

Annual report 2013

Review of 2013

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, established in 25 countries.

The Leonardo project, which started in 2012 with funding from the European Commission in Brussels, (EACEA) is proceeding with recordings of videos so that all 15 partners reach the level of 10,000 signs / words per country. We in the ESLC also manages the French recording.

During the year, the association Oncology at Örebro University Hospital, helped us with free translations and recordings in sign language to its projects Close Cancer. A co-operation we did together with the Interpretation Center in Örebro.

We won an innovation competition at the National Post and Telecom Agency, where we got the funds to start a project for automatic translation of text in to videos with signs. The project is called T3 - text to sign. This should resemble a "Google translate" but will be following the grammar of the Swedish language.

Project Manager Dennis Lennartsson starts his work this year and has sole financial responsibility over the project.



Picture taken at our meeting in Iceland.

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 Framework

We have changed the webmaster from Frederick Simon to Alexandr Tsuranow. We have also hired an illustrator, Elena Darzinya, who previously had her work practice with us when she was enrolled at Iris Hadar (Education for learning Swedish language and Sign language).

We have also hired an additional editor, Sofia Ek.

Countries and cooperation:

We have been to a start-up meeting for a Spanish Leonardo TOI project (Transfer of Innovation) where the ESLC participated as the Swedish partner. The project is called "Open learning to sign language." Other participants besides Spain and Sweden are Poland, Cyprus and Italy. This is a project for producing a platform for teaching English for sign language students.

We were also on the start-up meeting for an English Leonardo TOI project, which the University of Wolverhampton was responsible for and where the ESLC participates as Swedish partners. The project is called "Sign Media Smart" and is a role-playing game in sign language, to learn the media profession as director.

With grants from Jochnich Foundation, we had actors and linguists from Brazil, India, Romania and Bulgaria in our studio, for production of Spread the sign. On distance, we also had production for Ukraine and Russia.

Meetings during the year

We have had a linguist meeting with our Estonian partners in Tallinn, where we were determined that they take greater responsibility for new categories of words in all school subjects of Spreadthesign.

We have received funds from Universities and Higher Education Institutions (UHR) to have additional partner meetings by Leonardo Partnership. In the autumn of 2013, we were 12 countries that had a meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland.

During the meeting, we drew up guidelines for increased quality work in Spread the sign.

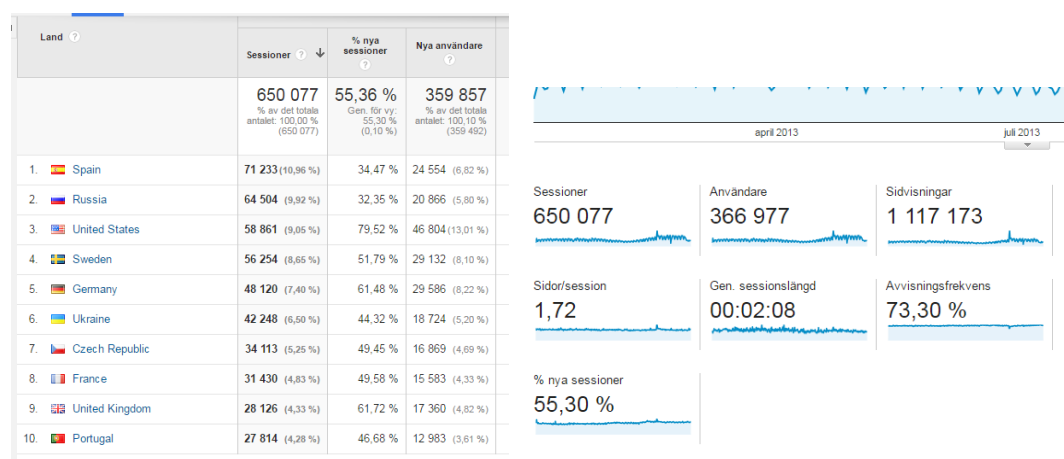
Response

During the year, we were in the media regarding Spread the sign in the following countries: Iceland, Brazil, Turkey, Estonia and Sweden.

Statistics

The statistics from Google Analytics (only referring to our web users)

www.spreadthesign.com



Summary

We have been busy throughout the year, both the project T3 and with the four Leonardo projects we are involved in. The number of users of Spread the sign continues to grow steadily and we have good spirits about the future.



This is a copy of the original.