

3D4DEAF: Work Inclusion and Innovation with 3D Printing

Abstract: 3D4DEAF, an Erasmus+ project, promotes job inclusion and entrepreneurship for deaf individuals through 3D printing and digitization. It provides accessible resources and facilitates international networking to connect students, youth, trainers, and entrepreneurs.

The world of work is often selective and may not fully embrace alternative perspectives, particularly those of entrepreneurs with disabilities. Deaf individuals encounter numerous barriers in finding places where their entrepreneurial ideas can flourish. It is essential to establish accessible environments, offering the necessary tools and resources, so their unique perspective can enrich society.

The Project

The Erasmus+ [3D4DEAF](#) project is an initiative aimed at transforming the training and employment integration of deaf individuals through the use of 3D printing. Co-funded by the European Union, 3D4DEAF unites eight international partners to develop inclusive and accessible vocational training tools and programs, opening up new opportunities in the digitized labor market.

3D printing represents transformative potential in various sectors, offering deaf entrepreneurs unique opportunities for innovation and business development. Using 3D technologies and digital tools, the project aims to enhance the digital skills of deaf students and youth, preparing them for the challenges of future careers. With 3D printing facilitating comprehensive management of the creative and production process within their startup or enterprise, deaf entrepreneurs can tailor the production and work environment to suit their needs and perspectives.

Our Partners:

Guided by Społeczna Akademia Nauk (SAN), project coordinators, the 3D4DEAF consortium worked collectively to develop accessible tools and courses. Each partner brought their expertise:

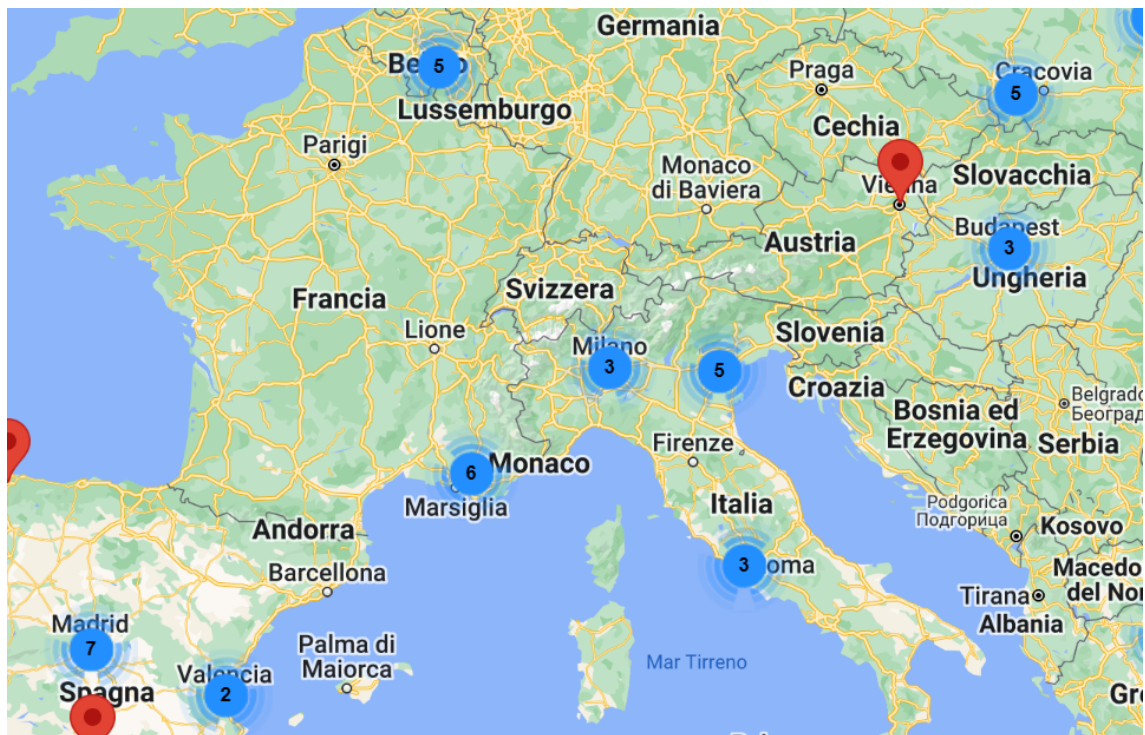
- Fondazione Istituto dei Sordi di Torino ONLUS - Italy: Specialized in accessible communication for the deaf.
- A & A Emphasys Interactive Solutions Ltd - Cyprus: Designers of educational programs.
- Instituto Hispano Americano de la Palabra - Colegio Gaudem - Spain: Experts in deaf education and inclusion.
- European Digital Learning Network ETS (DLEARN) - Italy: Network focusing on digital education.

- Aintek Symvouloi Epicheiriseon Efarmogesypsilis Technologias Ekpaidefsi Anonymiataireia (IDEC) - Greece: Consultants in training creation.
- Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju "Pitagoras" - Poland: Providers of training and services for the deaf and disabled.
- High School Deaf HoH Thessaloniki - Greece: Offering VET educational pathways for the deaf.



Project Activities:

The first step in enabling access to the world of work is to provide accessible information and tools. Through mixed-focus groups of deaf students and VET trainers, valuable insights are gathered. The [3D4DEAF platform](#) offers complimentary guides and services, empowering entrepreneurs to become digital experts and fostering innovative ideas within the Industry 4.0 landscape. To foster international networking among deaf individuals, an interactive [Mapping Tool](#) of European deaf organizations, training institutions, and entrepreneurs has been developed, detailing relevant seminars and events. Moreover, the platform provides more resources, like a glossary and consulting services to streamline communication and idea presentation.



Upcoming open-source tools on the project website include:

- An accessible guide on social entrepreneurship and 3D printing, featuring practical examples.
- An e-Community connecting deaf entrepreneurs, students, youth and trainers across Europe.
- An augmented reality educational game immersing students in an AR environment to learn social enterprise creation in Industry 4.0 sectors.
- Workshops and seminars hosted in schools, preparatory for study visits to social enterprises and Industry 4.0 establishments in each country.

The 3D4DEAF project remains committed to reducing barriers and enhancing the entrepreneurial and job prospects of deaf individuals.