> Sign language is at the core of Deaf people's lives; sign language makes accessibility for Deaf people possible; without accessibility, Deaf people will be isolated. Thus, full enjoyment of human rights for Deaf people is based on the recognition and respect for Deaf culture and identity. Everywhere in the world, language creates culture and vice versa.
>
> **World Federation of the Deaf**

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN PARTNERS

INTERESOURCE GROUP (IRELAND) LIMITED, Ireland
EUROPEAN FORUM OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS, Belgium
EUROPEAN LEGAL INTERPRETERS' & TRANSLATORS' ASSOCIATION, Belgium
FACULTY OF ARTS, KU LEUVEN, Belgium
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION, Switzerland
CENTRE FOR DEAF STUDIES, TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, Ireland
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, Scotland, UK

INTERESOURCE GROUP
(IRELAND) LIMITED

ABOUT THE COORDINATOR

Interesource Group (Ireland) Limited is an Irish SME specialising in vocational training, management training, research & development, and project management. The company has a proven track record in developing business solutions in human resource management and business strategy, training & development, creative media film and web, publishing & printing, and property & real estate consulting.

Since 1999, Interesource Group has been involved in the European Commission's Vocational Education and Training programmes, funded under the Leonardo da Vinci and the Lifelong Learning frameworks. Within these, Interesource Group has promoted and led 11 projects and has been a partner in 6 projects, working in over 18 countries as well as collaborating with organisations in the USA, Japan and Australia. The company continues to promote several projects and is engaged in research with Universities, private companies and non-governmental/not-for-profit organisations.

Interesource Group has expertise in a variety of education, economic and social domains. Areas include the tourism and hospitality, disability and equality, e-learning, social inclusion, healthcare risk management, international trade, language and culture in business, Deaf employment, culture, communication and sign language.

Some of the projects have been awarded with prestigious accolades such as the European Language Label for the MEDSIGNS PROJECT, the SIGNALL project and the EUROSIGNS II project. MORPH was selected as one of the top 32 best practice projects in Europe and FOSTER was reported in Business and Disability. In 2010, SIGNALL II was acknowledged in the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion booklet.

For further information on the JUSTISIGNS project or products please contact:

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JUSTISIGNS

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY

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Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

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WHAT IS JUSTISIGNS?

The JUSTISIGNS project is a transnational education and training project involving experts from Ireland, Belgium, UK and Switzerland. JUSTISIGNS is co-funded under European Commission's Life Long Learning programme and runs from 2013-2016 The partners in Ireland include Interesource Group (Ireland) Limited (project coordinator) and the Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin. The Belgian partners include the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsli), the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (EULITA) and KU Leuven's Faculty of Arts, Campus Antwerpen. The other partners are The Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland at Heriot Watt University and the University of Applied Sciences for Special Needs Education in Zurich, Switzerland.

JUSTISIGNS focuses on creating training content for three target groups:

- Qualified and qualifying signed language interpreters working in legal settings;
- Deaf community;
- Police and legal professionals.

While legal settings refers can refer to the court room, interactions with solicitors, barristers and lawyers, a particular emphasis of JUSTISIGNS is on the interactions of Deaf people with the national police services who are often the first point of contact effective communication is a pre-requisite for ensuring a case proceeds through the judicial process.

The training material includes:

- A 5-credit (ECTS and ECVET) course for sign language interpreters, Deaf community and front-line legal professionals available across the JUSTISIGNS European network;
- A European guide for sign language interpreters practicing in legal settings;
- A European guide for legal professionals working with Deaf communities and signed language interpreters to improve their communication skills;
- An information resource for Deaf people in their national signed language to better understand the legal framework in each country;
- Outreach seminars and awareness sessions for the Deaf community and legal profession;
- Master classes for signed language interpreters;
- Training posters with practical legal/signed language/Deaf culture & communication tips;
- Video documentary evidence outlining the experiences of Deaf users in legal contexts and examples of good practices.

WHY IS JUSTISIGNS SO IMPORTANT?

Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 establishes common minimum rules for European Union (EU) countries on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings as well as in proceedings for the execution of the European arrest warrant. It contributes to the proper functioning of judicial cooperation within the EU by facilitating the mutual recognition of judicial decisions in criminal matters. The directive also aims to improve the protection of individual rights by developing the minimum standards for the right to a fair trial and the right of defence guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

When the law is applied, we use models of social policy, knowledge of majority cultural behaviour and morality, assumptions about the use of a shared common language and the application of legal precedents. None of these assumptions work well when Deaf people are included in legal settings.

JUSTISIGNS recognises a number of specific reasons why Deaf people do not have the same access to legal and judicial services in the same way as their hearing (i.e. non-Deaf) peers.

- There is a lack of, or limited status, afforded to sign languages which inhibits access to information at all stages of the legal process for Deaf sign language users;
- There is limited understanding amongst legal professionals of the constraints imposed by the interpreting process when working between any two languages, with additional challenges arising when working between a spoken (auditory-verbal) and a sign (visual-spatial) language;
- There is a lack of awareness amongst legal professionals of the historical educational and cultural background of Deaf people which gives rise to challenges in legal settings.
- Interpreters are not adequately trained in complex legal settings.

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ABOUT THE PARTNER

Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin

The **Centre for Deaf Studies (CDS)** is part of the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences at Trinity College Dublin (TCD). TCD is the only university in Ireland offering a route to a Bachelor in Deaf Studies, with specialisms in Irish Sign Language (ISL) teaching and ISL/English interpreting. Graduates from this Level 8 programme can subsequently access Level 9 and 10 programmes in a range of cognate areas. CDS' remit is to increase the number of professionally trained and accredited ISL/English interpreters available in Ireland, to facilitate greater participation in Irish society by Deaf people; to promote high level ISL teaching practices, and to offer general training in Deaf Studies.

The Centre also has a mandate to conduct research across the field of Deaf Studies. Funded research to date includes a review of Deaf education (National Council of Special Education), a review of interpreter provision in the mid-west region (Paul Partnership), Irish government funding (SIF II) to develop e-learning resources in ISL, as well as several EU funded projects, including SIGNALL II, SIGNALL 3 and D-Signs, Hidden Histories, and MEDISIGNS. The Centre is also a partner in the European Centre for Modern Languages' (ECML) funded PRO-Sign project. Other research work relates to the Signs of Ireland corpus, a significant digital multi-media resource for teaching and learning. CDS' work complements that of Deaf community organisations and supports greater awareness of ISL, Deaf culture, and Deaf Studies.

Established in 2001, following almost 10 years of campaigning by the Irish Deaf Society and supporters, CDS now has over 100 graduates, deaf and hearing, who work as interpreters, with Deaf organisations and schools for the deaf, as teachers of ISL, and as university lecturers. Trinity College Dublin is the contractor of the JUSTISIGNS project.

For more information on our role in JUSTISIGNS, please contact:

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