Languages at the heart of learning
Les langues au cœur des apprentissages
Sprachen als Herzstück des Lernens

Promoting excellence in sign language instruction



The project will develop a professionally-oriented competency framework for sign language teachers and provide B2 level materials and learning activities from different European sign languages. We will also create a European Language Portfolio (ELP) that takes account of any modality specific requirements for sign languages.

The development of professionally orientated curriculum descriptors will be a bottom-up process, with input drawn from experienced sign language teachers via our workshop and network meeting, and this will be mapped to content that we will draft on the basis of PRO-Sign 1 work on CEFR descriptors.

The development of an ELP for sign languages is also innovative. Our approach offers space for deaf experts to contribute to the process from inception to completion.

We will draw on our strong network of institutional and NGOs at European and regional level in our work.

The resources are for:

- sign language teacher educators
- curriculum developers for sign language instruction
- teachers and student teachers

In cooperation with

Moscow State Linguistic University









Envisaged outputs

- A comprehensive user guide for sign language teaching and learning within the framework of CEFR (with an emphasis on B2)
- Practical examples of how the existing learning and teaching tools are used in sign language education
- Development of European Language Portfolio for sign language learners.
 Webinars
- A comprehensive analysis of the need of a Common European Framework of Reference for Language Teachers (with focus on B2)

Envisaged outcomes

- Enhanced quality of sign language education and materials within the context of CEFR (with special focus on B2)
- Professionalisation and standardisation of sign language teacher education
- Broader awareness of the importance of sign language teaching and learning within the framework of the CRPD and within the terms of inclusion
- Enhanced awareness of the linguistic and cultural diversity of sign languages in Europe
- Acknowledgement of sign language education as an instance of foreign language education

Related resources

- Sign language and the Common European Framework of References for Languages
 www.ecml.at/prosign
- Language skills for successful subject learning

www.ecml.at/languagedescriptors

 Relating language curricula, tests and examinations to the CEFR www.ecml.at/relang

PROJECT PERIOD

January 2016 - December 2019

WORKING LANGUAGES

International Sign Language, English

Project team

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The ECML is a Council of Europe institution promoting excellence in language education in its member states.

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