

## Annual report 2016

### Review of 2016

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 28 countries.

Production-wise, there are now over 310 000 signs in [spreadthesign.com](http://www.spreadthesign.com) and the number gets higher.



*Picture from our meeting in Zagreb.*

### 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**

We still have our office on Älvtomtagatan 12 in Örebro, where we have built a studio and an office with desk for 8 people to work at.

We have found some new people to be on the board. Vega Ranstam, Sofia Wikström and Pernilla Lindroth. Stina Eriksson has decided to leave the board.

Sofia and Pernilla have both also worked as volunteer actors for Spreadthesign. After a few times in front of the camera, Pernilla decided that she will not continue as an actor, but remains on the board until the annual meeting, when she decided to resign.

We have also got a new actor, Cecilia Lindfors Hommerberg.

Our programmer Jonathan is working on developing more apps. Including a quiz app, linked to the videos of Spreadthesign. In addition, he develops our new sharing tools SpreadLesson as part of the Erasmus project.

## **Projects during the year**

During the year, we have started and/or completed the following projects.

### **Leonardo Partnership - University and College Council.**

This project was finished in September but still gives us jobs. After the project ended Örebro University, when we went through the funding of the various countries – we noticed a miss in the budget. Some countries had too much and some too little.

### **Erasmus + - University and College Council.**

A three-year EU project with 12 countries participating. The project is still going on and will give Spreadthesign 1,000 new geographical spots on a map and a tool for teachers to share self-made teaching material with each other (SpreadLesson).

### **Leonardo Ukraine / Belarus - Swedish Institute.**

This one-year project started in November 2015 and was completed in November 2016 but was extended until January 2017. After a start-up meeting in Belarus, problems arose when the coordinator could not cooperate and the team neither. We managed to get us a couple of people from the team and has now started up a new team. They came to Sweden and recorded 15,000 signs in our studio, which they then went home to edit and upload.

### **Ukraine participating in Erasmus - Swedish Institute**

A new project, which was approved in December 2016 in which our Ukrainian partners can be involved for two years in our Erasmus Project.

### **Pakistan participates in Spreadthesign- Jochnick Foundation**

A new project, we had approved in December 2016, where we'll be working with a partner in Pakistan to bring in about 15,000 signs to Spreadthesign.

## Merit project - the Swedish Inheritance Fund.

<http://www.arvsfonden.se/projekt/merit-projekt>

We have been supported by the Swedish Inheritance Fund had a project to create a web-based teaching material in sign language for the convenience of students with language disorders, hearing and even hearing young people to achieve the objectives of the course Swedish sign language for the hearing steps 1-3.

After completing this project 28 / 2-2017 Stina Eriksson opted to go into her own association. This means that we in the European Sign Language Center now only concentrate on Spreadthesign - getting our dictionary to grow worldwide and to improve quality.

## Meetings during the year

We have participated in the following meetings:

**March** Minsk, Belarus

**March** Kiev, Ukraine

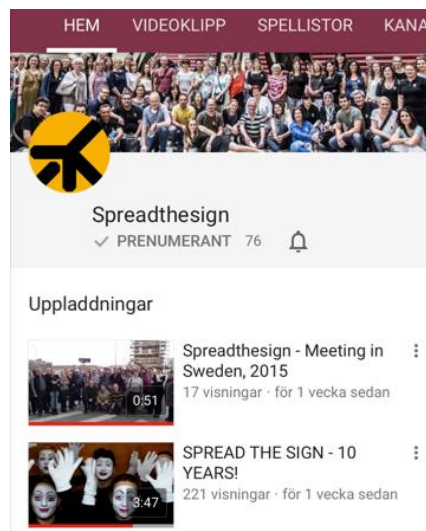
**June** Zagreb, Croatia

**August** Havana, Cuba

**October** New York, United States

## Response

We have started a YouTube channel, an Instagram account and started our own Facebook page that we hope will reach many.



## Statistics

The statistics from Google Analytics (only referring to our web users)  
www.spreadthesign.com



## Summary

During the year, we continued to put energy to the quality work of the Swedish part of Spreadthesign. A lot of work has gone into correcting errors in translation and editing. We have also invested a lot in structuring the archive and templates. As usual, much effort was placed on making applications for a growing network.

The association is still suffering financially from the project T3. The situation is beginning to improve, but we are still struggling to get fully back on its feet.

We have found a new partner at Montclair University in New Jersey, USA. They have been given the introduction and a background to start the production of ASL in Spreadthesign.

We also helped our partners in Havana, Cuba with equipment. Our partners in Mexico and Chile have received our Spreadthesign background and will start working in 2017, with its own force.



*This is a copy of the original.*