



OPEN PROJECT TESTING PHASE

National report - Poland

Author/Organization	SSW Collegium Balticum
Country	Poland
Cities (Regions) where the test took place	Szczecin (Zachodniopomorskie Voievodeship), Opole (Opolskie Voievodeship), Łódź (Łódzkie Voievodeship)
Date of the document	20/01/2016
Version of the document	3

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.

The testing seminars took place from October till December 2015. They were organized in collaboration with *Centrum Aktywizacji i Języka Migowego* (Center of Activation and Sign Language, private sign language school) and *SOSW im. H. Ch. Andersena w Szczecinie* (school at primary and secondary level for youth with impairments, within hearing impairment, in Szczecin) and took place in the main seat of the SSW Collegium Balticum, Centrum Aktywizacji i Języka Migowego and SOSW im. H.Ch. Andersena w Szczecinie.

Participants were people with hearing impairment, sign language learners, teachers and interpreters.

Five testing events were organized. The places and dates where the testing took place as well as tested levels, languages and target groups were the following:

PLACE	DATE	LANGUAGE	LEVEL	TARGET GROUP
Szczecin, secondary school for youth with hearing impairment	12.11.2015	Polish Sign Language	A1	Deaf secondary school students and their hearing/signing teachers
Szczecin, secondary	20.11.2015	Polish Sign Language	A2, C1	Deaf secondary

school for youth with hearing impairment				school students and their hearing/signing teachers
Szczecin, Center of Activisation and Sign Language	26.11.2015	Polish Sign Language	B1	Hearing sign language students (being at the end of the first level of the course; from the 3-level programme)
Szczecin, SSW Collegium Balticum	27.11.2015	Polish Sign Language International Sign Language	C2	Deaf students of higher education institution (HEI)
Szczecin, SSW Collegium Balticum	27.11.2015	Polish Sign Language	B2	Deaf students of HEI and hearing sign language students (being at the end of second level of the course; from the 3-level programme)

The testing seminars lasted from 2 to 3 hours on average and followed the subsequent agenda:

- 1) Introduction by the representatives of SSW Collegium Balticum
- 2) Presentation of the project by SSW Collegium Balticum
- 3) Platform test - in plenum/group
- 4) Platform test - individually

The participants were first hosted in a bigger hall where the introductions by the SSW Collegium Balticum took place. Then, platform was presented; it's construction, possibilities, layout etc. In the first place chosen level was presented movie by movie to the whole group. With subtitles in Polish and English. Participants commented each movie. At the same time some examples of other languages were showed. Mainly



International Sign Language but also other languages. After general presentation in the forum participants were subsequently accompanied to computer labs where each participant had the opportunity to individually test the platform on the computer. Each participant had approximately 30 – 50 minutes time for testing the platform. At the end participants filled evaluation questionnaire.

Before piloting and in parallel to the piloting phase, there were local seminars and thematic workshops that were organized. Their aim was to disseminate the project and the platform. The program of this meetings were very close to the piloting meetings except the fact that they were shorter (1 – 1,5 hour) and the aim was to show different possibilities of the platform to the bigger audience. So there were different levels, languages and thematic presented during one meeting.

Seven local seminars and thematic workshops were organized in three regions of Poland: Zachodniopomorskie, Opolskie, Łódzkie. More than 250 people took part in this meetings within more than 180 Deaf. During this meetings some comments were given to the specific movies which was taken into consideration in the post-piloting process of platform improvement.

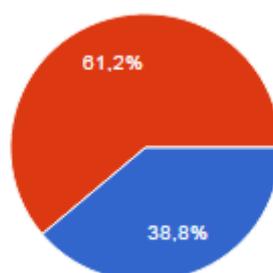
Numerical indicators

68 participants attended the 5 testing seminars. The feedback was collected via printed (paper) Google Form questionnaire and on-line. 68 questionnaires were filled in, by participants 16 to 55 years old. Forty out of sixty eight persons that filled in the questionnaires belong to the deaf community. 41 were women, 26 men.

Sex

Male **26** 38,8%

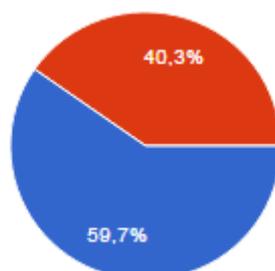
Female **41** 61,2%



Deaf or hearing

Deaf **40** 59,7%

Hearing **27** 40,3%

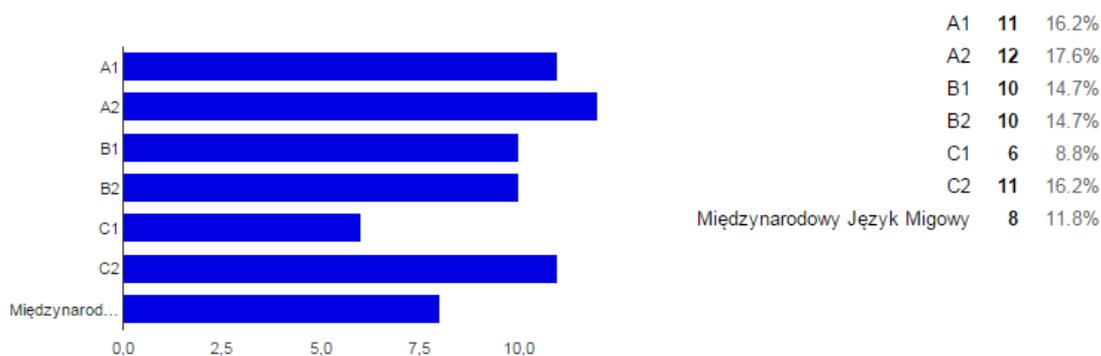


Tested scenarios

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.

The participants tested the Polish Sign language and the International Sign. They tested all learning units, from A1 to C2.

As follows an overview of the learning levels tested and the corresponding number of persons that tested each level.



Three interviews were carried out with the Polish Sign language interpreters and one focus group with deaf participants. Focus group consisted of 5 persons and 1 moderator.

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.

The participants were generally very satisfied with the platform and showed a great interest in using it for English language and Sign language learning. Their enthusiasm was substantial both before and after the testing took place.

The participants were not very knowledgeable about the existing applications and tools developed for providing support for foreign language learning to deaf persons. Even though, after introduction and presentation in front of the whole group, they were open to get to know the platform, with no difference in the age groups.

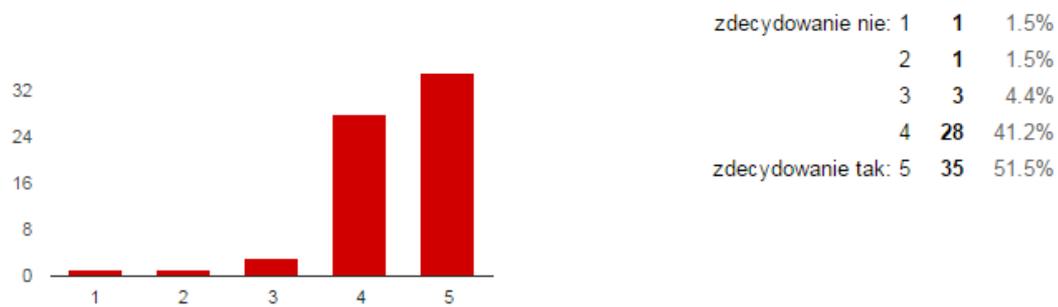
There was a difference in the feedback between the younger and the older participants, but no between two gender groups. The older people seemed sometimes discouraged saying that the tool is rather for younger people that travel abroad and can use digital instruments than for them, that stays rather in the country. Nethertheless, for older people it was still interesting to see the recordings in polish sign language.

The younger generation was more interested in testing and learning the International Sign and English, the older in comparing the same sign in different languages.

1. *The platform is interesting to use. I like it.*



2. The platform is fun to use.



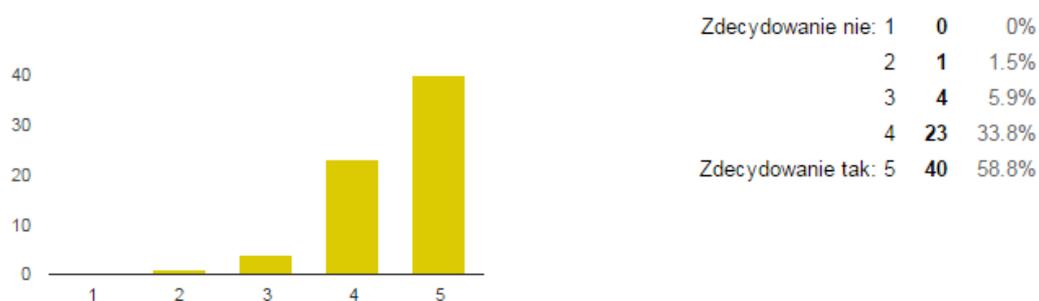
Usability

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.

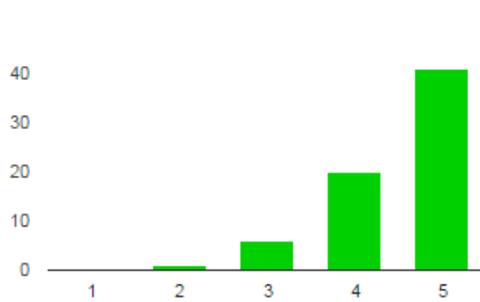
The users that filled in the evaluation questionnaires found the platform functional and easy to use, as 92,6% of the users agreed that the controls were easy to use, and 89,7% agreed the graphics is likable. According to 51,5% of the users there were no errors in the platform.

It was difficult for the users to navigate the platform layout, asking for a simplified layout of the learning topics. The other difficulty was that the instructions are only in English and most of the audience didn't know this language. It was explained how to navigate and, for the future, participants were asked to check the unknown word on Spread the Sign, tool that is very well known among polish deaf community. General opinion collected during piloting sessions and thematic workshops/local seminars was that the platform is not very intuitive to navigate.

3. The platform controls are easy to use.

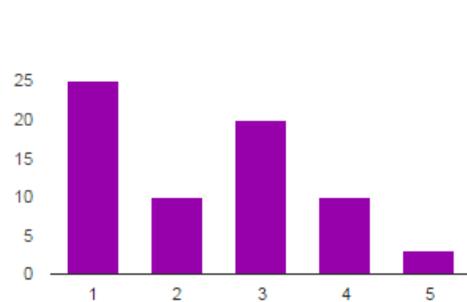


4. The platform graphics is likable.



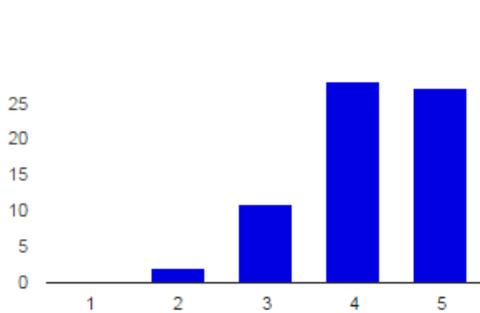
Zdecydowanie nie:	1	0	0%
	2	1	1.5%
	3	6	8.8%
	4	20	29.4%
Zdecydowanie tak:	5	41	60.3%

5. There are errors in the platform



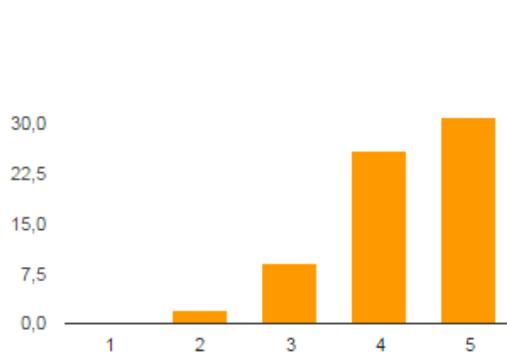
Zdecydowanie nie:	1	25	36.8%
	2	10	14.7%
	3	20	29.4%
	4	10	14.7%
Zdecydowanie tak:	5	3	4.4%

6. The technology used makes the learning environment realistic



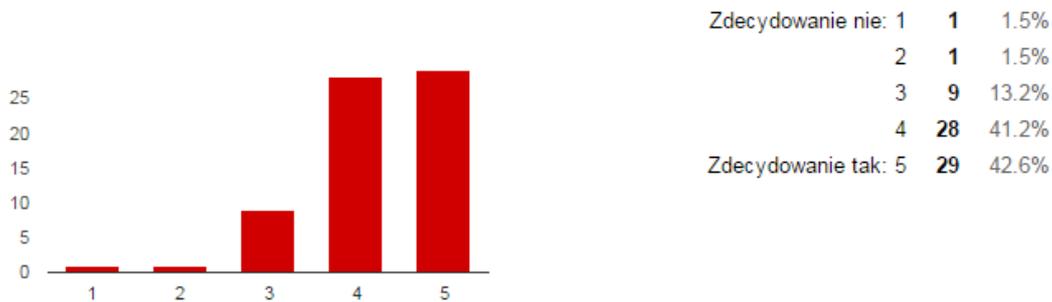
Zdecydowanie nie:	1	0	0%
	2	2	2.9%
	3	11	16.2%
	4	28	41.2%
Zdecydowanie tak:	5	27	39.7%

7. The platform is customizable enough for my learning needs

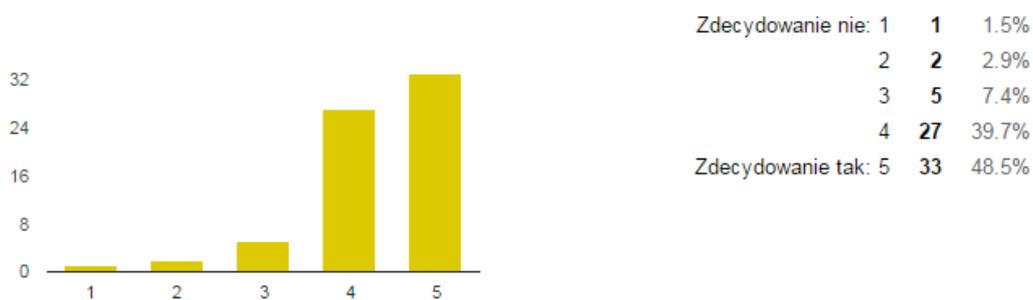


Zdecydowanie nie:	1	0	0%
	2	2	2.9%
	3	9	13.2%
	4	26	38.2%
Zdecydowanie tak:	5	31	45.6%

8. The platform responds to my action rapidly and softly



9. The videos are on a suitable quality level



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 users on the whole provided a very positive feedback on the pedagogical aspects of the platform, 92,6% (4/5) of the users agreeing that the contents covered by the platform were interesting in terms of learning and 88.3% (4/5) stating the platform could improve their general language skills. They found the platform to be a quality and valid learning tool, and a good alternative to the traditional learning methods (86.8% or 4/5), but said that the content, though valid and well prepared, offered learning material only for a basic level of communication, and strongly suggested to enrich the content and add new learning topics. Participants regretted as well that there is no British and American Sign Language available.

During piloting sessions there were some comments to the signing in Polish language and in polish subtitling. To understand this point it would be necessary to explain the

situation and role of Polish Sign Language (PSL), Linguistic-Sign System (L-SS) and Polish Language (PL)¹ in Deaf Community and education system of Deaf.

Education system of Deaf isn't clearly regulated by Polish law and thus universal for each city, school and region. That is why there are many differences among Deaf when it comes to their level of knowledge of Polish Sign Language, Linguistic-Sign System and Polish Sign Language.

Polish Sign Language is the natural language of Deaf Community that doesn't represent directly words and grammar of Polish language. Linguistic-Sign System is the linguistic system of signs created by hearing linguists. Signs represent words in Polish language and the structure of the sentence follow Polish grammar which is not natural for Deaf people.

The education of Deaf person is strongly influenced by the center, school, doctor, therapist that are chosen by Deaf or their relatives. Different institutions have different approach. Some support education of Deaf in Polish Sign Language, the other in Linguistic-Sign System. Some, when possible, insist on education in Polish Language and no use of neither PSL nor L-SS.

As the result, the knowledge of PSL, L-SS and PL is very different even within one Deaf community.

What is more, PSL varies as well from one Deaf community to the other. One sign can be interpreted differently by two different Deaf people.

For OPEN project, all recordings were prepared in Polish Sign Language.

During piloting, there were some comments to the signing. Some signs weren't clear for some Deaf people. Usually, the sign was correct but this concrete person used another one to express the same thing. There was no signing mistakes that were recognized by all Deaf community presented during piloting meeting.

On the other hand, there were comments according to the subtitling. For Deaf people there were some words, sentences that were not very clear. This is the result of the fact that Polish language differs from PSL and the level of knowledge of Polish Language in Deaf community is very different.

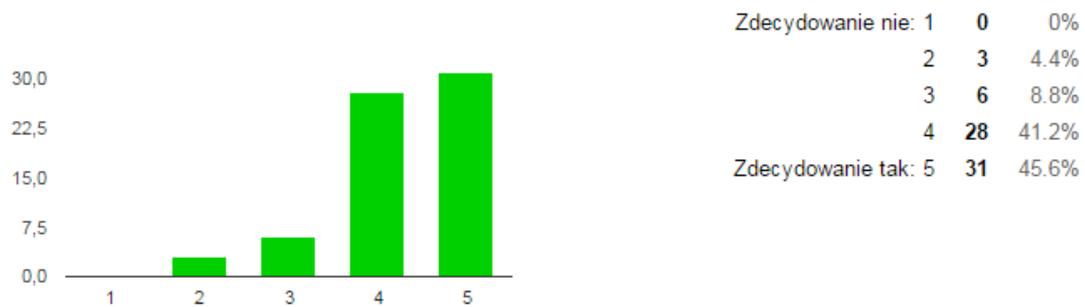
The PSL interpreters that prepared the Polish subtitles were conscious about this fact and tried to find a balance between PSL and Polish grammar, to make Polish subtitles understandable for hearing people as well. Nevertheless, there were still some points

¹ All three might be a communication tool for Deaf person

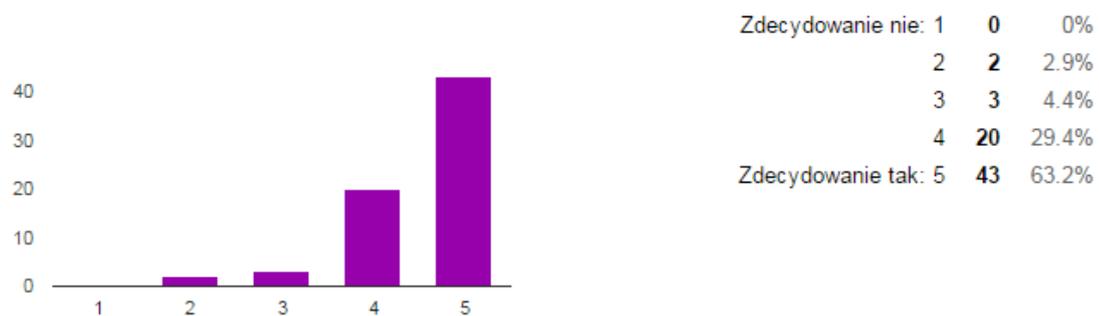
that should be changed and improved according to the comments of participants of the course.

This means that some words that were found difficult were replaced, after piloting, by easier words understandable for both: people with and without hearing impairment.

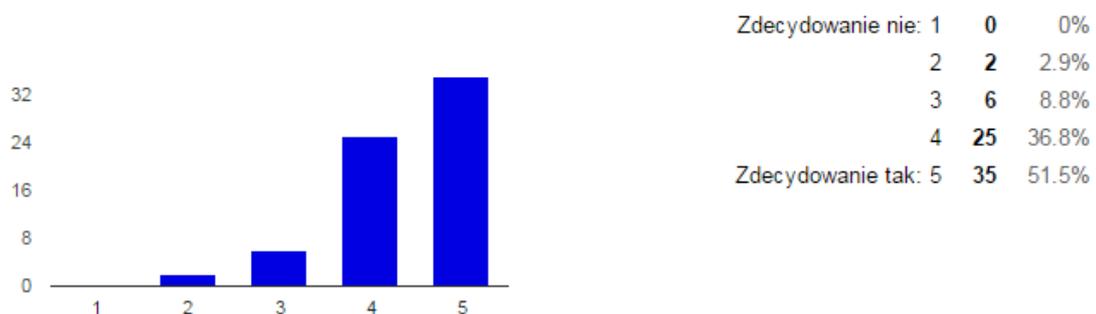
10. The quantity of the materials usable in the platform is sufficient



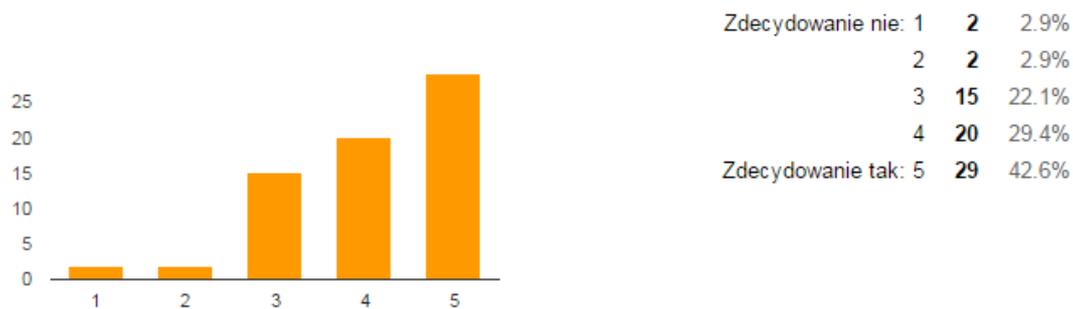
11. The contents covered by the platform are interesting in terms of learning



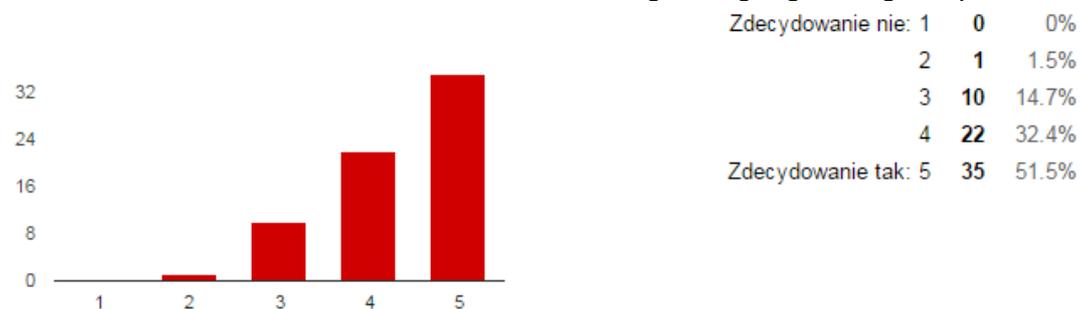
12. I think the platform could improve my general language skills



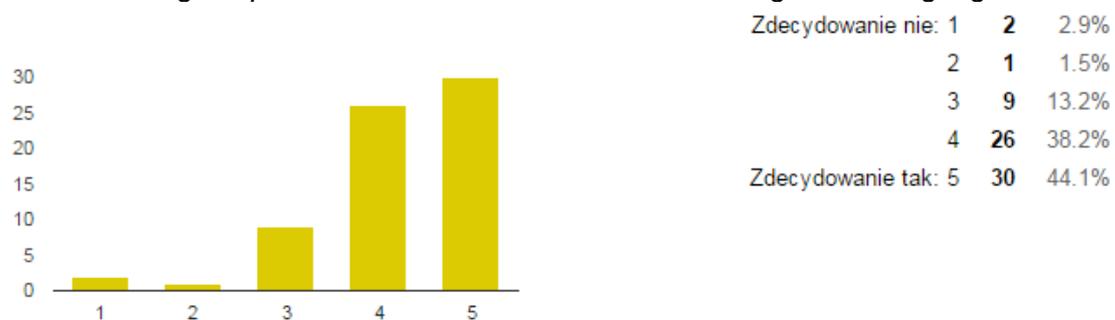
13. *I think I could learn more about English using this platform*



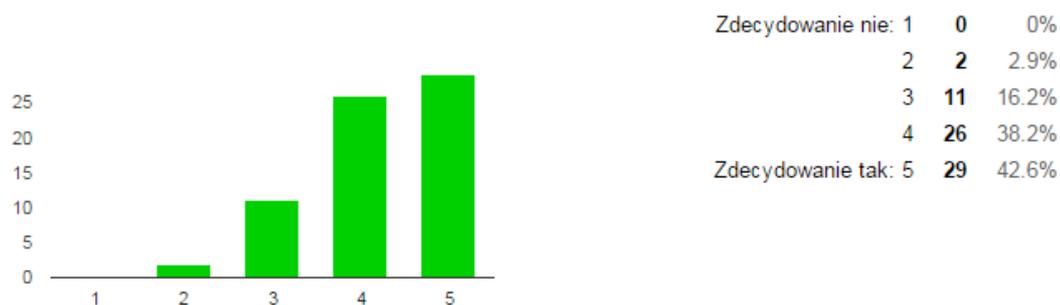
14. *I think I could learn more about International Sign Language using this platform*



15. *After using the platform I'm more interested into learning a new language*



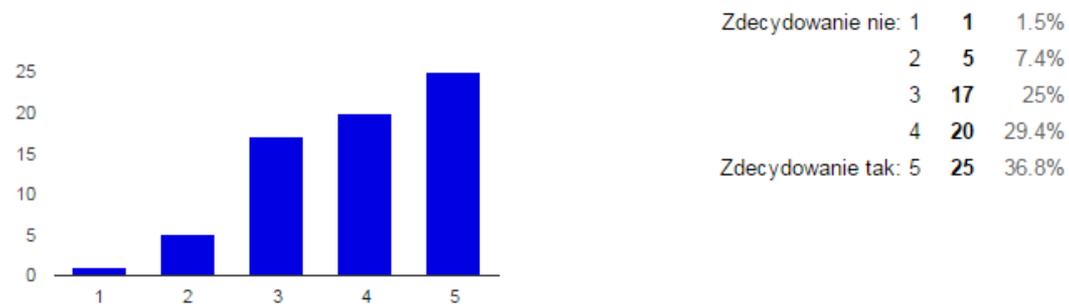
16. *The platform helped me to understand different cultures*



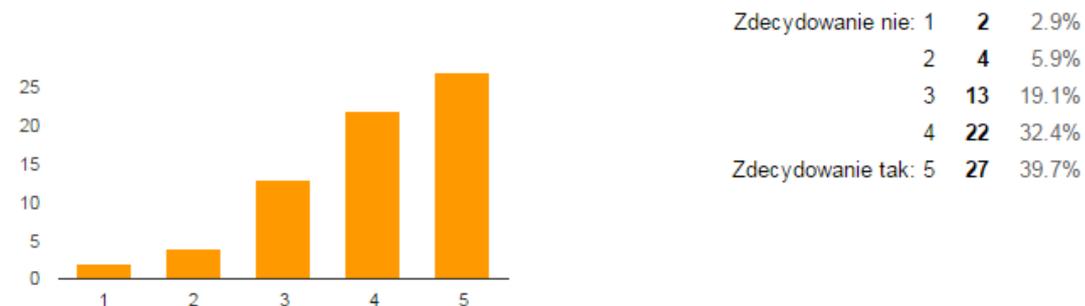
17. *The platform helped me to broaden my horizons*



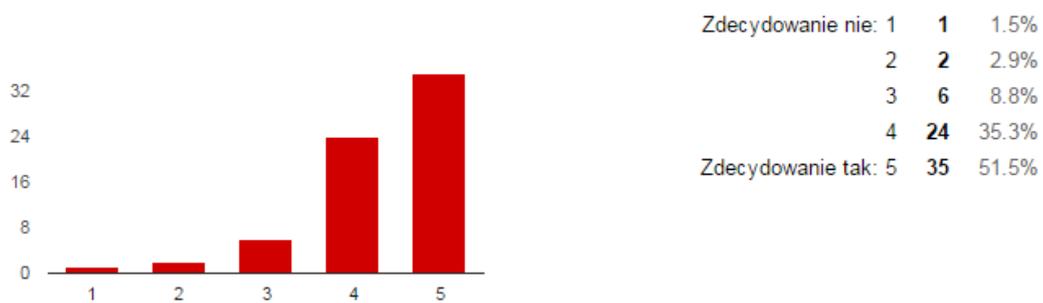
18. *After using the platform I'm more interested into going abroad*



19. *I think the platform could help me in an everyday life situation abroad*



20. *I think the platform provides a valid learning alternative to traditional learning methods*



Other significant points

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

What participants appreciated the most in the platform was the following:

- The possibility of learning the English language
- The possibility of learning other countries' sign language
- The disposition and precision of the interpreters
- Free access to the platform
- The possibility to see the same video with/without subtitles
- The quality of the recordings: speed, precision, position etc.

What participants appreciated less in the platform was the following:

- The number of languages available
- The number of themes available
- No speed control option

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.

During the testing we have gathered feedback of all users that have tested the platform, as follows the most common suggestions made by the participants:

- introduce new topics (e.g. behaviour in emergency situations - ambulance, police, in a pharmacy, in a bank etc.)

- add other languages (British and American Sign Languages)
- introduce speed control button
- simplify the layout of the topics to choose from
- add the option to have two recordings in different languages, one next to another like in dictionary, so it would be possible to see and compare two languages at the same time.

Summary

The general opinion of the platform is positive. Participants of the piloting sessions as well as of thematic workshops/local seminars appreciated especially the fact that there were International Sign videos, English subtitles for each recording and some variety of other foreign languages.

Other languages were analyzed rather by curiosity than the real will to learn it. What the participants found really attractive to learn was ISL.

The opinion among deaf about the additional option introduced into the platform: lips movement option, was rather neutral it wasn't criticized neither appreciated. On the other hand people with some hearing skills found this option very attractive.

The best solution would be to have the video in specific language, subtitles and lip movement in the same language. This would be complete and universal.

The last but surely not the least comment is that Deaf community appreciated very much that the tool was prepared for them which is very important taking into consideration the fact that there is very little educational material for people with hearing impairment.

To summarize: all indicators of the piloting phase were reached, comments were collected, the post-piloting phase aiming improvement of the platform was done.