronics in Europe and access for deaf people) and a Criteria Catalogue and demands for a target group-specific vocational training (Catalogue of assessment and selection criteria for training modules). As well as the development of a holistic JOS training concept for the field of mechatronics.
- The second phase, **Development** had as its main goal, the development of the JOS teaching and learning materials for the training of the Deaf and the Hearing: JOS training/working competence box for deaf people (Creating a competence box for the sensitisation and preparation for the Deaf in the field of mechatronics trainings), JOS culture and speech competence box for hearing people (Creating a competence box for hearing people for their sensitisation and preparation with regard to culture and language of the Deaf), JOS training and employment standards for educational organisations and enterprises (Definition and taxonomy of recommended and binding quality standards in the education and training and employment of deaf people), 'JOS - Mechatronics Technician Training' in sign language (Translation of selected training content into sign language for implementation: AutoCAD and Electronics basics), Pedagogical workshop 'JOS additional training for mechatronics trainers' (Developing a 3-day workshop - incl. all teaching material - for mechatronics trainers to develop their pedagogical competences and for their sensitisation.
- The third phase of the project, **Competence building, preparation phase and sensitisation and preparation for the Deaf and the Hearing**; SME as a cooperation enterprise in CZ and IT. Positive knowledge transfer for the Deaf with regard to JOS mechatronics training, sign language peculiarities of the JOS mechatronics training, training procedures and communicative challenges, work procedures and communicative challenges, organisation and administration standards in educational institutions and enterprises. Positive knowledge transfer for the Hearing with regard to culture of the Deaf in general, language of the Deaf and communication culture, thinking patterns of deaf people, learning patterns of the Deaf, (For more information about these products, please visit the JOS-webpage: <http://www.jos-eu.org> – all final documents are available as download-pdfs).
- The fourth phase of the project was the **Pilot training courses**. The curriculum has been piloted in several countries (Austria, Czech Republic and Italy).

- The last phase of the model, **Finalisation**, aims to improve the final products, taking into account the evaluation made by the partners and the participants in the training courses. Once this adaptation and improvement of the JOS pilot and curriculum have been done, all the final products will be included in the JOS-DVD for the Deaf and the Hearing, which also includes videos in sign language.

## 2.- SUMMARY

The final results obtained are:





There is more information about the project, at the project website:

<http://www.jos-eu.org>

where you will soon find information of the final products.

For more information about the JOS pilots, you may contact your country's partner.

**Final dissemination conference, 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 organized by bfi Steiermark and Fachhochschule JOANNEUM, Graz (AT)**

bfi Steiermark as leading organisation invited interested persons to the Final Conference in Graz to present the final results of the project JOS. The guests (target sector representatives and education-, social- and labour market-political decision-makers) had the opportunity to be informed about the latest results of JOS and to exchange experiences.

The motto of the final dissemination conference in Graz was "Sign language in vocational education and training". The conference gave an overview of the project work done with regard to a holistically-oriented training for mechatronic engineers for the target group that will be comparable on a European level. Since a central cause for the problems in education and training for the target group are missing sign language trainings, the JOS project was able to set an active sign by introducing an innovative approach.

The conference was opened by Mr. Walerich Berger, bfi Steiermark followed by a sparkling speech by Mrs. HR Dr.in Margareta Steiner from the Styrian Federal Social Services Department)- People with disabilities in the labour market – Job open for deaf people. Mrs. Michaela Meier (project coordination bfi Steiermark) reported about the JOS project and its results. The presentation of outcomes of the development of the JOS DVD, the Content Management System and the JOS eLearning Platform by representatives of the Fachhochschule JOANNEUM was an additional contribution on the conference.

After that the transnational project team from CZ, ES, IT, LT and AT reported about their national experiences and results - Mrs. Radka Kulichová, Ceskomoravská jednota neslyšících (Czech Republic), Mrs. Inès Domínguez López, Confederación de Empresarios de Aragón (Spain), Mr. Luigi Rossi, Fondazione ASPHI onlus (Italy), Mr. Giuseppe Pellegrino, Anastasis soc. Coop. a r.l. (Italy), Mr. Gediminas Trijonis, Siauliai labour market training and counselling office (Lithuania), Mr. Andreas Anthofer, MIA (Austria), Mrs. Michaela Meier bfi Steiermark (Austria)

Very interested was the point of view of the target group represented by Mrs. Heide Stalzer (project assistant JOS project, bfi Steiermark).

Mrs. Anita Selvaggi from the University of Bologna, Institute for Educational Sciences talked about her experiences in working with students with special needs at university level. A further national project coordinated by the Fachhochschule JOANNEUM called SignLex – The online Sign language lexicon for IT-terms was presented by Mr. Gerhard Sprung and Mr. Christian Stalzer (University of Graz). Finally the conference closed with a panel discussion about future possibilities in education and training for deaf students in Europe.

Photo's of the JOS Dissemination Conference:

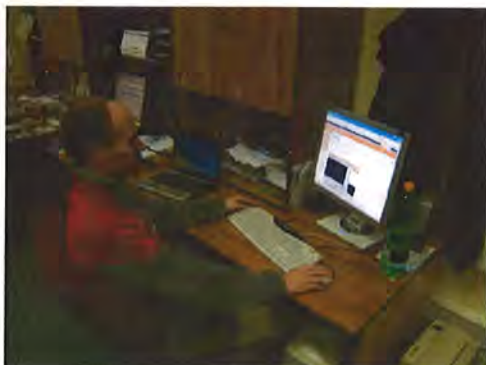


## 2. Ceskomoravská jednota neslyšících Czech-Moravian Unity of the Deaf-CMUD (Czech Republic) (P5)

### Activities done:

Project partner has successfully finished the creation of DVD module AutoCAD and electronic bases. They have also implemented the e-learning.

During the whole project period, project partner got in touch with various schools - who will use JOS DVDs; also other organisations of the Deaf. Members of Czech Deaf community think JOS products are very useful; idea to further develop the products as target group is very enthusiastic.



### 3. CREA–Confederación de Empresarios de Aragón (Spain) (P6)

#### **Activities done:**

CREA participated in the conference "Labour integration of disabled people" organised by the Employment Institute of Aragón (INAEM).

Experts from Aragonese government, disabled people organizations, social agents and entrepreneurs explained the different possibilities for insertion, the legal duties and alternative measures. CREA displayed the Spanish version of JOS materials and everyone emphasized the importance of training for disabled people.



### 4. Anastasis soc. Coop. a r.l. (Italy) (P7)

The National Exhibition-Conference "Handimatica" took place in Bologna from the 27th to the 29th of November 2008.

Handimatica is the most important exhibition in Italy that deals with the use of Information and Communication Technologies for people with disabilities: It occurs every two years in Bologna.

More than 8000 visitors participated in this edition, mainly teachers, disabled persons and representatives of companies that employ people with disabilities.

Within Handimatica, Anastasis prepared an exposition area where five technicians/experts demonstrated the products of JOS, particularly the DVD with the course of CAD for deaf people developed within the JOS project.

The JOS DVD demo was installed in five computers where, with the help of our experts, visitors had the possibility to see and try the JOS courses. The JOS DVD has been distributed in about 700 copies.

We also set up a small classroom beside the demo points where people who showed a specific interest had the possibility to be informed more in detail about JOS tasks and didactic methodologies for deaf people. For the same purpose, a "touch board" was also present, in order to demonstrate how important such a tool can be in educational activities with deaf students.

The people we have informed about the opportunities, the results and the products developed under JOS, claimed they found the information received very interesting.

Some teachers of technical secondary schools that host deaf students, and that include CAD in their teaching programmes, took a copy of the DVD demo. They will experiment the DVD during the next months.

Immediately after Handimatica, we have started the first CAD pilot course provided within the JOS project.

The students, who at first had seemed to be perplexed and puzzled by the complexity of AutoCAD, as the course proceeded started showing a great enthusiasm.

During the course the JOS DVD containing the multimedia CAD material has been tested. The students claimed that it is a very useful and functional tool, particularly when it is used to support educational activities with a traditional approach (frontal lessons).

For one of the students, we are evaluating the opportunity to start a working apprenticeship with the appliance of AutoCAD software for the copying of technical draws.

A problem that has arisen is that young deaf students hardly have the basic competences to participate in AutoCAD courses: for example they are not familiar with Cartesian coordinates, with the rules for the technical draws, with the dimensioning, etc.



### **5. Fondazione ASPHI onlus (Italy) (P8)**

Every two years ASPHI organize a fair called HANDImatica ( [www.handimatica.it](http://www.handimatica.it) ): three days of exposition, conferences and workshops. Last edition took place in Bologna from the 27th to the 29th of November 2008 (about 8000 people joined) and has been titled: "Technologies for a life of quality".

HANDImatica was a good chance for the JOS project dissemination, and ASPHI has caught it by organizing two main events and also by spreading JOS flyers, documents, promotional gadgets.

First event was a seminar about JOS contents for enterprises and training centres



The second event was the JOS Amphitheatre where deaf community had the possibility to understand the opportunity born with this project.



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

### **Activities done:**

Project partner was responsible for preparation of the newsletters. On the 28th of November project partner has carried out the JOS Information day. During that event, partner got in touch with deaf people community. Partner has presented the project results, which were discussed and both sides found it useful for future development and cooperation.

Project partner finds the project very useful to get in touch with deaf community and is looking forward to get Deaf into labour market soon by taking the results of the project.



## 7. University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Joanneum) (Austria) (P11)

Project partner was working on finishing the JOS DVD production. During the last period, they have also had several dissemination activities:

- EADiM Conference – November 27, 2008 – Graz  
The European Academy of Digital Media (EADiM) provides an infrastructure for sharing and networking expertise among the nominees, winners and jurors of the EUROPRIX contest. Once a year a conference takes place, where the JOS project was presented with a scientific paper.
- 10 years of IMA – November 28, 2008 – Graz  
The degree program of Information Management celebrated its 10th anniversary with an event where different projects from the whole degree program were presented. Also the JOS project was presented at this event. Visitors could try the system live on a computer and inform themselves about the project and its results.
- eLearning Conference – November 11-13, 2008, Eisenstadt  
The focus of the eLearning conference is the presentation and discussion of different projects related to eLearning. Moreover some workshops will be provided.
- Usability Day VII – March 6, 2008 – Dornbirn  
The Usability Day VII will take place in Dornbirn on March 06, 2009. The focus of this event is on assistive and barrier-free technologies. The JOS project will be presented with a scientific paper.



For further information please visit also [www.jos-eu.org](http://www.jos-eu.org)