

# **SIGN LANGUAGES VIDEOS GUIDELINES**

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Under Project Result 3  
“Creation of a tool kit for adult  
educators including a database  
of resources and methodological  
recommendations.  
Development of videos  
in Sign Languages.”



# Table of Contents

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<b>Brief introduction to deafness and sign languages</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Videos in sign languages</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Technical guidelines</b>	<b>15</b>



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# BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO DEAFNESS AND SIGN LANGUAGES

Who are we talking about? What is the correct name to call people who can't hear?

We are going to talk about people who can do everything except hear. The correct term is “deaf people”: it is the most appropriate term not only from a cultural and social point of view, but physiologically, too. Indeed, deaf people are not mute as has been thought in “popular beliefs”. They can speak just like anyone else, since the vocal apparatus is intact and functioning. If some deaf people do not produce sounds it could be because of



two reasons: the first is that they don't want to, they don't feel pleasure in producing sounds as they can't hear themselves; or, second, because in childhood the speech therapy path was not successful.

**About the term and the correct etiquette to use when talking about deafness, we can summarize in this way:**

**1. d/Deaf** - sociological term used throughout education and research to describe individuals who are Deaf (sign language users) and deaf (who are hard of hearing but who have English as their first language and may lipread and/or use hearing aids). Collectively it indicates people who participate in the culture, society and language of deaf.



2. **Hard-of-hearing** - denotes a person with a mild-to-moderate hearing loss who does not feel part of the Deaf community, but is just a person with hearing difficulties that can be ameliorated.

3. **Sign Languages (SL)** – languages with specific grammar and lexicons that use visual-manual modality (movements of the hands and fingers) as well as non-manual elements (facial expressions, for instance) in order to express any concept, any communication.

4. **Fingerspelling** - a kind of “writing in the air”. It is a hand alphabet, consisting of hand configurations representing one by one printed letters, useful as a communication system in a specific situation, such as: when talking about a place that does not have a name sign.



There are many prejudices and false ideas about Sign Languages. Here the more widespread:

### A. “Sign Language is universal”

Sign Language is NOT universal! That’s why we talk about Sign Languages. Like any oral language, Sign Languages vary in time, in space, depend on their specific community and have their own classification and family tree of their linguistic families. International Signs exist but they are not recognized as a Language. They are used as hearing people use English, as a so-called lingua franca, a common mode of communication.



### B. “Sign Language is a pantomime”

Deaf people do not use gestures. Sign Languages are not a development of gestures used by hearing people, in fact, only few of them coincide in sign language. Signs are not a faithful representation of their meaning, they are as arbitrary as the words of all the languages in the world.

### **C. “Sign Language is unable to express abstract concepts”**

People think that the vocabulary of Sign Languages can only be concrete, only related to real contexts. In reality, every concept can be expressed in signs. If these languages can appear “poor”, this happens because the contexts in which they were used have been few for too long.

### **D. “Sign Language has no grammar”**

Sign Languages are not just a set of signs, they have a specific grammar, a system of rules for building phrases, as well as a phonology, a morphology, a syntax... Of course, Sign Languages’ grammar is different from oral languages’.

To conclude, we have to be aware about how we use such terms, how we call this language and how we talk about people who are in the Deaf community. The fact is that such concepts refer to important issues such as identity and dignity. Sign Languages are real languages that constitute Deaf culture and Deaf identity, as well as oral languages from different countries are strictly part of the culture and the way of thinking and living.



# **VIDEOS IN SIGN LANGUAGES: RECORDING, POST-PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION**

The Deaf community uses a lot of videos both in informal and in formal communication. What changes, of course, is the editing format since the aim is different. In informal usage, videos are not edited at all because they are used just for communicating within a group of friends/relatives/colleagues... In formal settings, videos are edited and arranged with the purpose of being widespread on official platforms and channels (websites, social media, official groups on Telegram).

Within the 4 Elements in Arts project, the videos that are going to be delivered are formal ones with specific rules for editing them.

These videos will be about the pieces of art collected under the previous project results, in particular there will be: a first part with a short presentation of the artwork (author, date,



art period or art movement), and a second part with “the story behind the artwork”.

The application says: *IST will prepare 4 videos in Italian and 4 videos in International Signs. MyArtist, 4 videos in Greek Sign Language. DomSpain, 2 videos in Spanish Sign Language and 2 in Catalan Sign Language. ZINI, 4 in Latvian Sign Language. Les Apprimeurs, 2 in French Sign Language, EduKempen, 2 in Dutch Sign language. Les Apprimeurs will provide technical support for this activity as they have software for video editing and graphic design.*

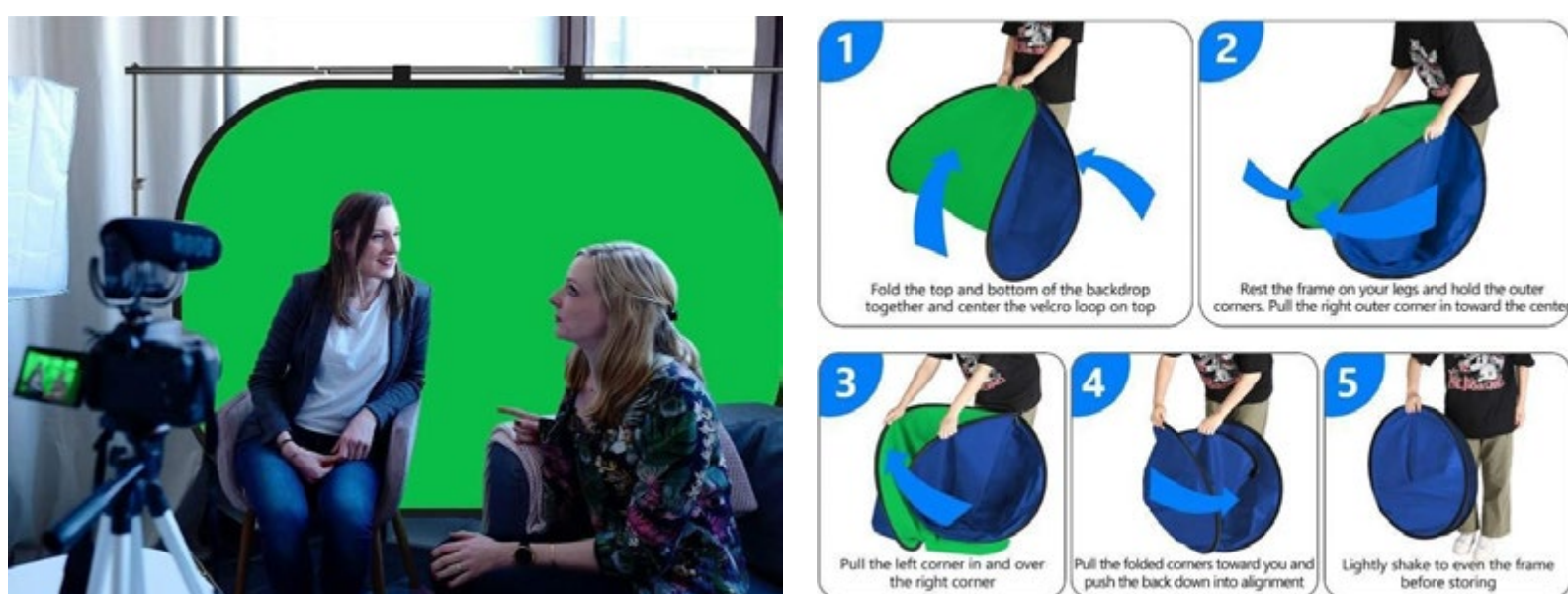
## How to record

To record the videos, we suggest having a room or a place dedicated to it: you can have a wall painted green or blue (like the first two photos below).



You can also use a photographic background, used on these occasions, that you can close and put in a cupboard at the end of the work.

These **backgrounds** are useful for the editing part: green or blue backgrounds are removable and can be replaced by other images. Here a screenshot and some links as examples:



1) <https://bibliodos.eu/ebookcover/bel-ami/#video>

This is the video of the screenshot below. It was one of the videos in International Sign made for an Erasmus Plus project about classical books from the European cultural heritage adapted and made accessible to adults with special needs or beginners learning a foreign language.



2) Video about weekly news from the world in Italian Sign Language: <https://youtu.be/rIEEUaUxKU8>

3) Video for children in Italian Sign Language: <https://youtu.be/6RUpLHETqkY>

As can be seen in the examples of the videos above, each video is edited according to the aim and the target group. The length depends on the aim of the video, but in general we suggest to edit videos to **no longer than 5 minutes**.

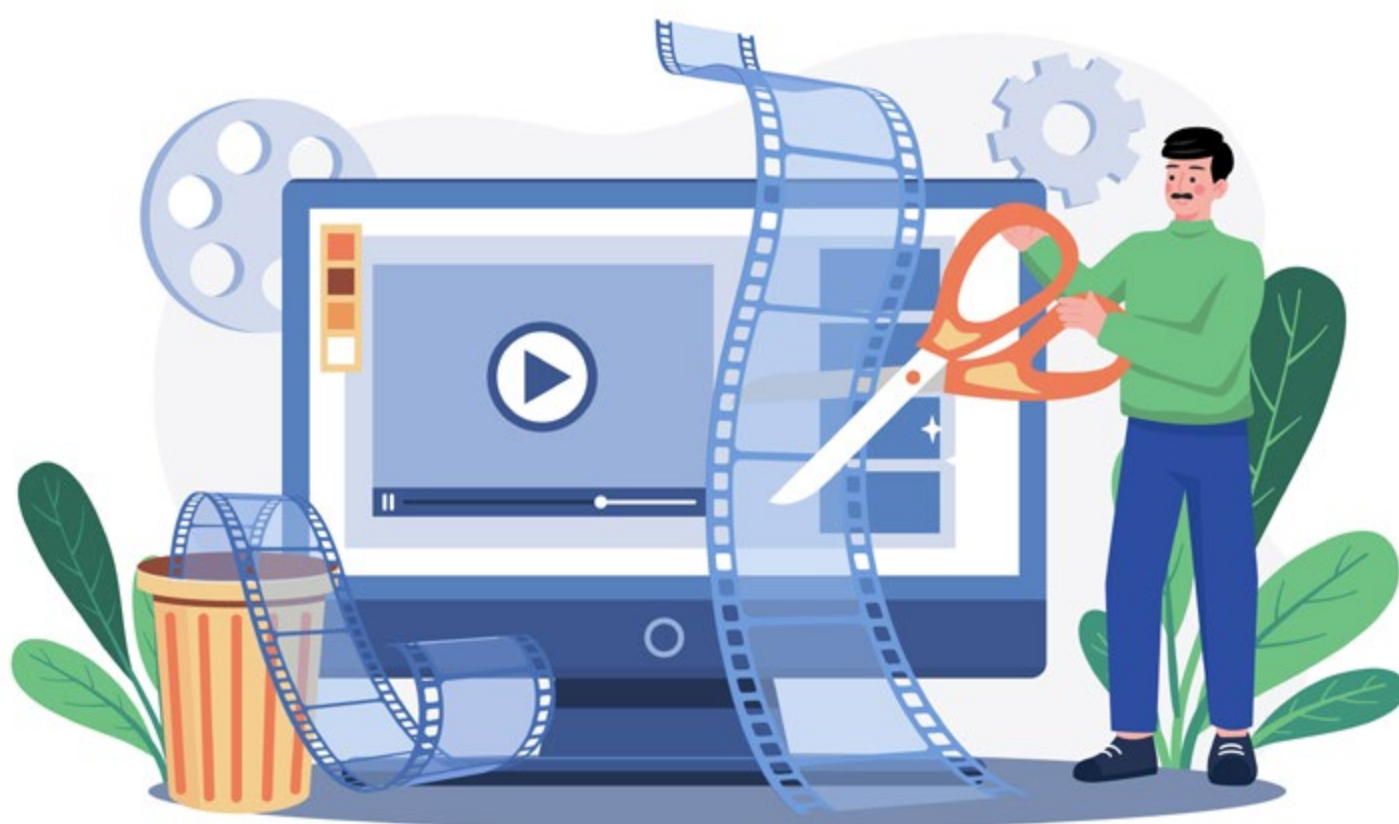
In these videos in particular there are **no subtitles**; since the target group is composed of Deaf people using Sign Languages as their mother language and since the application doesn't specify this part, no subtitle should be necessary for our project, either.

The **lights** are important too: usually there are two light sources placed at 45° on both sides of the person being filmed. These allow a good quality light that illuminates the person well and, in the case of a Deaf person signing, shows the hands, the most important part.

“Deaf videos” should have a **Deaf actor** or an excellent hearing interpreter. The **dress code** is important: the colour of the skin must be in contrast with the colour of the clothes, for example if the person is “white”, black clothes are needed and vice versa.

Official formal videos have **an intro and an outro**, they are particularly important for the Erasmus plus projects because we need to add the EU logo as well as the disclaimer.

What we can propose is to create an intro and outro (usually each one will be 4 seconds long) which we will send to the partners in a format that allows them to add their own videos.



Partners	Art	Element	Info
IST - LIS	Poster pubblicitario della fabbrica Pietro Berzia	Fire	
IST - LIS	Colpo di vento	Air	
IST - LIS	Narciso	Water	
IST - LIS	Il sogno del melograno	Earth	
IST - IS	Litostroj	Fire	Slovenian artwork
IST - IS	Prometheus Bound	Fire	Belgium artwork
IST - IS	Odysseus & The Sirens	Water	Greek artwork
IST - IS	Earthrise	Earth	International artwork
MY ARTIST	Bull leaping fresco (Taurokathapsia)	Air	
MY ARTIST	Tower of the Winds	Air	
MY ARTIST	Grateful Hellas	Earth	
MY ARTIST	The porch of the Caryatids	Fire	
DOMSPAIN (Spanish)	Fire on board	Fire	
DOMSPAIN (Spanish)	Drama in Sierra Nevada	Earth	

Partners	Art	Element	Info
DOMSPAIN (Catalan)	Don Quixote and the Windmills	Air	
DOMSPAIN (Catalan)	Into the water. Valencia's beach	Water	
ZINI	Refugees (Old Refugee)	Fire	
ZINI	Wind mother monument for perished sailors and fishermen in Baltic Sea	Air	
ZINI	Rowing Race at a Latvian Fishermen's Festival	Water	
ZINI	Zvarte's rock	Earth	
LES APPRIMEURS	The equatorial Jungle	Earth	
LES APPRIMEURS	The Raft of the Medusa	Water	
EDUKEMPEN	Monument to Mine	Earth	
EDUKEMPEN	Red star line	Water	

# TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

## Videos requirements:

- Export to .mp4 file
- Export size is 1920x1080 (landscape)
- We don't need audio.
- Codec H.264
- Frame rate (FPS) 24,25 or 30 (you shouldn't have to change that)
- Video bitrate 8 Mbit/s

## Story board:

- **Intro** - same for all languages  
(video .mp4 1920x1080)
- **Title Slide** - same language as the sign language, with its own element. Please update the excel file with the title to be used, Les Apprimeurs will prepare them. (image .jpg 1920x1080)
- **The Artwork Slide** (image file type .jpg 1920x1080)
- **The Story** – you can begin with the presentation of the artwork selected:
  - Author (name, short description)
  - Date or era
  - Artistic movement of the artwork
  - The story about the artwork
- **Outro** – different languages for the disclaimer (video .mp4 1920x1080)







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## PARTNERS



## LES APPRIMEURS