

The GreenEntre4Deaf Glossary

From Signs to Sustainability: How the GreenEntre4Deaf Project is Building a European Green Sign Language Lexicon



In the last few years, Europe's green and digital transitions have transformed the way we live, work, and learn. Yet, while we talk about green skills, circular economy, and sustainable innovation, one question remains: **how can these concepts be communicated to everyone, including people who use sign language as their primary means of communication?** This challenge lies at the heart of the Erasmus+ project [GreenEntre4Deaf](#), which promotes inclusive, lifelong learning on green entrepreneurship for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) individuals. Among its most innovative components is the creation of a **Green Sign Language Competence Framework**, a shared European glossary of environmental and entrepreneurial terminology in sign language, co-created with Deaf communities and educators from across Europe.

Why a Green Sign Language Glossary Matters

Language is power: it shapes how we understand the world and our role in it. When new words emerge (such as *upcycling*, *carbon footprint*, *biodiversity loss*, and *renewable energy*), they also need to exist in sign language so that DHH individuals can fully access discussions, training, and jobs in the green economy.

However, as the partners of GreenEntre4Deaf discovered in the early stages of the project, many key sustainability and entrepreneurship concepts **do not yet have clear or shared signs in most national sign languages**. Teachers and interpreters often paraphrase or invent temporary signs, leading to confusion and unequal participation.

To bridge this gap, GreenEntre4Deaf has launched a **collaborative process to document, adapt, and enrich the sign language used in environmental and entrepreneurial contexts**, aligning with European frameworks such as GreenComp (green competences) and EntreComp (entrepreneurship competences).

From Words to Signs: The WP3.A1 Tool

At the core of this effort is a digital tool developed in Work Package 3, Activity 1: the Green Sign Language Competence Framework, an evolving glossary that currently includes over 100 terms related to green entrepreneurship.

Each entry in the tool contains:

- A definition of the concept, accessible and written in clear language.
- Sign language video and photo documentation created in collaboration with Deaf trainers and interpreters.

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- A QR code for quick digital access to visual materials.
- Cross-references to EU frameworks (e.g., GreenComp, EntreComp, DigComp).
- Examples of practical use, linking each term to real green professions or business ideas.

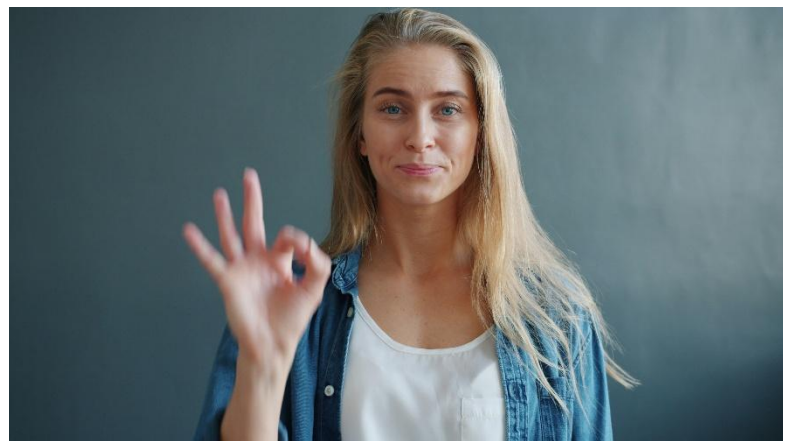
The tool is not just a dictionary; **it's a living pedagogical resource**. It will be embedded into the GreenEntre4Deaf Learning Platform, integrated with the project's mobile app and VR simulations, and used in the Living Hubs where DHH learners and educators will practice new green skills together.

Learning Through Language

The glossary will directly support the project's training methodology, known as "From Theory to Practice: Stage 1–5", which guides learners **from conceptual understanding to applied action**:

1. Develop a common green-entrepreneurial vocabulary (the glossary).
2. Learn through a modular course on sustainability and entrepreneurship.
3. Apply knowledge using a self-guided mobile app for creating green business models.
4. Experience real-life contexts via immersive VR simulations.
5. Validate competences through micro-credentials.

By starting with language, the project lays the foundation for accessible and meaningful learning. Once learners can name and sign "circular economy," "eco-innovation," or "social enterprise," they can more confidently engage in study, work, and civic participation.



Beyond Words: Towards Inclusion and Empowerment

This linguistic innovation is not about inventing signs in isolation; it's about **creating bridges** between deaf and hearing professionals, between environmental awareness and social inclusion. The GreenEntre4Deaf glossary supports the idea that **sustainability is not only ecological but also communicative and cultural**.

Deaf people have the right to participate equally in climate action, environmental education, and green entrepreneurship. Making sure that the vocabulary of sustainability exists in sign language means ensuring that everyone can take part in shaping Europe's green future.

Learning Through Language

While initiatives in some countries have begun developing environmental or scientific signs, GreenEntre4Deaf adds a new dimension by combining **sustainability, entrepreneurship, and accessibility** within a **cross-national educational framework**.

When completed, the glossary will be:

- **Freely accessible online** through open educational resources (OER).
- Linked to learning modules, videos, and VR environments.
- Continuously updated as new green concepts emerge.

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It aims to inspire future projects to expand thematic glossaries (for example, in digital literacy, climate justice, or social innovation) so that sign language continues to evolve alongside society.

Conclusion

The transition to a sustainable future requires the participation of all citizens. By making the language of sustainability visible and accessible through sign language, GreenEntre4Deaf is helping to ensure that the green transition is also a just and inclusive transition.

“If we can sign it, we can learn it. And if we can learn it, we can do it.”

More information about the project on our website and on our social networks. **Follow us!**



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