

## Annual report 2011

### Review of 2011

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 16 countries.

Verksamhetsåret har varit mycket innehållsrikt, kantat med flertalet utmärkelser och priser. Vi har ökat vår omsättning och personalstyrka. Ny verksamhetslokal, flertalet nya länder, möten med beslutsfattare, resor, symposier och nya samarbeten lovord från EU kommissionen! Ett spännande år som sammanfattas i korthet nedan.



### 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**

ESLC started the year by strengthening the ongoing Swedish sign language documentation by hiring Edona Misou and Ekaterina Scherback. In the fall of 2011, we got a new team member, Mikael Sundberg, who will work as a web developer. Having previously collaborated with the Interpretation Center and shared space, in August we moved into a new, larger office on Sturegatan 9 in Örebro, Sweden.

ESLC now has a total of six employees and a well-functioning business. We have two facilities included Bertil Waldens gata 1.

Negotiations with Tele2 led to the funding of our app Spread Signs, launched just after the summer. We got very good exposure in both TV4, SVT morning sofa and several newspapers. Our plans of improving and releasing a new free application is well advanced. We have an agreement with Widespace and will invest in mobile marketing. We have decided to focus on search engine optimization so that more people can be reached.

We have over 75,000 documented signs, about 30 000 visitors a month and is established in 20 countries.

## **Countries and cooperations**

We have cooperations with the United States, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Uganda.

## **Meetings during the year**

In April of 2011, we were invited by the Council of the Swedish delegation to the Council of Europe. We had an initial meeting with the Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg. For two days, we held an exhibition of our work with the international sign language dictionary, Sweden's role as manager of the national sign language, sign language capital of Europe and the need for a European sign language institute. We cooperated with Örebro Municipality which Financed our delegation to Which we Declared a detailed report.

We have had meetings with the Municipality of Örebro (MC) and Örebro county council (ÖLL) including Mayor Lena Båstad, County Council Chairman in Örebro Marie Louise Forsberg Fransson.

## **Accessing Society Symposiun 21 september.**

HM the Queen, Integration Minister, representatives from the National Poli Board, prompt investigation, Parliamentary Disability Forum, the Council of Europe and others participated in the event we held together with Örebro Municipality and ÖLL. The aim was to strengthen the position of Örebro and

Sweden sign language and show our world leading web-based scalable communication solutions for people with disabilities.

**Language Days** in Ronneby 27/10 where we were invited as lecturers.  
Orebro Discovery CEO Sofia Strömberg 18/11 2011.

**Measures to Combat Educational Disadvantage**, Bryssel 8-9 December 2011.

**Meeting with State Secretary** Bertil Östberg 22/2 2012 at the Ministry of Education regarding the financing of the ongoing management of spreadthesign.com and state aid.

**Several meetings with the Greger Bååth**, Director General SPSM current support and partnerships directly or through the Ministry of Education.

**Inclusive Europe & networking Europe** 13/3 where we were invited as exhibitors, including Swedish Institute.

### **Respons**

Best training in Spain. Awards for Audiovisual Innovation on the Internet iNvi 2011.

FUNDETEC Award. Best service for the citizens of Spain.

ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration 2011 in the Czech Republic.

### **Finasiering**

PAGE, Tele2, OK, ÖLL, Playing for Change

### **Applications**

This year we have applied for funding in several places. Internet fund, production support SPSM, Tele2, Europe, RAM7, AA, Jochnic foundation, Utbildningsdepartmentet and Playing for Change.

We got support from the autumn of 2011 Sida's Baltic Sea Unit to document Estonia, Latvia and Poland sign.

### **Summary**

During the year, we have received several new countries and finally increases Spread the sign in size, as planned. Funding has been received from several directions so the future looks bright.



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