



DCID Project News

Volume 1 Issue 1: December 2011

The Deaf Communications Infrastructure Development (DCID) Project has received over £946,000 from the EU INTERREG IVA Programme and brings together a consortium of six public sector and not-for-profit organisations from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Each organisation specialises in adult education and vocational skills development. The purpose of coming together is to build an infrastructure that addresses the critical current shortage of communication professionals working with deaf people to access public sector services. For more information about the project, please visit <http://teachsign.eu/about/>

The project was officially launched on the 22nd June 2011 at an event held in the **South West College** – Skills and Technology Centre in Enniskillen.



Project partners for the DCID Project.

Howard Keery, Director of the Joint Technical Secretariat in the SEUPB, said:

‘This is a highly significant project that will make a real and positive impact on the lives of deaf people, on a cross-border basis. Taking a truly collaborative based approach it will help fill a critical gap in

access to mainstream public sector services within the deaf community. One of the main objectives of the INTERREG IVA Programme is to support projects like this which are pro-actively encouraging the joined-up delivery of public service provision, on both sides of the border.’



DCID Project Partner Profile

EGSA – Educational Guidance Service for Adults – seeks to put learning and skills on everyone’s agenda. You can get more information on the full range of services provided by EGSA on their website at <http://egsa.org.uk>

EGSA is both the lead partner and a delivery partner in the DCID Project. As lead partner, EGSA is responsible for the financial management of the project and the partners. EGSA ensures that the project and partners operate within the rules and regulations of the European Union and the INTERREG IVA Programme Managing Authority – Special EU Programmes Body.

EGSA is also responsible for providing independent information, advice and guidance to deaf and hard of hearing people who are thinking of a career using their sign language skills. To find out more please contact our **Guidance Development Adviser** for the project, **Mairead McFadden**, on T: +0044(0)28 71271899 or E: mairead.mcfadden@egsa.org.uk.

<http://teachsign.eu>

What's happening in the DCID Project?

Pam Tilson, from **Signature**, recently had the opportunity to tell NI First Minister Peter Robinson what the DCID Project was all about.



Pam Tilson and NI First Minister Peter Robinson

Learners from **Sligo VEC** attained Irish Sign Language FETAC Level 3 Qualifications as part of the DCID Project. Congratulations to them and good luck as they now undertake Level 4.



Learners with their certificates

Up and Coming Events/Courses

- British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 Curriculum Event – Friday 20th January 2012 (Lurgan)
- Irish Sign Language (ISL) Level 1 Curriculum Event – Friday 24th February 2012 (Dundalk)
- Advanced Linguistics – April/May 2012 (Antrim)

Contact Paul or Susan at Signature for more information.

Who works on the DCID Project?



Paul Keenan (pictured left) works for Signature as one of the two DCID Project Workers. Paul began his job in November 2010 and works 22.5 hours per week. Paul attends deaf clubs and deaf events to promote the project and recruit participants. He also delivers BSL/ISL deaf awareness and linguistics. Paul finds his job extremely satisfying and believes that the DCID Project offers:-

‘an amazing opportunity for deaf people to gain confidence, skills, self-esteem and skills, as well as gaining qualifications and potential employment in the future’.

Paul has had a varied career; working and volunteering for over 15 years with deaf people both in Northern Ireland and England. He has, in the past, been the Chairperson of the NI Deaf Youth Association.

Outside work Paul is keen on sport and is an avid Manchester United fan. Other interests include reading, travelling and socialising.

Useful Project Contacts

You can find contact details for relevant staff at each partner at the project website
Why not follow us on twitter **@teachsigneu**

