



MASARYK  
UNIVERSITY  
Czech Republic

# ČZJ Signers at Czech Universities

Sign Languages in Tertiary Education  
and Scholarly Publications in Sign Languages

Masaryk University, Brno

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## Czech Legislation

- **1990:** Act No. 171/1990 Coll., on the System of Primary and Secondary Education: *“the Deaf... have the right to be educated in their own language by Sign Language”*
- **1998:** Act No. 155/1998 Coll., on Sign Language, in force till 2008
- **2008:** Act No. 155/1998 Coll., on Communication Systems of the Deaf, as amended by Act No. 384/2008 Coll., in force since 2009



# Special Service at the Czech Universities

- counselling centres:
  - applicants, students, third parts searching for information
  - general counselling (educational, legal, social, psychological, carrier)
  - for students with special needs
- **service centres for students with special needs**
- 2013 - Association of Service Providers for University Students with Special Needs (AP3SP, 12 member universities)

# Statistics of Deaf Students (Czech Ministry of Education)

Year	2013		2014		2015		2016	
University	[B1] Hard of hearing	[B2] Deaf	[B1] Hard of hearing	[B2] Deaf	[B1] Hard of hearing	[B2] Deaf	[B1] Hard of hearing	[B2] Deaf
UK Praha	12	<b>14</b>	17	<b>16</b>	22	<b>16</b>	23	<b>12</b>
MU Brno	27	<b>30</b>	30	<b>38</b>	32	<b>37</b>	31	<b>32</b>
UP Olomouc	9	<b>6</b>	12	<b>13</b>	13	<b>7</b>	17	<b>10</b>
OU Ostrava	4	<b>0</b>	7	<b>1</b>	8	<b>1</b>	8	<b>0</b>
Hradec Králové	1	<b>0</b>	4	<b>1</b>	2	<b>0</b>	3	<b>0</b>
JAMU Brno	5	<b>12</b>	4	<b>7</b>	3	<b>5</b>	4	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	73	<b>67</b>	90	<b>80</b>	106	<b>71</b>	124	<b>63</b>

# Interpreting at the Czech Universities

- initially just individual and occasional
- 1992 – internal interpreter at Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno (*Educational Drama*)
- 1997 – occasional interpreting at Palacký University in Olomouc
- 1998 – interpreting at Masaryk University and Charles University (*Deaf Studies*), occasionally at other universities (Sign Language Act)
- 2003 – systematic service by Teiresias Centre, MU, later at other Czech universities

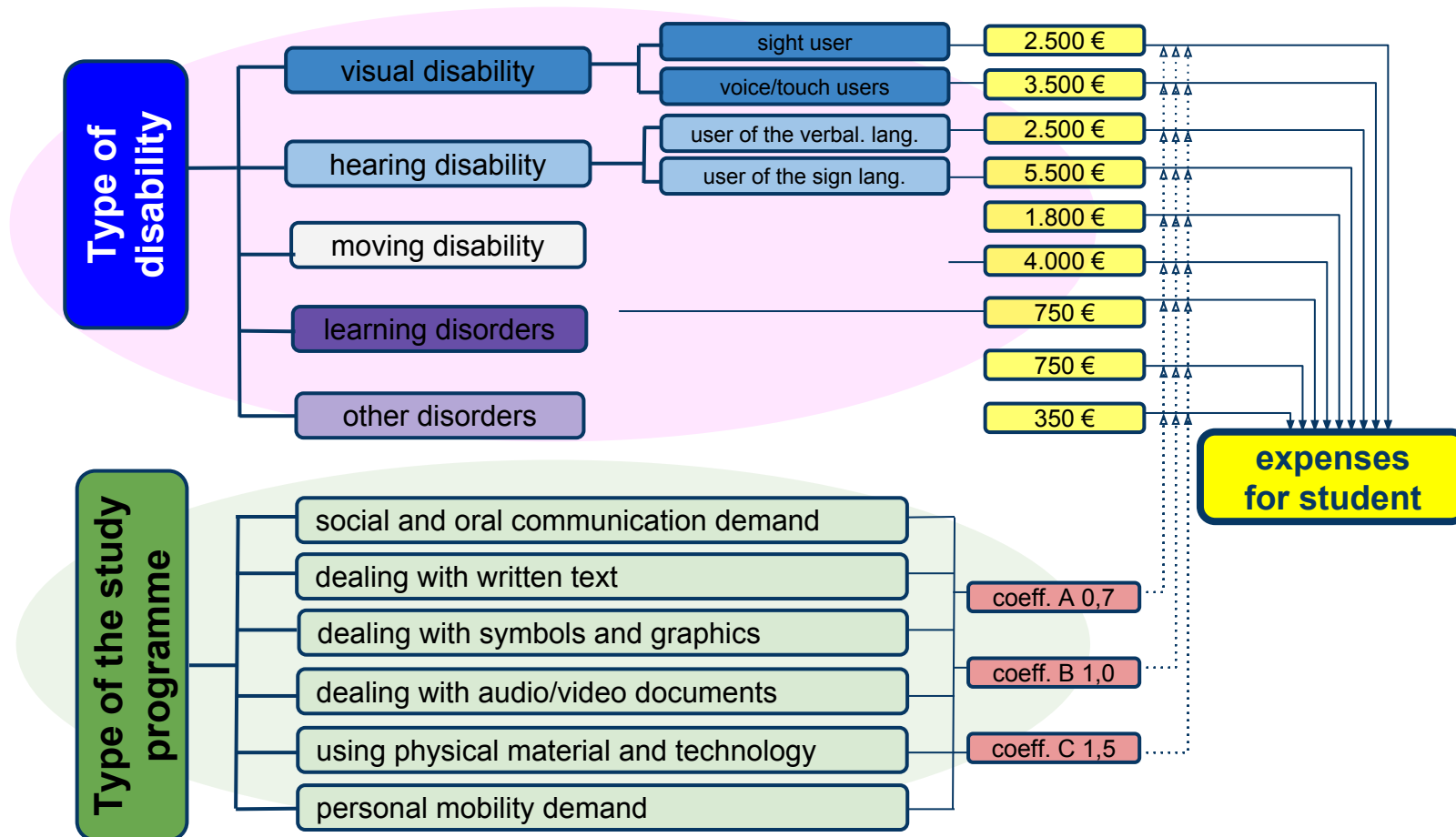


## Financing the interpreters

- initially mostly individual (including private service)
- 2010 – practical service offered by Teiresias Centre shadowed by the Ministry of Education, leading to an agreement on national financing by public budget
- 2011 - *Principles of the financing and special grants provided to public universities by the Ministry of Education; Supplement 3: Financing of the extra costs for students with special needs, p. 31-58.*



# Financing of the extra costs





# Per student normative and complexity coefficient

Disability	Extra costs	Coefficient A (0,7)	Coefficient B (1,0)	Coefficient C (1,5)
<b>B1 user of the verbal language</b>	<b>2.500 €</b>  A: 1.750 € C: 3.750 €	pedagogy sports	sciences technical sciences medicine medical disciplines veterinary medicine economy figurative arts performing arts	philology law sociology psychology philosophy theology history musical arts
<b>B2 user of the sign language</b>	<b>5.500 €</b>  A: 3.850 € C: 8.250 €	pedagogy sports	sciences technical sciences medicine veterinary medicine medical disciplines economy figurative arts performing arts	philology práva sociology psychology philosophy theology history musical arts



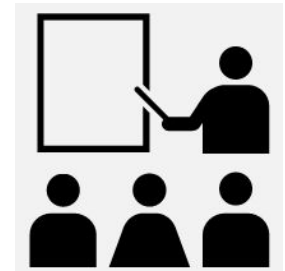
# Interpreting Service

<b>Czech-Norwegian comparison</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Norway</b>
Population	10 millions	<i>5 millions</i>
Number of primary sign language users	8,000	<i>5,000</i>
Number of sign language interpreters	40-70	<i>600</i>

- real-time communication service  
(students, lecturers, teachers, other staff)
- text translations
- increasing demands on education of interpreters

# Education of interpreters

- local education (community institutions and agencies)
- 1998 – curriculum of *Czech in the Communication of the Deaf* at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University
- 2000 - The Czech Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters
- 2004 - Certified study programme for interpreters of Czech Sign Language at the Czech Chamber
- 2007 - The Deaf Institute for specialized training (specialized courses for interpreters)



## Education of interpreters (cont'd)

- 2010 – *Universal learning design – innovation in interpreting and communication services* at MU (grant by European Social Fund)
- 2012 – *Network of Expert Centres Providing Inclusion in Tertiary Education* at MU (grant by ESF)
- 2016 – Deaf College in Hradec Králové, post-secondary study programme *Czech Sign Language Interpreting* has been accredited and is about to start
- currently – accreditation processes of study programs *Czech Sign Language Interpreting* at Charles University, Masaryk University and Palacký University (ESF)

# Education of interpreters

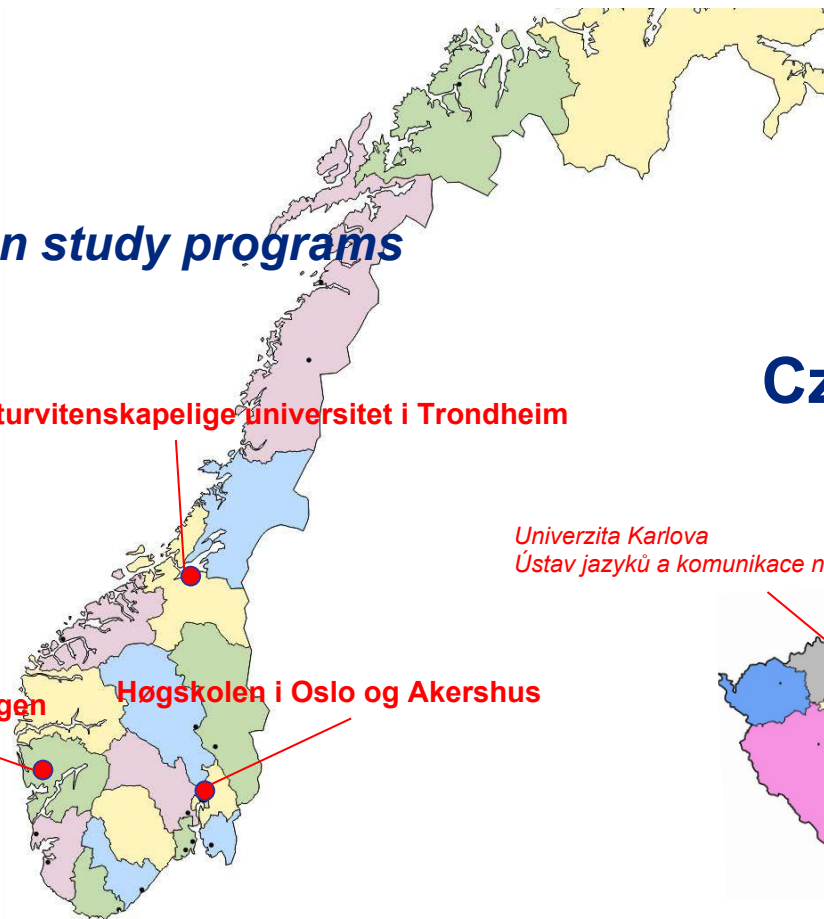
## (Czech-Norwegian Comparison)

### Norwegian study programs

Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet i Trondheim

Universitetet i Bergen

Høgskolen i Oslo og Akershus



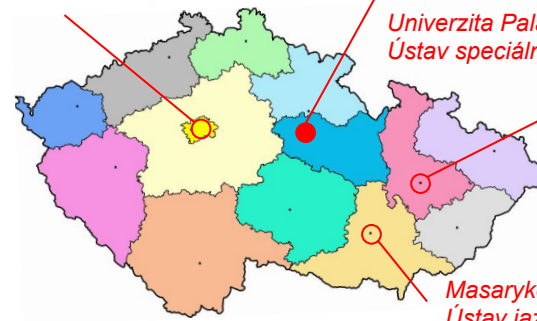
### Czech study programs

Univerzita Karlova  
Ústav jazyků a komunikace neslyšících

VOŠ Hradec Králové

Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci  
Ústav speciálněpedagogických věd

Masarykova univerzita  
Ústav jazykovědy, Teiresiás



## Other issues

- accessibility of basic information for applicants
- preparing for the study at university
- accessible tests (*Learning Potential Test*)
- accessible study documents in Czech Sign Language (*Hybrid Book*)
- competency in Czech Sign Language
- Online Thesaurus of Czech Sign Language (*Dictio*)
- specialized language courses (Czech, English)
- mobility and international sign languages (ASL, IS)
- speech-to-text reporting and note-keeping
- individual teaching

# Thank you for your attention

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