

Based on Article 28 of the Statute of the University of Primorska (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 88/15, 63/16, 2/17, 31/17, 31/17, 77/18, 75/19, 28/21, 115/21, 122/22, 100/23, 36/24, and 3/25), the Act Regulating the Use of Slovene Sign Language (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 96/02), and Article 6 of Contract No. C3360-25-453045 on the financing of study and extracurricular student activities for the period 2025–2028 from April 4, 2025, the Rector of the University of Primorska, Prof. Klavdija Kutnar, PhD, on 27 June 2025 adopted the following

Implementation Plan for Ensuring the Right of Deaf Persons to Use Slovene Sign Language and to Participate in the Study Process Using Adapted Techniques Appropriate to the Study Programme during the Period 2025–2028

Activity 1: "Public procurement for the conclusion of a service contract for providing Slovene sign language interpreting services as needed"

This activity will enable the University of Primorska (UP) to provide Slovene sign language interpreters for events, information days, open days, and courses, thereby ensuring professional-level communication between deaf students, their peers, and lecturers. Higher education requires professional knowledge to be effectively conveyed, ensuring equal learning opportunities for deaf students.

The service contract for providing Slovene sign language interpreting is planned to be concluded before the start of the academic year 2025/2026.

Activity 2: "Open days, information days, and other events for potential students"

Starting from the academic year 2025/2026, UP will ensure that its information days and other events presenting its study offer are accessible to hard-of-hearing and deaf persons. Promotional materials will clearly indicate that interested participants can request the presence of a sign language interpreter.

Activity 3: "Adjustments of the study process for deaf students"

Following enrolment deadlines, UP will assess the needs for adapting specific courses to suit hard-of-hearing and deaf students. Lecturers for courses requiring adjustments will undergo training provided by UP in the form of micro-credentials titled "Methods for Working with Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Speech-Language Impaired Persons," or through training delivered by external providers. The micro-credential training is expected to be developed during the academic year 2026/2027. Should the need arise earlier (in the academic year 2025/2026), appropriate training will be provided based on public procurement procedures with suitably qualified institutions.

Activity 4: "Subtitles for video/audio content"

All recorded lectures, seminars, and tutorials (video or audio) intended for groups including deaf or hard-of-hearing students will be subtitled. If an interpreter is present during the recording, the video will visibly include both the interpreter and the lecturer.

Students with hearing loss will also be able to follow classes using their own assistive devices that convert speech to text in real-time, thereby ensuring equal access to study content.

Activity 5: "Visibility – assigned seating for deaf students"

Besides the visual presence of interpreters in recordings, visibility is crucial for live events and lectures. When a deaf or hard-of-hearing student attends a lecture or event, seating will be arranged to ensure a clear view of the projection/board and the interpreter. Proper lighting will be ensured to allow clear visibility of the speaker's lips or the interpreter.

Activity 6: "Sound and acoustics"

Background noise can interfere with the ability of deaf and hard-of-hearing students to hear clearly. Certain sounds, such as humming from electronic devices, may disrupt hearing aids or implants. UP will minimize environmental noise (e.g., by closing doors/windows) and use hearing loop systems or other assistive technologies where possible. UP will also prepare guidelines for reducing background noise.

Activity 7: "Developing communication skills for interacting with deaf persons"

Activity 7.1: "Elective subjects within open course offerings"

Within the Master study programme Inclusive Pedagogy, UP offers accredited courses: "Sign Language" and "Methods for Working with Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Speech-Language Impaired Persons." Starting from the academic year 2025/2026, these courses will be available as electives to all UP students.

Activity 7.2: "Courses in Slovene Sign Language – beginner level and intermediate level"

Building on the successful two-month beginner Slovene Sign Language course conducted as part of the project "GDI UP – Green, Digital, and Inclusive University of Primorska" ([link](#)), UP will annually offer beginner (first semester) and intermediate (second semester) courses in Slovene Sign Language for staff and students, with external instructors. These are planned to start in the academic year 2026/2027.

Activity 7.3: "Training leading to micro-credentials in communication with deaf persons"

To support Activity 3, UP will develop training programmes leading to micro-credentials in communication with deaf persons. These will equip academic staff with the necessary competencies and enhance their career prospects. Training will also be open to administrative staff and tutors.

Activity 8: "Foreign sign languages"

As an international community (23% international students and 13% non-Slovene-speaking staff in the academic year 2024/2025), UP recognizes the need to support non-Slovene-speaking deaf students and staff. During the period 2025–2028, UP will explore the feasibility of introducing activities for users of foreign sign languages, especially English Sign Language. Initially, UP will use AI transcription services in English, which are already highly functional.

In accordance with Article 4 of the Act Regulating the Use of Slovene Sign Language, UP will also seek to provide interpreting from spoken Italian to Italian Sign Language, and vice versa.

Activity 9: "Special status"

In accordance with the Rules on students with special needs at the University of Primorska, deaf and hard-of-hearing students can obtain special status allowing for study adjustments based on an individualized support plan. Tutoring assistance is also available. During the period 2025–2028, UP will continuously enhance its support measures for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and will publish relevant information clearly on the webpage.

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Prof. Klavdija Kutnar, PhD
Rector of the University of Primorska

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