



Signs for Handshakes

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Partners



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The Project

SIGNS FOR HANDSHAKES is a 2 year European project with partner from Austria, Bulgaria, UK and Slovenia with the perspective to

- ❖ build and maintain strong links with representatives of the employment sector and the Deaf Community
- ❖ facilitate practical advice for employers on hiring young Deaf people
- ❖ increase better job-opportunities for Deaf young job-candidates in the regular job market
- ❖ increase a better understanding how to implement effective methods of alternative communication in the workplace
- ❖ strengthen the use of Sign Languages in the workplace (basic everyday signs)



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Context

Career aspirations of Deaf youngsters do not differ from hearing youngsters: hairdresser, accountant, plumber, waiter/waitress, artist, teacher, nurse, photographer, programmer, web designer and so on!

Today, youth unemployment and joblessness is a complex problem all over Europe. Especially for Deaf young job seekers the entry into the regular job market is full of obstacles.

"How to communicate?!" is the fundamental question, when employers become aware, that the young job applicant is deaf. The most important thing is to step to the other openly. There are many ways how deaf and hearing people can communicate with each other and work together well.



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Activities & Outcomes

1. **DEAF PEOPLE AT WORK: Role Models - Portraits**

Deaf people are hardly visible in our society. To give a spotlight to Deaf people and their work situations is the best and self-determined way to bring information about Deaf Awareness, in special about the subject “Deafness and Work” to the employment sector. Their portraits and reports give helpful tips for employers who aren’t familiar with issues about deafness and work integration of Deaf individuals. And, besides, their portraits are an enrichment and motivation for Deaf youngsters: to get information about work experience from their peers, from “first hand”.

<https://signsforhandshakes.eu/en/start/rolemodels/>



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Activities & Outcomes

2. DEAF-YOUTH-MEETS-EMPLOYERS-TOOLKIT: “Nothing about us without us”: to address Deaf Awareness and communication activities to the employment sector, the participation of Deaf young people themselves is crucial – to become visible with their own language, their potentials and expressions. Deaf youngsters show important signs and communication tips to make the everyday cooperation between hearing and deaf colleagues easier. E.g. how to say “good morning”, “what’s your name”, “how are you” ... many of these phrases are quick and easy to learn and allow a good start.

<https://signsforhandshakes.eu/en/start/jugendtoolkit/>



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Activities & Outcomes

3. ACTIVE NETWORKING: networking with organisations of the employment sector as well as organisations of the Deaf Community is essential to build sustainable bridges to work for Deaf Youths' entry in the regular job market and is a major part of the project. SIGNS FOR HANDSHAKES establishes a **NETWORKING MAP** with organisations and companies for promoting and supporting the “Deaf-friendly workplace”.

<https://signsforhandshakes.eu/en/start/bpbbroschueren/>



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Activities & Outcomes

4. ENCOUNTER and DIALOGUE: the project provides workshops and trainings for companies and organisations to raise Deaf Awareness and overcome communication barriers. The workshops are designed with a full range of video-based material, created by Deaf Youth themselves. The training events will bring together participants of all target groups: representatives of the employment sector as well as Deaf Youth.

<https://signsforhandshakes.eu/en/start/workshops/>



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Impact Envisaged

- Increased employment rate of Deaf young people
- Improved communication between employers, Deaf workers and their hearing colleagues
- Better awareness of Deaf culture and Sign Language at the workplace



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Visit us and join us at:

- Website: <https://signsforhandshakes.eu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/signsforhandshakes>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8LtSQ75K1GhceZC8OtbZTg>
- Twitter: Hashtags #s4h #euproject #Deaf



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