



PRESS RELEASE

8th February 2021

EASIER - Intelligent Automatic Sign Language Translation – a project funded by the Horizon 2020 programme officially kicks off

"EASIER -- Intelligent Automatic Sign Language Translation", kicking off in January 2021 and lasting three years, aims to create a framework for barrier-free communication among deaf and hearing citizens across Europe by enabling users of European sign languages to use their preferred language to interact with hearing individuals.

EASIER will provide translation between spoken languages and sign languages, both in near-realtime (automatic) and non-realtime (human-in-the-loop) mode. EASIER leverages expertise from the areas of machine translation, computer vision, computer graphics as well as sign language linguistics and language resources. The project's major target groups are the deaf community, sign language interpreters, and the sign language content creation industry. The consortium brings together the European Union of the Deaf with research groups in sign language technologies as well as experts in the technological sciences and humanities. A key principle of EASIER is the involvement of deaf personnel in the entire research cycle. Last but not least, EASIER will pursue affect- and gender-informed language technologies.

Given the challenging nature of the task, the project starts with seven sign languages (British, French, German, Swiss German, Dutch, Greek and Italian) that are comparatively well resourced and six corresponding spoken languages (English, French, German, Dutch, Greek and Italian). An important part of the project is the development of tools, guidelines and standards to support future research in collecting and annotating data for under-resourced sign languages and interfacing with the technologies developed in EASIER.



EASIER (Intelligent Automatic Sign Language Translation) project is funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme under Grant Agreement number 101016982.

The EASIER consortium, being heavily interdisciplinary, comprises the following organisations:



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