



IISE

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Training Sign Language Interpreters - International Settings (IISE), a multinational EU-funded project, has resulted in a comprehensive course material package for educational purposes called "Sign Language Interpreting in International Settings". The essential need for the project and training material was that deaf people participate more and more in different international events, where interpretation is often provided in several languages. While sign language interpreters are used to working independently and solely with the client, collaboration with other interpreters would be beneficial for sign language interpreters in international settings. The course material produced by IISE provides free of charge educational material for all sign language interpreters in the EU countries. The IISE project will send a DVD containing the material to several major sign language organizations in Europe, including for example educational institutes training interpreters and companies providing interpreting services. In addition, the material is accessible to all from the IISE project website.

The IISE course material includes good practices in interpreting and cooperation in international settings. The practices were collected by combining existing know-how with the expertise of the consortium. In addition, the topic was thoroughly researched and the collected information developed into practical and functional training material, which was tested in practice in two educational settings.

Until today this kind of information and practices of sign language interpreting in international settings has not been collected. Sign language interpreters currently working in international settings learned by practice, rather than having the opportunity to receive information proactively before their first international assignment. The Project Manager of IISE, Raija Roslöf, points out that "The IISE project has gathered plenty of interest and contacts during the two years. We truly hope the training material will be actively used in the field". Roslöf continues, "Having material like this available encourages new interpreters to take more challenging international assignments, as well as informing organizers of the special needs sign language interpreting requires".

On November 15th the EU Commission launched a new disability strategy on how the EU and national governments can empower people with disabilities, so that they can access their rights as European citizens. One of the main actions of the strategy is accessibility; how to make all goods and services accessible to all people. Interpreting services are the key to accessibility. Sign language interpreting services allow deaf people to equally participate in both national and international events. The IISE project supports this goal by training and educating interpreters, therefore creating high quality interpreting settings. The training encourages the interpreters to cooperate, enhancing the quality of their interpreting service and supporting the EU disability strategy 2012.

