

The Deaf Museums Project

a transnational Erasmus+ project (2021-2023)

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Interpretation in International Sign



To the website www.deafmuseums.eu

Our Objective

To make everyone aware of the importance of, and need for Deaf Museums in Europe: museums about Deaf History, the Deaf Heritage.

Why?

Because museums help people remember, they make people aware, they preserve, they teach, they show.

And because Museums about Deaf History, the Deaf Heritage are very much needed to do all of these things. This is not new. People have been saying this for over 125 year!

Our conclusions

- In the past century so much has changed. If we do not preserve memories, photos, videos, artefacts **now** much of Deaf History will be lost forever. Some Deaf Museums collect exhibits by dumpster diving!
- At the moment, there are too few Deaf Museums. Most are small and depend on volunteers, several are at risk.
- For Deaf Museums to survive and to spread, they must cooperate with mainstream museums and museum

"This (Deaf) Museum is not intended as a casual show, to be seen once and forgotten. Its pretensions are nobler; it has a humanitarian aim. By its solid and tangible evidences, making history memorable and attractive by illustration, it serves a double purpose: to dispel ignorance and prejudice regarding the deaf, and to raise the victims of this prejudice and ignorance to their true level in society."

The British Deaf Monthly, Vol. VI (p.265) 1897. ←

Our Output

- A website with resources for and about Deaf Museums: www.deafmuseums.eu
- Deaf History exhibitions (online and physical) in 6 countries as examples and for inspiration.
- Guidelines and an online course.
- Research and a report.

"Access to and participation in culture is a basic human right. Everyone has a right to representation and agency in museums, and communities should have the power to decide how they engage."

Source: [A manifesto for museum learning and engagement](#)

professionals. Deaf professionals know **what** to preserve and share. Mainstream professionals know **how** to do this.

- Some mainstream museums already employ Deaf museum guides. These museums are aware of Deaf people as a special target group. However, most do not know that there is a need (and a market!) for Deaf Museums, for exhibitions about Deaf History, Deaf Culture.
- It is up to us: the partners in the Deaf Museums project, the Deaf Community, Deaf Associations, Deaf professionals to make the first step. **We must work together to protect, preserve and share our history.**