

## Annual report 2009-2010

### Review of 2009-2010

The European Sign Language Centre (ESLC) was founded in 2009 as a non-political, non-profit organization based in Örebro, Sweden. ESLC works with accessibility issues for sign language and is running the world's largest web-based translation tool for sign language, [www.spreadthesign.com](http://www.spreadthesign.com), established in 14 countries.

The association officially took over Spread the Sign in October 2010. It was given as a gift from the municipality of Örebro at a small ceremony at the town hall. Because of this, we have decided to merge together the annual reports for both 2009 and 2010. The organization was so new in 2009 that the annual report for only 2009 would be very poor.



*Picture taken in Turkey, 2010.*

## **The organization**

The organization 'European Sign Language Center' (ESLC) has a main objective to manage, improve and develop Spread the sign. ESLC is a non-profit organization where most work is done by unpaid volunteers. The association has a few employees whose salaries come from the various projects. ESLC are hiring mainly deaf people and sees this as an important part of the work of Spread the sign.

The project manager for the Spread the sign is Lydell Thomas Olsen. He is also the person behind the idea of this web based sign language dictionary. Thomas is a volunteer of the association, and therefore he doesn't get any salary from the organization.

## **Organization work**

Members of the board of directors during 2009: Dennis Lennartsson as chairman, Thomas Lydell-Olsen as chief financial officer, Robert Byström as commissioner and Malin Alsop as commissioner.

During the summer of 2010, Malin Alsop wanted to finish her duties as a member. As replacements for her, we found Kristina Eriksson, Fredrik Simón och Raquel Moreno Nieves.

Employed as an actor is Ekaterina Scherbak and as an editor we have Edona Musliu.

While working with the University of Orebro on finishing the study on hearing Preschoolers, proceeded slowly. Most likely, it will be finished at the end on 2011. It is about preschoolers supported by sign language during reading and writing skills and that they as a result will learn to read and write faster.

## **Countries and cooperation**

We started a cooperation with Child Africa. They financed the startup of the Ugandan Sign Language in Spread the sign. In October, 2 delegates traveled there to train their staff and build a recording studio in place of Kampala.

## **Meetings in 2009-2010**

As the organization started in 2009, we did not have any meetings during that year.

In November of 2010, we held a lecture in Vänersborg about Spreadthesign. It was at a seminar for sign language teachers from all over Sweden and some parts of Scandinavia. During the autumn of 2010 we initiated a collaboration with Tele2, who financed our app.

## **Respos**

Our website won the first prize in "Language Label Award" for best Web.

## **Summary**

As a newly established association, we have come a long way in planning for the future. We have managed to get Spread the sign as a gift by the municipality instead of it being hidden away in the municipal archives. The cooperation with the deaf club in Uganda can fall out well, as long as they do their part in the work. This remains and we can only see what happens and hope for the best.

The association also made several applications to various foundations and agencies which may fall out during 2011.



*This is a copy of the original.*