

THE D.E.F. PROJECT NEWSLETTER



Issue 1

April, 2025

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The D.E.F. project aims to create a more **inclusive HEI system for equal and equal access for deaf people to entrepreneurial higher education**, through concrete tools (the Compendium, the e-Space and the Community). In this way, the European HE sector will be supported in adapting its entrepreneurship and business management courses to the needs of deaf students, thus promoting their employment.



OBJECTIVES

The D.E.F. Project (Deaf Entrepreneurial for the Future) aims to make higher education more inclusive for deaf students, especially in the field of entrepreneurship. By creating innovative tools, methods, and accessible learning pathways, the project empowers deaf learners to actively participate in business training, break communication barriers, and unlock their full potential as future entrepreneurs.

ACTIVITIES

The first strand of activities will produce an **e-compendium** for HEIs interested in making their entrepreneurship courses more inclusive. The second will release an **e-space** to support deaf students in enjoying such courses. The last will create a **community** to test the results with a wider audience. The management of the project, its quality and its promotion will also be implemented, and all partners will collaborate on the activities.



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Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Erasmus+ National Agency - INDIRE. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



<https://defproject.eu/>



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EXPECTED RESULTS

The D.E.F. Project will deliver three main outcomes to support deaf students in entrepreneurship education:

- An e-Compendium for educators with inclusive strategies (WP2).
- An interactive e-Space with tailored tools and a manual for deaf learners (WP3).
- A community that connects students with the local business sector, featuring a fair for HEIs and policy recommendations for the EU (WP4).

THE D.E.F. PROJECT KICKS OFF IN ROME

The D.E.F. Project officially started with its Kick-Off Meeting held in Rome at Università di Roma Tor Vergata. This Erasmus+ KA2 initiative aims to promote a more inclusive higher education system for Deaf individuals interested in entrepreneurship. The meeting was an important moment to align objectives, define responsibilities, and set the foundation for future activities. Special thanks to the coordinating institution, **Università di Roma Tor Vergata**, and to the partners: **Społeczna Akademia Nauk**, **Lodz University of Technology (TUL)**, **European Association of Erasmus Coordinators**, **European Union of the Deaf (EUD)** and **Falco&Associati Education**.



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THE COORDINATOR

❖ UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA TOR VERGATA

The University of Rome Tor Vergata is a public Italian University that combines academic excellence with a strong commitment to innovation and inclusion. It actively engages in European projects promoting accessible, and interdisciplinary education.



THE PARTNERS

❖ EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ERASMUS COORDINATORS (EAEC)

EAEC is a European network supporting higher education institutions through training, mobility, and project development. It plays a key role in promoting inclusion and diversity in international education.



❖ EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF (EUD)

EUD is a non-profit organization advocating for the rights and full inclusion of Deaf people across Europe. It offers key expertise in accessibility, policy, and inclusive education practices.



❖ FALCO & ASSOCIATI SRL

Falco & Associati is an Italian consultancy firm specializing in EU project design, communication, and training. Falco & Associati brings expertise in education, inclusion, and strategic project management across Europe.



❖ POLITECHNIKA ŁÓDZKA

Lodz University of Technology (TUL) is a public university founded in 1945, ranked as the fifth-best technological university in Poland. It is a very active university in the processes of inclusion in teaching of students with disabilities and/or specific learning disabilities.



❖ UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (SPOŁECZNA AKADEMIA NAUK)

One of Poland's leading private universities, SAN focuses on practical education, innovation, and strong ties with the job market. It is deeply involved in European initiatives supporting accessibility and entrepreneurship.

