

Ramping up for Deaf Empowerment!

Project Leader: Mr. Alexander Ivanov, Member of Board of Listen Up Foundation, Professional Fellow with Gallaudet University, Deaf Studies & Research Communication Manager.

Project Team Members:

- Ivan Burgov, Kiril Slavov & Silviya Bozeva from the **Videocenter & Resources Platform Team**
- Alexander Ivanov, Dochka Veleva & Hristina Katsipidou from the **Deaf Studies & Research Team**
- Ashod Derandonyan, Zahari Zahariev & Anita Lazarova from the **Communication & Sustainability Team.**

Project Mentors: Mrs. Georgia Whalen, Dr. Kathleen Wood and whereas needed ad-hoc local and international experts and specialists in the field of Deaf Studies

Ramping Up for Deaf Empowerment Actionable Objectives:

- **Establish a partnership with a higher education institution to create degree programs.**
 - Attract educators and experts at least at one university, who will become allies to establish a major in Deaf Studies.
 - Attract a Professional Training Center to include new professional courses on Deaf Trainer in Deaf Studies, Deaf Instructors of Bulgarian Sign Language and Deaf Sign Language Interpreter training programs.
- **Sustain an innovative Deaf Studies Research Center** for Deaf Studies, Bulgarian Sign Language (BGSL), and interpretation/translation research, training, and methodological work.
 - Create sustainable infrastructure for continued success of BGSL research work and Deaf Studies Research Center.

- Conduct surveys in the Deaf community in Bulgaria regarding social life, education, family and community.
- Create a network of allies - either international or local consultants, advisors and educators in the field of Deaf Studies
- Create a mentorship/internship/apprenticeship program for Deaf professionals in the field of research, documenting and methodological work in the field of Deaf Studies.
 - Create professional partnerships with Bulgarian businesses and institution for jobs, internships, apprenticeships and mentorships.
 - Build capacity among Deaf Bulgarians to be involved in social entrepreneurship initiatives related to Deaf-centric services.
- **Establish and sustain a Center for building a pool of Deaf trainers in Deaf studies and Bulgarian Sign Language (BGS�)** to support resource teachers, other specialists and families of Deaf children and youth
 - Sustain curriculum and training materials on Deaf Studies, Deaf Culture, Deaf identity and etc.
 - Create a database on Deaf History in Bulgaria
 - Establishment of joint programs with Gallaudet University in order to sustain a modern and authentic Deaf Studies Center in Bulgaria
 - Build a Pool of Deaf Sign language interpreters in Bulgaria
- **Train and build a pool of Deaf sign language interpreters for creation of BGS� video resources for education, information, and social services.**
 - Match skilled Deaf professionals with potential apprenticeships, and mentoring partners in order to increase the Deaf Studies & Research Center' capacity.
 - Create a database of sign language resources and training materials
 - Create training resources for training programs to support teachers, specialists, parents and other collaborators in education for Deaf children and youth through a Deaf Education online platform