

# From the History of the Project Implementer

## PolStudio – DeafStudio

The current civil association DeafStudio was founded in 2004. At that time, I, Roman Polášek, founded an organization named PolStudio. The name was created simply, I took the syllable from my surname Polášek - the prefix "Pol" and added Studio, which was again a symbol of the fact that it would be an organization working with media. Thus "PolStudio" was created. Its goal was to gather and create media files of various activities in the signing community, both during their studies and after graduation. In the beginning, I recorded various shows from activities around my school.

The response from the deaf community was good, but I found out that the name was not appropriate because many people thought it had something to do with Poland based on the name. So I decided to change the name to DeafStudio, where each component is in English - Deaf means deaf and Studio means studio, so in full translation and meaning it is the Studio of the deaf.



First name and logo - PolStudio since 2004



Second name and logo - DeafStudio since December 2005

Although the activity was interesting, it was unofficial and without registering the organization. This created various difficulties, especially with financial support for the activity. Therefore, before the end of 2008, we spoke with Marek Kanaš and Juraj Holéczy about the need to officially register the organization with the Ministry of Interior of SR and how the registration process works. The fact that this was not easy for us as deaf people is also evidenced by the fact that the registration was rejected three times for various formal reasons. In the end, we succeeded and our official civil association was established according to the law on the association of citizens on December 23, 2008 under the registration number MVSF: VVS/1-900/90-32606.

Current logo: shows the fact that the organisation has been in existence for 10 years



The founding members of DeafStudio – from left, Marek Kanaš, Juraj Holéczy, Roman Polášek, and Martin Humeňanský – are discussing the DeafStudio Prešov bylaws.

The registration of our civic association gave us a new impulse in our work. We decided to make our first goal to film a full-length movie about the life of the deaf. In 2009, we made an amateur film called "The Legend of the Deaf". We did everything ourselves – the deaf – the script, location planning, materials, costumes, accommodation, filming permits, editing, sound engineering, actors. For example, locations included the Alžbetin church in Košice and the Šariš castle, and it all took us 9 months. The premiere was held at the Úsmev cinema in Košice on December 5th, 2009. After the premiere in Slovakia, the film was also premiered in the Czech Republic and was watched by a total of 624 viewers.

In 2010, we officially baptized the DVD with the film "The Legend of the Deaf".

We present some of the filming and work with the film to the ceremonial baptism of the DVD.



first shot with green background



Poster



The christened DVD with the film "The Legend of the Deaf"

As time passed, we expanded and increased the volume of our activities and areas of interest. We started working systematically on projects, first domestic projects under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture of the SR, and later participated in international projects under the Erasmus+ program.

From these projects, we would mention various events such as "Come with us 1 and 2," "Internet Television through the website," where information for the deaf is displayed in video form. Later, a project was added where we translated text into Slovak Sign Language for museum exhibitions in Slovakia, so that deaf people have sign language guides in museums, which certainly increases their interest in culture and visiting museums. We also made several fairy tales for deaf children with sign language, workshops with a deaf guide. The Erasmus+ project is international and provides support for the creation of a new company in the deaf community.