

Annual Report 2017

Review of 2017

The European Sign Language Centre (ESLC) was founded in 2009 as a nonpolitical, non-profit organization based in Örebro, Sweden. ESLC works with accessibility issues for sign language and is running the world's largest webbased translation tool for sign language, www.spreadthesign.com, established in 28 countries. Production-wise, there are now over 360 000 signs in spreadthesign.com and the number gets higher.



Photo taken at our meeting in Rennes, France.

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 Thomas Lydell. 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

During the summer we have moved to another office. Our new office is in Ormesta (the snake village), in Örebro. Here we have both a studio, and a working space for 6 people. The office has a kitchen, bathroom and a sleeping area for guests.

Parts of the Board of directors have been changed. Sofia Wikström and Pernilla Lindroth has stepped down while Cora Samoila has stepped in. The board of directors are now: Chairman is Robert Byström and Cora Samoila is co-chairman. Vega Ranstam is secretary, Thomas Lydell is the economist and Mikael Sundberg is a member.

Our developer Jonatan has been working with an update of the website spreadthesign.com and also with an app.

Cecilia Lindfors-Hommerberg was employed as an editor during the spring. During the fall and winter, Sofia Wikström is employed as a proofreader and editor.

In the studio we have had visitors from China, Japan and Pakistan. They have made videos in their sign language.

Projects during the year

During the year we have had and finished different projects.

Erasmus+ - Universitets- och högskolerådet.

A three-year EU-project with 12 countries. The project is continuing and will give Spreadthesign 1000 new geographical signs on a map and also a tool for teachers to share material with each other. (SpreadLesson).

Erasmus+ - Universitets- och högskolerådet.

A three-year EU-project with 4 countries. We will get the sign language recorded by Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Syria.

Leonardo Ukraina/Vitryssland - Svenska institutet.

This one-year project started in November 2015 and was supposed to finish in November 2016 but was given more time, until January 2017. We had a start-up meeting in Belarus, but then there were some problems with the coordinator not being able to cooperate and the Belarus team was dissolved. We managed to get a couple of workers to start up a new team. They came to Sweden and recorded 15.000 videos in our studio. Afterwards, they went back home to edit and upload the videos.

Ukraina in Erasmus - Svenska institutet

A new project was approved in December 2016. Our Ukrainian partner could then join for two years in our project from Erasmus.

Pakistan Spreadthesign- Jochnick Foundation

A new project was approved in December 2016. We will work with our partner in Pakistan. They will record their 15.000 videos in sign language for Spreadthesign.

Meetings during the year

We have joined in these meetings:

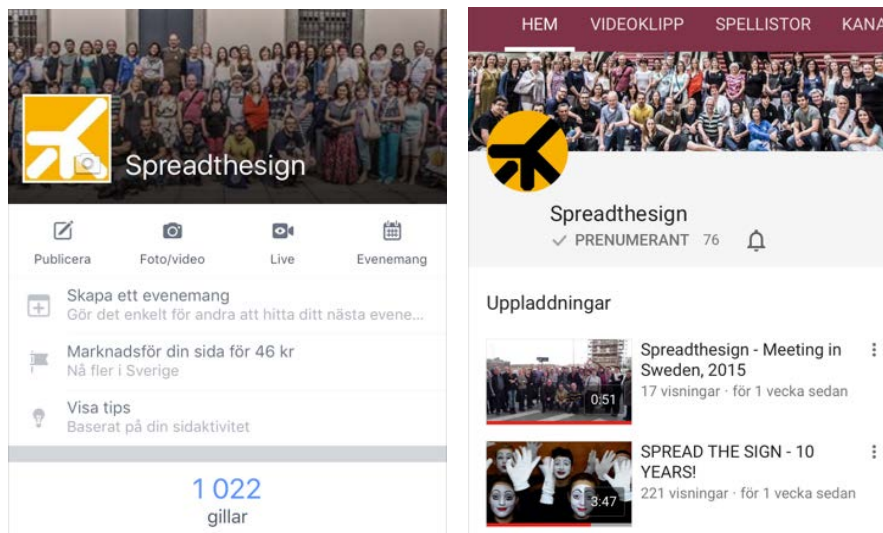
June Rennes, France

October Thessaloniki, Greece

November Kiev, Ukraine

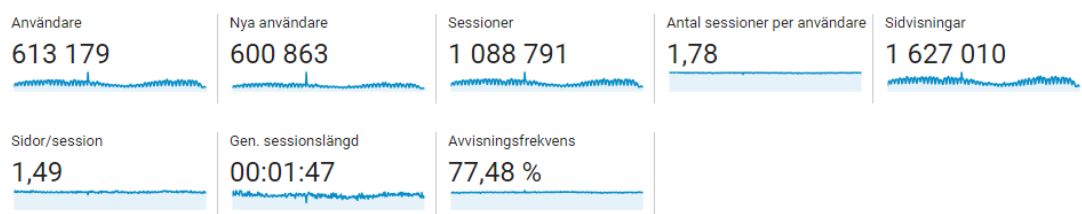
Respons

Our Facebook page and our Instagram account continues to grow steady but surely.



Statistics

The statistics is from Google Analytics and includes our users by browsers on www.spreadthesign.com



Summery

During the year, we have been continuing with putting energy to the quality work, with the Swedish part of Spreadthesign. This is a large work and we have had to correct both mistakes in translations and editing. We have also concentrated on

making structure with an archive and with templates. As usual a lot of work has also been put into making applications to continue our growing network. Our partners in Mexico, Cuba and Chile are working with own power – steady but surely.

