

Deaf Communications Infrastructure Development (DCID) Project

Tender for the delivery of the Signature Level 6 diploma in Sign Language Translation

About the project

The DCID Project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund under Measure IVa of the INTERREG Programme. This Programme is administered by the Special European Union Programmes Body.

The Deaf Communications Infrastructure Development (DCID) project 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.

The partnership members are: Signature, Donegal VEC; Educational Guidance Services for Adults (EGSA), Sligo VEC; and Monaghan VEC and South West Regional College.

The project sets out to inspire a new generation of deaf people to gain the skills required to become the agents of their own social inclusion.

The overall aims of the project are to:-

- open employment prospects for deaf people which will also begin to address the current critical interpreter shortage by encouraging and supporting deaf sign language users to become qualified teachers in Further Education through both academic and vocational routes, leading to their economic progression;
- meet the requirement of Public Sector organisations to meet their statutory obligations to communicate with deaf people, through active engagement of Public Services (and active feedback of positivity of public services, which will be vital to continuous improvement);
- increase awareness of the communications needs of British and Irish Sign Language (BSL and ISL) users on the ground leading to a greater awareness and capacity in the general public and accessibility in a myriad of public services currently unavailable to deaf people. Deaf, British Sign Language (BSL) and Irish Sign Language (ISL) users, will have increased access to the full range of services offered by the public sector across the border region and beyond; and
- be a joint solution to the, cross-border, shortage of qualified deaf teachers with more classes for the next generation of communication professionals to help address the current cross border, critical interpreter shortage problems.

Objectives for this work

Our objective for this work is to:-

Deliver the Signature level 6 diploma in Sign Language Translation to a group of approx 6 Deaf people to allow them to achieve the qualification and join the NRCPD register as an RSLT (Registered Sign Language Translator)

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Requirements

Signature is looking for an experienced organisation to deliver the elements required to allow a group of 6 Deaf people to complete the level 6 Diploma in Sign Language Translation.

Key applications

The successful organisation will deliver the course locally and carry out the assessments required to allow the group to achieve the qualification.

Considerations

The organisation must be experienced in delivering this qualification and be registered to deliver it at the commencement of the course. Understanding of the client group and experience of working in the project area will be an advantage.

The organisation must be able to deliver the course at a location convenient to the participants.

The organisation will be responsible for assessing candidates for suitability to undertake the course, for delivery of all sessions they require to prepare for and complete it, and providing ongoing support to students whilst undertaking the course.

Students must complete the qualification by 31st March 2013.

Appropriate logos (i.e. EU, Project and Partner Logos) must be displayed on materials for the course.

The successful bid will take into consideration regulations relating to publicity regarding projects funded by the European Union as well as procurement and tendering regulations. Further information on these can be obtained at www.seupb.eu.

We currently have a budget of up to **£35,000** .

If you are interested in being considered for this work please e-mail your tender on no more than 10 sides of A4 to pam.tilson@signature.org.uk It should include the following information:-

- relevant experience (highlighting any work relevant to the DCID Project target group or partners)
- organisational history
- size of organisation and working methods
- contact details for those responsible in your organisation for the tender process and for the proposed delivery.
- Proposals for delivery – timescale, venues, format and ongoing student support.
- price

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Please return your tender document no later than **noon on Friday 13th April 2012**. Tender documents received after this time and date will **NOT** be considered. Decisions will be made on the basis of cost, viability of proposals in terms of delivery and timescale and proposals for ongoing support for students undertaking the course.