



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

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



PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: SPREAD - Social Haptic Signs for deaf and blind in Education

FUNDING PROGRAMME: Erasmus+

Action: KA201 – Strategic Partnerships for school education

CALL: 2019

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

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR: Professor Anna Cardinaletti

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 2019-1-SE01-KA201-060404

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 351,340.00	€ 78,415.00

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project aims to support deaf and deafblind individuals in learning, communication and information acquisition due to the following main reasons: the communicational and linguistic needs of the deaf/deafblind are often not recognized; the lack of adequate support decreases the possibilities of the target group for social, educational, cultural or economical participation, resulting in low self-esteem, economic struggle, unemployment, educational dropout and isolation; there is a shortage of materials and overall knowledge/skills needed to interact with the target group, especially on haptic (SH) communication, which is precious for the deafblind community; although it is a minority language in 2 of the participating countries – Sweden and Estonia, the Finnish Sign Language is one of the few EU languages missing in the Spreadthesign dictionary.

The project intends to gather and record (in verbal descriptions, videos and illustrated photos) more than 700 social haptic signs that are used in Estonia, Italy, Portugal and Sweden for communicating with deafblind people. All the signs will be available on the freely accessible international online dictionary of sign languages Spreadthesign. In this dictionary a separate section – 'Social Haptic' – will be created, where the signals will be sorted under 15 different categories: Social quick messages; Guiding and directions; Environmental descriptions; Descriptions of objects; Descriptions of persons; States and emotions; Cooperation with interpreters; Food and beverages; Weather; Colours and patterns; Healthcare; IT and technology; Letters; Numbers; Other.

Also, 30,578 Finnish words and sentences and 15,000 Finnish Sign Language videos under 18 main categories will be added to the Spreadthesign dictionary and the already existing features of the dictionary (Google Maps, 360° photos) made available to the Finnish users.

The project seeks to provide tools for teachers and interpreters to improve communication and interaction, ease the teaching/learning process as well as contribute to social inclusion, better everyday-life management and cognitive development of deafblind/deaf people.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1 September 2019	31 August 2022

PARTNERSHIP:

	Organisation name	Country	Role
1	Europeiskt Teckenspråkcenter	Sweden	Applicant
2	Kuulmispuudega Laste Õpetajate Selts	Estonia	Partner
3	Universidade do Porto	Portugal	Partner
4	Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia	Italy	Partner

WEBSITE: https://www.spreadthesign.com/it.it/social_haptic/