



<https://techwhiz.hmu.gr>

Newsletter

May 2023



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News

The TechWhiz project, "Sign Language Dictionary of Technical Terms for Education", is an ERASMUS+ funded project that started on 1st of January 2022 under the coordination of the Medidata (PT) and a partnership of another 5 organizations, namely, Instituto Politecnico Do Porto in Portugal, the Hellenic Mediterranean University in Greece, the University of Maribor in Slovenia, the University of Siegen in Germany and the European Association of Career Guidance in Cyprus.

Technical terms are an essential part of all technical and scientific documentation, whether directed to education, to research or to labour. In education settings, there is a need to provide clear definitions of terms, to use a glossary explaining the meaning of each technical term when introducing a new topic and to align terminology and communication channels to the abilities of the target audience. It is exactly at this last point that equity and inclusion issues originate. However, these terms are not present to sign languages.

When we force deaf students to study via written spoken languages, we are putting them at a clear disadvantage and seriously compromising equity. Inclusive education is about assuring that all students have the conditions and the resources they need to succeed; this does not happen when we force students to study using a language they do not master. The TechWhiz project aims to assist deaf students gaining access to education in their first language thus enhancing their learning experience. To address this goal an online semi-automatic platform will be developed to create and search a glossary providing explanations of technical or scientific terms in sign language.

To communicate with the project write to: rogerio.ribeiro@medidata.pt

TechWhiz partners online meetings

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the TechWhiz partners had to adopt the kickoff meeting and work process according to the safety measures taken by all countries. Therefore, the project continues its work between the partners through online communications.

Porto meeting

The TechWhiz partners met in Porto, Portugal on October 21st 2022 to discuss the project's current status and to set the plan of implementation of the future activities.

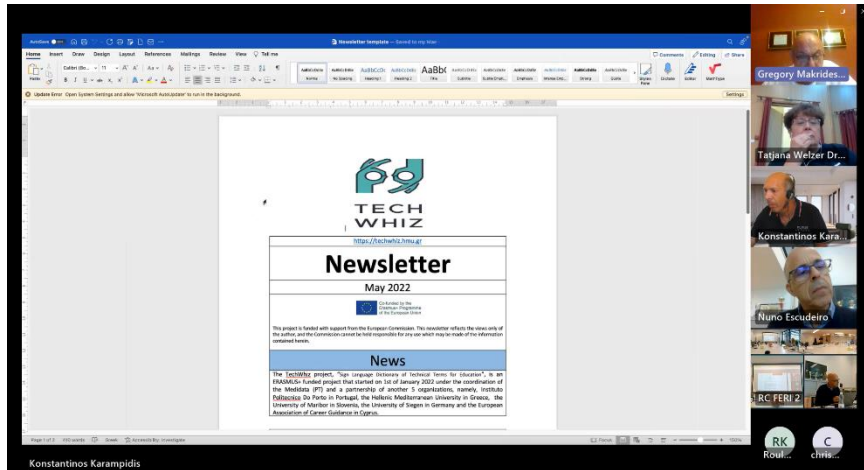


Maribor meeting

On the 18th of May, 2023, the TechWhiz consortium had its second Transnational Project Meeting. The meeting was held in Maribor, Slovenia, at the Faculty of electrical engineering and computer science, University of Maribor. As has become the norm after COVID-19, the meeting was of a hybrid type to facilitate the remote participation of the project contributors that could not attend the meeting in person.

In the meeting, we discussed all of the results that will be produced in the TechWhiz project, individual partner contributions and responsibilities, and the important project management issues that have arisen since the previous meeting. We are happy to report that the project is proceeding well, and the main tools that will be produced in the project, namely the TechWhiz Studio (an application to configure sign language), TechWhiz Gloss Loader (a web-based solution to facilitate interpretation of the spoken language to sign language) and TechWhiz Dictionary (an online dictionary that will define the searched terms in a sign language using the visualisation from the Studio and the definitions from the Gloss Loader), are close to complete. The tools should soon become available to try for yourself. We will make sure to let you know when this happens.





GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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