



SignVET – Gateway to Equity: Engaging Deaf Students into VET

Duration: 01/10/2024 – 30/09/2026

Project Code: KA220-VET-EEA2E810

Website: <https://signvet.eu/>

SignVET is a 24-month Erasmus+ project funded under Key Action 2 - Cooperation Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training (VET). The project addresses the lack of sign language accessibility in vocational education and aims to empower VET institutions to deliver inclusive training that supports both deaf and hearing students.

Why Sign Language Accessibility in VET Matters

In the European Union, deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals face persistent barriers to accessing high-quality vocational training. Despite their potential, these learners are often excluded from opportunities simply due to a lack of educational content in national sign languages. **Sign language accessibility is not just a technical requirement, it is a matter of equity, human rights, and inclusion.**

By integrating sign language into VET curricula, ensures that deaf students can fully engage in professional education, access career-relevant skills, and pursue rewarding employment pathways. At the same time, hearing students benefit by learning sign language and inclusive practices, preparing them to thrive in increasingly diverse and accessible workplaces.

SignVET supports the vision of an inclusive European Education Area, where all students, regardless of hearing status, have the right to learn in their preferred language and with equal opportunities.

Objectives

- Equip VET teachers with tools and training to create educational materials in national sign languages.
- Increase access to vocational education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.
- Encourage hearing students to learn sign language, promoting inclusion and future employability.



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Key Activities

- Develop a semi-automatic sign language translation framework using cutting-edge technology.
- Create and test pilot courses in cybersecurity and management in Portuguese and Spanish sign languages.
- Offer training sessions for educators and dissemination workshops to promote widespread adoption.
- Advocate for sign language accessibility policies in national VET systems.

Main Outputs

- Cybersecurity and Management courses in sign language for deaf students.
- Introductory sign language courses for hearing students, including professional terminology.
- SignVET Methodology: A practical manual on producing sign-translated learning content.
- VirtualSign-based Infrastructure for content creation.
- Staff training programmes and workshops for trainers across Europe.

Target Groups

- Deaf and hard-of-hearing VET students
- Hearing VET students
- VET educators
- VET institutions

Long-Term Impact

SignVET promotes equity, digital innovation, and linguistic diversity in line with the European Union's priorities. It supports deaf students' right to access education in their mother language and strengthens teachers' ability to deliver inclusive, accessible education. The project's tools and methodology will remain freely available, with long-term support and open access resources sustained by Medidata and P.PORTO.

For more information, visit: <https://signvet.eu/>

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Project Consortium

Coordinated by: Medidata.net - Sistemas de Informação Para Autarquias S.A. (Portugal)

Partner Institutions:

- INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DO PORTO (Portugal)
- POLITEKNIKA IKASTEGIA TXORIERRI S.COOP (Spain)
- FORAVE - Associação para a Educação Profissional do Vale do Ave (Portugal)
- EUROPAIKOS SYNDESMOS PROSANATOLISMOU STADIODROMIAS (Cyprus)



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