



OPEN PROJECT TESTING PHASE

National report Sweden

Author/Organization	European Sign Language Centre
Country	Sweden
Provinces/Cities where the test took place	Örebro, Stockholm, Göteborg
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Context

Describe the context where the testing phase took place, the specific entities and the type of persons involved in the testing and other significant points you retain helpful to understand the general conditions of the testing context. Please provide also an idea of the number of persons involved and the number of events organized.

People involved in the testing were deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people with sign language competence or/and a big interest. Three test events in a school in Göteborg, Kannebäcksskolan (total amount of 25 deaf/hard of hearing and 10 hearing) and three test events were made at our office in Örebro (30 deaf and 5 hearing). With 10 people (5 deaf and 5 hearing), we had to do a distance test, getting the answers by phone and email.

Totally:

60 deaf

20 hearing

70% female

30% man



Tested scenarios

Indicate which sign languages and which learning units were tested indicating also the number of questionnaires, interviews and focus groups implemented for each learning units.

We had 62 questionnaires answered, 2 focus groups and 3 interviews (one with a teacher and two with interpreters). We tested all the languages but with focus on the Swedish and international sign languages.



Satisfaction level

Describe the general level of satisfaction with the platform, as emerged during the testing phase (questionnaires, focus groups, interviews). You could also use graphs and tabs, elaborated from the questionnaires database, or the interview and focus group documents. If significant, please compare the different satisfaction levels with respect for instance to age and gender.

Unfortunately the level of satisfaction were generally neutral towards low. Most negative critique was regarding the language and too many choices (the top bar categories). The interpreters and the teacher questioned, during the interviews, the quality of the sign language in some of the videos. Most of the deaf people reacted to the many small pictures in the menu.

Even so, we believe this education material will probably get used in the schools. The reason is that there are no competition in this field. In Sweden we have a huge demand for educational materials for deaf, but there is very little produced for this target group. In English for deaf, almost nothing. So even if the product is not perfect, it is like rice and water, better than nothing.

So we believe it has potential and the step forward is taken. In a future project based on this, the lesson will be learned and new steps forward will be taken. But somebody must break new ground. And this project has.

Usability

Describe if users found the platform easy to use and navigate. You could use also graphs and tabs, elaborated from the questionnaires database, or the interview and focus group documents.

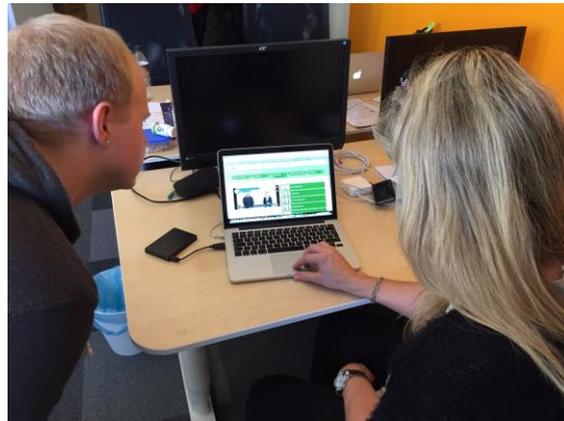
Generally it took some time to understand the category system. The system of levels is not common in Sweden and needs to be explained for every test user each time. Here are some of the comments:

“Mouth video! Never seen that before”

“It is very clear which actor is active. Like that!”

“They sign too fast. Slow motion?”

“Nice illustrations.”



Pedagogical aspects

Describe if the platform facilitates the learning process. You could also use graphs and tabs, elaborated from the questionnaires database, or the interview and focus group documents.

The most common answer was that the videos with the mouth didn't help the learning process. Many of the deaf people involved in the testing thought that the subtitles stayed too short of time on the screen. They didn't have time to read it and couldn't both read the subtitles and see the signs at the same time. Also the signing in different sign languages was too fast, with too long dialogues, making it hard to follow. Here are a couple of other suggestions from the questionnaires:

- *How do you think more engaging learning units could be designed?*
"I have bad eye sight and would like the background to be another color. Maybe if I could chose the background color myself?"
- *Do you think the platform is useful for learning something about English and International Sign Language? Why?*
"I don't think the subtitle matches the international signs, so I didn't understand that much."

- *How do you think more engaging learning units could be designed?*
"I'm not that good in reading, both Swedish and English is hard for me to read so I didn't understand that much. There were too much text on the page"

- *Could the platform encourage deaf people to learn a new language?*
"I just know Swedish sign language and written Swedish so I don't know about other people".

Other significant points

Add additional points you retain helpful for the testing phase and for improving the platform.

We should have looked over our sign language translation quality more before filming the script.

We should have recorded in the same studio to have same positions and light quality.

Also we should have decided more certain, the way the actors signed, to get the videos to look more alike.

- *Have you found the graphic interface suitable?*
"I don't like the green color. And the subtitle was "jumping" if I accidentally put the marker over the video. Otherwise it was good."

Suggestions and conclusions

Describe suggestions to implement or modify the platform as emerged during the testing phase. Bring your conclusions about the platform and the WP.

Slow motion function

Text, not only in the sub titles but also as printable pdf and beside the video. Perhaps as a karaoke flow.