

NEWSLETTERS no.4 & 5

VOGS – Vocational Guidance Standard Model for Deaf People in Europe

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Continuing with the series of newsletters informing about the VOGS project, this fourth and fifth one are aimed to report you the progresses made in this period (from August 2004 to March 2005), the new products and results available and the next steps in the project.

We have also added a section in which we will present all partners that are involved in the project, starting in this newsletter with the presentation of three of them.

For general information about the VOGS project, please refer to newsletter no.1, 2 & 3.

Best regards,

Jim Kyle,
Centre for Deaf Studies

Note: Remember that you can cancel your subscription to this free of charge newsletter at any moment calling us in [Phone: 0044 117 954 6900, Fax: 0044 117 954 6921] and asking for [Jim Kyle], or emailing us to [jim.kyle@bristol.ac.uk]. In the same way, you can order previous numbers by contacting us in the mentioned ways.

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1.- PHASES AND PRODUCTS OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPED TO DATE

The project has already finished the first phase, **Research and Analysis** which objectives have been to produce a State of the Art Analysis about the current and potential applicable aptitude diagnostical test procedures for the vocational orientation and educational guidance, summary and description of existing educational, vocational, and guidance models in Europe and the development of a Criteria Catalogue with the basic criteria that an educational and vocational guidance model should meet, to be able to be apply it in a useful way for the target group.

The second phase of the project, **Adaptation and Development** which main goal is the development of an innovative educational and vocational guidance method that meets the requirements of the target group with the help of the aptitude diagnostical test procedure and a tandem guidance method is also finished by now, and the result of this phase is the VOGS model.

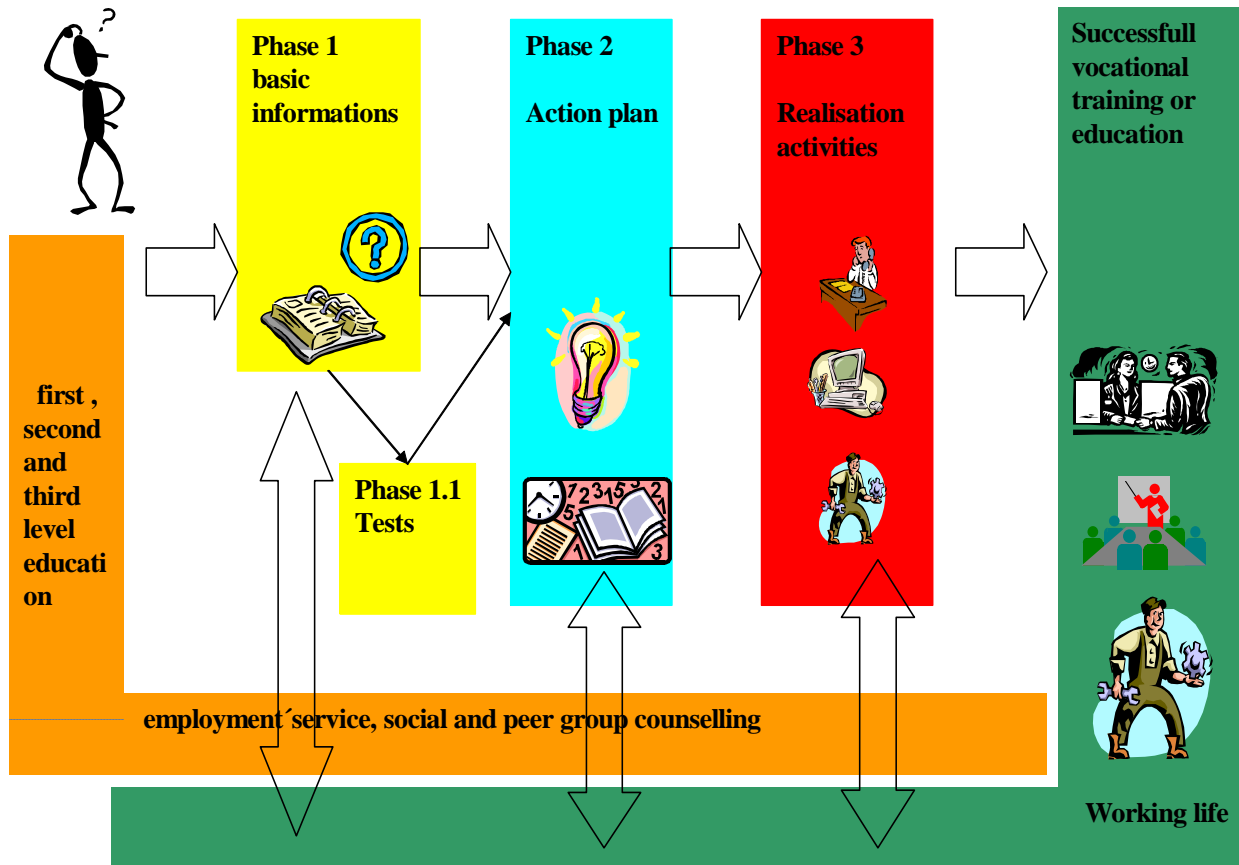
The **VOGS model** can be seen as a basic “philosophy” how counselling for Deaf people should be (Criteria , Aims , Tandem Method) , organising a personal process of interaction between counsellors and client until their goal is reached. This interaction is based upon the **tandem method**, where a Deaf and a hearing counsellor work together with the Deaf client.

It includes tools like interview forms and psychological tests to give them a structure, to be detailed and complete , not to forget essential points , and to make their work easier. It is not intended to limit the creativity and spontaneous acting of the counsellors.

The model should give a guideline to the counsellors, help them to structure the counselling, to document information, decisions and results and should be transformed in a curriculum to train counsellors in the VOGS method. Finally the model should lead to success , to reach aims that were decided together with the client. The model also emphasises that own experiences , work try-outs under realistic conditions , are very important and essential, especially for Deaf persons.

The main content of the model is described in the next diagram:

VOGS guidance and counselling



2.- PARTNERSHIP MEETING IN BRNO (CZ)

From 4th to 5th March 2005, the third partnership meeting of the project took place in Brno (CZ), with the following agenda:

- Presentation of the VOGS model
- Discussion about the Analysis of the aptitude diagnostical test procedures
- Presentation of a draft curriculum and ideas for the development of the pilot course
- Internal work processes (website, evaluation, reports, etc.)
- Next steps of the project (planning, tasks, deadlines, etc.)

The meeting allowed to discussing different suggestions, opinions and ideas that will result in benefits and improvements for the project.

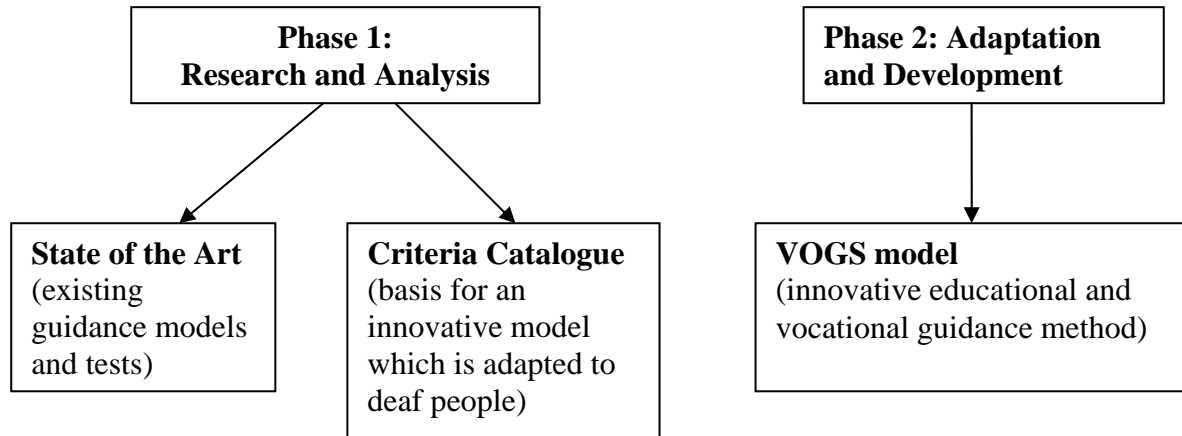
3.- NEXT STEPS

The next phases in the project are **Curriculum Development**, aimed at developing a detailed curriculum including teaching and learning materials for the training of deaf and hearing educational and vocational counsellors in accordance to the VOGS Model as basis for the pilot phase, and **Pilot training courses**, that is the realization of three pilot project trainings according to the VOGS Method in three European countries (AT, CZ, FI), realization of the educational and vocational guidance and collection of the experiences with the new method.

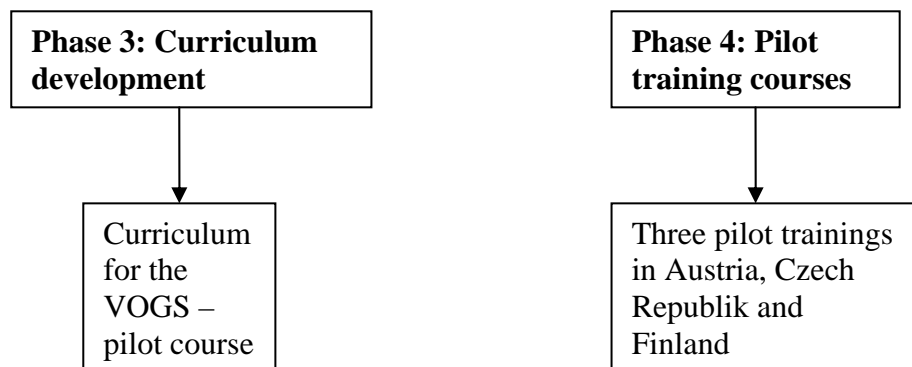
Subsequent newsletters will keep you informed about the development of these next phases and results obtained in them.

4.- SUMMARY

The results obtained to date are:



The expected results to be obtained in next phases are:



You can find more information about the project, at the project website:

<http://www.vogs.at/english/index.htm>

where you will find very soon also information available in sign language.

For more information about the VOGS model, you may contact your country's partner.

5.- PARTNERS' PROFILE

Starting with this newsletter we are going to present all partners' organizations participating in the project, in this one, the promoter from Austria, and two partners from Germany and Spain.



1) The **Steirische Landesverband der Gehörlosenvereine im ÖGLB** is an independent non-profit-organisation and is representing the interests of Deaf people in Styria. Because of the membership and close cooperation with the Austrian Organisation of the Deaf the Styrian Organisation of the Deaf is also representing the interests of Deaf people in Austria.

The Styrian Organisation was found in May 2000 with following aims:

- ➔ Improvement of the living condition in general of Deaf people in Styria
- ➔ Promotion of culture of Deaf people as well as sign language
- ➔ To encourage self-confidence and development of identity
- ➔ Offering trainings for Deaf people in sign language
- ➔ Teaching and learning materials with main focus on visualisation
- ➔ Information and advice in sign language
- ➔ public-sensitization
- ➔ coordination of sign-language-interpreters
- ➔ tight contact with various institutions deaf people have to contact and for their profession (education institutes, universities, public offices, other organisations for handicapped people)

offers:

- ➔ sign language competent social worker
- ➔ information about events, courses, seminars for Deaf people
- ➔ sign language courses
- ➔ further training for Deaf people
- ➔ information about sign language, culture of Deaf people
- ➔ newspaper
- ➔ possibility for surfing in the internet and learn different computer programmes

For further information please see www.stlvgv.at or contact Andrea Stoisser (andrea.stoisser@stlvgv.at)

Paulinenpflege Winnenden



2) The **Paulinenpflege Winnenden e.V.** is a service supporting young and adult people with special needs, situated in the south-western part of Germany near Stuttgart. More than 900 members of the staff assist 1200 people with different special needs.

The Paulinenpflege Winnenden was founded in 1823 by Pastor Friedrich Jakob Heim. We are member of the Lutheran schools in Württemberg and are organised in the following branches:

- The **vocational training and education centre** (“Berufsbildungswerk”) for Deaf and hearing impaired young people and young people with speech disorders
- **boarding and living for adults with special needs**
- **workshops** for people with physical, mental or psychological problems
- a **school** for children with **social problems**
- **boarding** for those young people

The branch of the **vocational training and education**, - which is the part of interest for this project of vocational guidance and counselling - consist of four sectors, working together very closely to give individual vocational support to young Deaf or hearing impaired people and young people with speech disorders.

- The sector “**vocational training**” offers training to ca 280 young people in 30 different professions and 10 vocational fields, like metal technics, textile processing, food and home economics, joinery, colour technics and interior decoration, construction, printing, farming, landscaping and electrical technics. This training is supported by the Social Service, Psychological Service and Speech Training Service. Young people who are trained outside of the training centre are accompanied and supported by our rehabilitation service.
- The **vocational school** ensures the “dual system”, that is used for vocational training in Germany, and supplements the practical training with theoretical knowledge. Young people, who are not yet able to participate successful in a vocational training also find the opportunity of a “vocational preparation course”.
- The **boarding-house** offers a place to live during the training or education and promotes the development of personality and self-reliance of the trainees in individual ways.
- The **full-time schools** offer a wide range of education.

The BFS (Berufsfachschule) offers to students, who have finishes the first educational level successfully, a second level of school qualification, called the “Mittlere Reife”.

In the BVJ (vocational preparation year) young people can improve their theoretical, social and practical skills to enable themselves to participate successfully in a vocational training course.

For young people with so called mental handicaps we offer a training for individual development, lasting at least 3 years.

For further information please see www.paulinenpflege.de or contact Gisela Schmitt (gisela.schmitt@paulinenpflege.de)



3) Confederación de Empresarios de Aragón (CREA), is a non-profit employers organisation located in the Autonomous Community of Aragón, Spain.

CREA represents more than 30.000 enterprises through its associates made up by territorial and multisectorial businesses associations as well as biggest local companies operating in the region.

CREA provides a wide range of services from training & employment to specialised guidance at different business areas and addressed to different targets, carry out periodical socio-economical surveys, provide European information through an EIC (Euro Info Centre) hosted by the organisation, among other activities etc. through a multidisciplinary staff of aprox. 55 employees with different profiles.

The most active area, *The Innovation, training and employment unit* organises and provides more than 500 courses per year as well as 4 post-graduates on Euro-quality, Euro-marketing Health and Safety at Work, and Human Resources, addressed to employees (lifelong learning), unemployed (occupational training) and special training itineraries to targets with special exclusion risks, such as immigrants, women, rural areas and youth, by means of all existing methodologies from in-class training to e-learning.

Other activities are focused on labour advice and intermediation for old students and with regional enterprises, in collaboration with the Regional Government, and special advisory boards to provide guidance on all business areas such as R&D, quality, environment, health and safety at work, New Technologies...etc.

CREA has been leading and collaborating on quite a lot of regional, national and European Programmes and in particular from the DG training and DG Employment ; from Leonardo Da Vinci programme , e-learning initiative, ENEA initiative, ADAPT initiative, Special call for tenders from Employment DG, Tacis, Al-invest programmes...etc, proving this way enough expertise in transnational co-operation.

For further information about on-going and completed projects, please visit: <http://www.crea.es> (corporative site) and <http://www.creaprojects.info> or contact Nathalie García de Leániz (ngarcia@crea.es)