

THE D.E.F. PROJECT NEWSLETTER



Issue 2

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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.



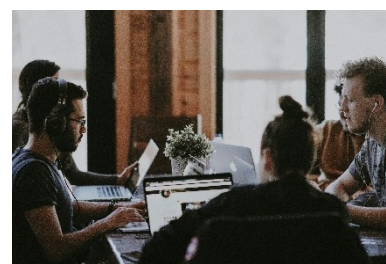
WHAT THE D.E.F. CONSORTIUM IS WORKING AND HAS WORKED ON...

The consortium has initiated the development of the **D.E.F. e-Compendium**, a virtual resource created specifically for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) aiming to make their curricula—particularly in self-entrepreneurship and business management—more inclusive and responsive to the learning needs of deaf students.

The e-Compendium will feature the following components:

- **Self-Assessment Questionnaire** - A tool to help HEIs evaluate how effectively their internal procedures and processes address the learning needs of deaf students when designing and delivering self-entrepreneurship and business management courses.
- **D.E.F. Guidelines** - A set of recommendations to assist HEIs in adapting existing courses in self-entrepreneurship and business management to better accommodate deaf students.
- **D.E.F. Protocol** - A structured framework to support HEIs in developing new self-entrepreneurship and business management courses tailored to the learning needs of deaf students.
- **D.E.F. Badge** - A certification awarded to European HEIs that adopt the e-Compendium tools in their approach to inclusive self-entrepreneurship and business management education for deaf students.

The consortium developed, under the guidance of lead partner SAN, the **methodological framework** to be followed for implementing the compendium. The three partner HEIs then organized three **focus groups**, inviting 15 teachers, principals, and local higher education experts (opinion leaders) to gather useful suggestions and opinions for the creation of the DEF Compendium for the HE sector. The results of these events were collected in a summary report. The **questionnaire** and **protocol** were subsequently developed, while the remaining materials are being finalized.



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NEXT STEPS...

In addition to validating the e-Compendium, in the coming months the partners will be involved

- In the design, implementation, and release of the **e-Space** to support deaf students in their learning.
- In the creation of a **Community** to test the results with a wider audience.

D.E.F. CONSORTIUM ONLINE MEETINGS

The project partners convene online on a **monthly or bimonthly basis** to review the progress of ongoing activities, align on forthcoming actions, and collaboratively address any challenges or critical issues that may emerge. **Chaired by the coordinating institution, the University of Tor Vergata**, these meetings serve as a vital platform for strategic planning, ensuring consistency and coherence across all project work packages. Beyond operational coordination, they also foster **mutual learning, transparent communication, and collective decision-making**, thereby reinforcing the sense of shared ownership and further **strengthening the consortium's collaboration** and commitment to the project's goals.

