



Project: deAfDigitAlPlaTform+ ADAPT

IO.5-36 Manual activities videos creation

05.7- Writing of 35 manual activity texts

DEAF PEOPLE TODAY

What is personal success in the social and professional integration of a valid person?

The success in the social and professional integration is when you succeed in your life, when you graduate from university, when you get a new job, when you are getting promoted at work or when you start your own company and accomplish many things in life. When you are satisfied and happy by your results and work, when you look at your bucket list and check the boxes with things that you have accomplished.

What is personal success in the social and professional integration of a deaf person?

For a deaf person, things are different. The road to its goal is not that straight, clean, and easy to walk on just with few small potholes and rocks. Instead, it is a road full of potholes and broken trees which blocks the way, and you need to fix those obstacles so you can move on.

From my experience and my point of view, the success for a deaf person starts with “I want to try it!” This is the most important moment from their life because they realize that they can do better and they accept the fact that it will be a long road and difficult one for them, when they accept to make mistakes, to fall and to learn. When they choose to set aside for a moment the excuse that they are deaf and that it is impossible for them and try things in their way. Some things will not work like it works for hearing people but they always can find other solutions, more suitable for them and different.

I have a short story that came in my mind right now about the road to success of a deaf person. A hearing person sees a pothole on the road, calls on the phone people who are repairing the roads, they come there, repair them, and then the hearing person continues the road. They see another pothole at 100 km distance, call them again to repair them, and it repeats at every 100 km.



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A deaf person sees a pothole on the road, instead of calling them, they text to people who repair roads, they will not reply as soon as possible, they will come there in about 2-3 hours to repair the potholes and then the deaf person continues the road. But at 1km distance there is another big pothole that blocks the way, they call again people who repair the road which arrives at the place in 2-3 hours again and it repeats at every 1 km. it is a lot of time wasting for the deaf person to wait because they do not even notice the SMS.

So, the deaf person has two options: to text them repeatedly, to wait hours for their help or to repair the road themselves by putting the rocks by the road in the pothole.

When they start to do things themselves because out of the anger of waiting so much for other people's help, they grow and improve a lot of essential and useful skills that will help them in life.

There are so many small things that together can contribute to remarkable success, the more obstacle you overcome the closer you are to success. Doing things by yourself you can become your own road repairman, your own secretary, your own assistant, your own cooker, your own anything.

There is no stop sign in front of them that tells them to not do it because they are deaf. Nothing is different between a deaf person and a hearing person but the ability to hear.

Many deaf people give up because they are afraid to make mistakes and fall. It is because they grew up with people who taught them those ideas that a deaf's purpose in life is to work in the factory or something like that. But like I said, the success in a deaf person in life starts with small steps and "I want to try it!"

Stories about deaf young people and their success

I am Ioana, I work as an assistant manager at an Association where we look for tech people to teach kids programming languages and share their passions with them, to encourage them to prepare for a better future. Also, I am student at business computer science, in 1st year.

I am 20 years and I grew up in a hearing family, nobody knows sign language. When I was 4 years old, I lost my ability to hear due to a sickness that got worse because of the wrong medication.

When I met new people the first thing, I tell them is that I cannot hear but I can lipread so that they know and can continue the conversation differently, speaking clearer. Often people say “Oh I am so sorry that you cannot hear, poor you!” I do feel bad for them in my mind because they do not know that this is the only way I could succeed in life and become who I am today. If I were not sick back then, I would never have become who I am today and would have never meet those amazing people that I have meet throughout my life.

Last year in August I started to work at the association where I currently work, they were looking for a deaf person to help the project manager. I applied for that job, passed the interview and I could not believe that it was so easy and fast.

We work remote, and we have online video calls daily. We found ways to communicate better, I am using captions in English when we are having video calls because there does not exist my native language. It was so difficult for me to understand at first because captions are not always working correct. But with the time I got more used to reading captions and improved my English a lot.

I just graduated from school when I got that job, I passed exams and wanted to go to university but I had no plans or any idea where I want to go. So, I applied for a university where everyone passes there without exams, where I studied for few months biology and environmental projection.

Day by day I was inspired by my co-workers at work to work in IT because I worked remote, I tried a lot of different softwares and things that started my interest in technology. Instantly I emailed that university that I want to drop out because biology and physics exams were coming and while waiting for the period to sign up to my current faculty, I explored a lot of stuffs which motivated me to want it harder!



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At my work, I offered myself to teach deaf kids programming languages and besides that I want to help them realize that they can grow up and become who they want, it is possible if they get the courage to overcome anything that blocks them.

I spent 12 years old at the school for deaf students in Cluj-Napoca where I met for the first-time people like me, I started learning sign language from my colleagues who grew up with deaf parents. I learned it fast, it was the place and community where I belong.

In high school I have best memories because we started to do a lot of projects and more about deaf community. We created a project called “Deaf Lider” the purpose of it was to teach hearing parents who have deaf kids how to communicate and interact with them and give them special needs.

Every summer, at the end of every school year we went to Medjugorje, there was an international festival where people from across the globe come there annually to pray together. There was an NGO called Mary’s Meals, where we contributed with some support and they posted about us on their website ([LINK](#)).

Before the pandemic started, we were working on a new project supported by people from Strasbourg, the goal of this project was to create an online dictionary for deaf people, where they can have access to everything they need, from learning words and definitions to phrases and stories but we stopped.

My name is Claudia Bortos, I was born in Budapest and moved in Romania. My parents are deaf, maternal grandparents are deaf. I grew up speaking in Romanian, Magyar and American Sign Language.

I went to school for Deaf children where I met more deaf people and made beautiful memories. When I was in 10th grade I transferred in a school for hearing students, due to some personal problems and wanted to experience something new. That was the most challenging and difficult for me. Teachers there do not know sign language, everybody there speaks, I always could not understand and I did not feel involved. I felt like I was in another world, a world where I do not belong. Almost everyday I missed my previous school and friends from there. We managed to meet and go somewhere in weekend, I was happy. I waited to graduate.



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When I graduated, I reunited with my people, I started to work at TBSR (<https://www.facebook.com/TBSRO>) there deaf employee, we work together on translating the Bible in Romanian sign language, for deaf people to understand.

I think it is important for the deaf community to have people who are capable, to translate things in sign language.