



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: Deaf learning

FUNDING PROGRAMME: Erasmus+

Action: KA204 - Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

CALL: 2015

HOST DEPARTMENT/CENTRE: Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR: Professor Anna Cardinaletti

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 2015-1-PL01-KA204-0165

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 333,962.00	€ 76,675.00

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Most deaf people use one of the national sign languages as their first or preferred language. Unfortunately, in most European schools, the language of instruction is still the spoken/written language of that country. This poses huge problems for deaf students. As they do not have access to the acoustic channel, they can suffer serious consequences in their national language acquisition process (Caselli, Maragna, & Volterra, 1994; Volterra, Capirci, & Cappelli, 2001; Chesi, 2006; Bertone & Volpato, 2012). During their lives, they seldom get information presented in a visual way and they keep struggling with their difficulties with the written language throughout all their education paths. As they live in a hearing world, most information is transmitted via spoken or written language and not in a visual way; this also holds true for Deaf education, where they therefore often suffer from poor reading and writing competence (e.g., Holzinger, Fellingner, Strauß, & Hunger, 2006; Krausneker & Schalber, 2007). The Erasmus+ project "Deaf Learning" addresses the need for a visually-oriented written language course for the levels from A1 to B2. The main target group is that of young deaf adults aged 16 to 25 years. A secondary target group are older deaf people who are interested in improving their written language competence.

The five partners (Poland as coordinator, Austria, Italy, Lithuania and the United Kingdom) have each designed a written language course for deaf people based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for the levels from A1 to B2. The courses share a common underlying structure but are adapted for each country with respect to country-specific issues or the way grammar is taught. The five main themes cover topics which are relevant to the everyday life of deaf people, e.g., "Money

Management" or "School and Career", and each topic is divided into six subtopics. For A1, the teaching materials were completed for each subtopic. In addition, the first main theme ("Relationships") is accompanied by a Moodle course with interactive exercises. For A2 to B2, the partners developed lesson plans and 16 reading texts on which teachers can base their actual teaching. The materials include guidelines for the teachers with background information and suggestions on how to use the course.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1 September 2015	31 August 2018

PARTNERSHIP:

	Organisation name	Country	Role
1	Polski Związek Gluchych Oddział Łódzki	Poland	Applicant
2	Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia	Italy	Partner
3	Centre for Sign Language and Deaf Communication, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt	Austria	Partner
4	Kauno kurčiuju ir neprisigirdinčiųjų ugdymo centras	Lithuania	Partner
5	Doncaster Deaf Trust	UK	Partner