JUSTISIGNS

VET in Interpreting and Justice

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Project type

- European Commission funded project - Lifelong Learning Programme (2013-2016)
- Coordinator: Interesource Group (Ireland) Limited
- Partners:
  - KU Leuven, Faculty of Arts, Campus Antwerp (Belgium)
  - EFSLI (European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters)
  - Trinity College Dublin, Centre for Deaf Studies (Ireland)
  - University of Applied Sciences for Special Needs Education (Switzerland)
  - Heriot Watt, School of Management and Languages (Scotland)
  - EULITA (European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association)
  - (Gallaudet University - USA)
Why this project?


• Common theme in results: limitations faced by deaf sign language users in gaining access to justice
Why this project?

JUSTISIGNS recognises 3 specific reasons for this problem:

1. lack of or limited status afforded to signed languages: inhibits access to information at all stages of legal process for deaf people;
2. limited understanding in legal settings of constraints imposed by the interpreting process, with additional challenges arising when working between a spoken and signed language;
3. lack of awareness of historical educational and cultural background of Deaf people
Aims

- providing training resources to legal professionals in Deaf-awareness issues and improving communication when working with signed languages
- providing sign language interpreters resources for their continuous professional development (CPD) (post-qualification) and when interpreting in legal interactions;
- providing Deaf communities a deeper understanding of the *Triadic Relationship within legal settings*.

Please note: Justisigns is modeled on the award winning MEDISIGNS project (2010-2012)
Responding to…

• A need for a more formalised/potentially accredited training in the EU for practising interpreters in legal contexts where specialised training does not exist;
• Deaf community response to poor access to interpreter provision in police stations and court room settings;
• Existing research from interpreters, Deaf community and interpreter trainers reporting need for further CPD and specialist training;
• Research from planned focus groups within the Deaf community;
• European Directives/Human rights agenda/ and national legislation;
TRAINING COURSE

COURSE MATERIALS

Course materials developed by partners and other experts;

10 Learning Units (Linguistics, ethics, legal context interpreting)

Standalone sessions (Interpreting in courtroom; legal consultations; arrest)

Can be embedded into 10 ECTS course (such as that offered by CDS)

Delivered as blended learning using moodle or other VLE

Geographically portable - can be used in USA and outside of partnership

Supported by

Videos

Filmed in HD
Subtitled
Views from legal professionals, interpreters, Deaf communities’ experiences

Supplementary Readings and Notes

Articles
Notes
Links to external sources
Case studies
→ 31 Country review of interpreting
→ CPD and VET Course Materials
→ Guidelines (posters, guidebooks, WITH etc)
→ iPhone App
→ Video footage (source language with subtitles)
→ Website (www.justisigns.com)
→ Masterclasses & workshops

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Justisigns today: Survey

- Target groups (across Europe):
  - Qualified and qualifying sign language interpreters
  - Deaf individuals and associations
  - Legal professionals
- Aim: collecting information related to
  - interpreting services and/or access to legal settings for Deaf people;
  - training for legal professionals on how to work with sign language interpreters,
  - training for sign language interpreters on working in legal settings,
  - etc..
- Results will feed into reports on situation regarding interpreter provision in legal settings across Europe + help in planning continuous professional development courses for interpreters in the field, and in training
- Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WLRTLK2](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WLRTLK2) (Closing date: 31 May 2014)
www.justisigns.com

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