

Symposium 8_2a

Empowering schools for the deaf through participatory research and development

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Team

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Sandra Sidler-Miserez, deaf sign language teacher, scientific collaborator in different assessment-related projects at the HfH

Tobias Haug, researcher in sign language assessment

Project goals

Goal 1

- Revision of four DSGS tests
- Revision and translation of test manuals into DSGS

Goal 2

- **Development and implementation of workshops on the use of the different DSGS tests**
- **Provide individual consultations**

Goal 3

- Sustainable cooperation with schools of the Deaf

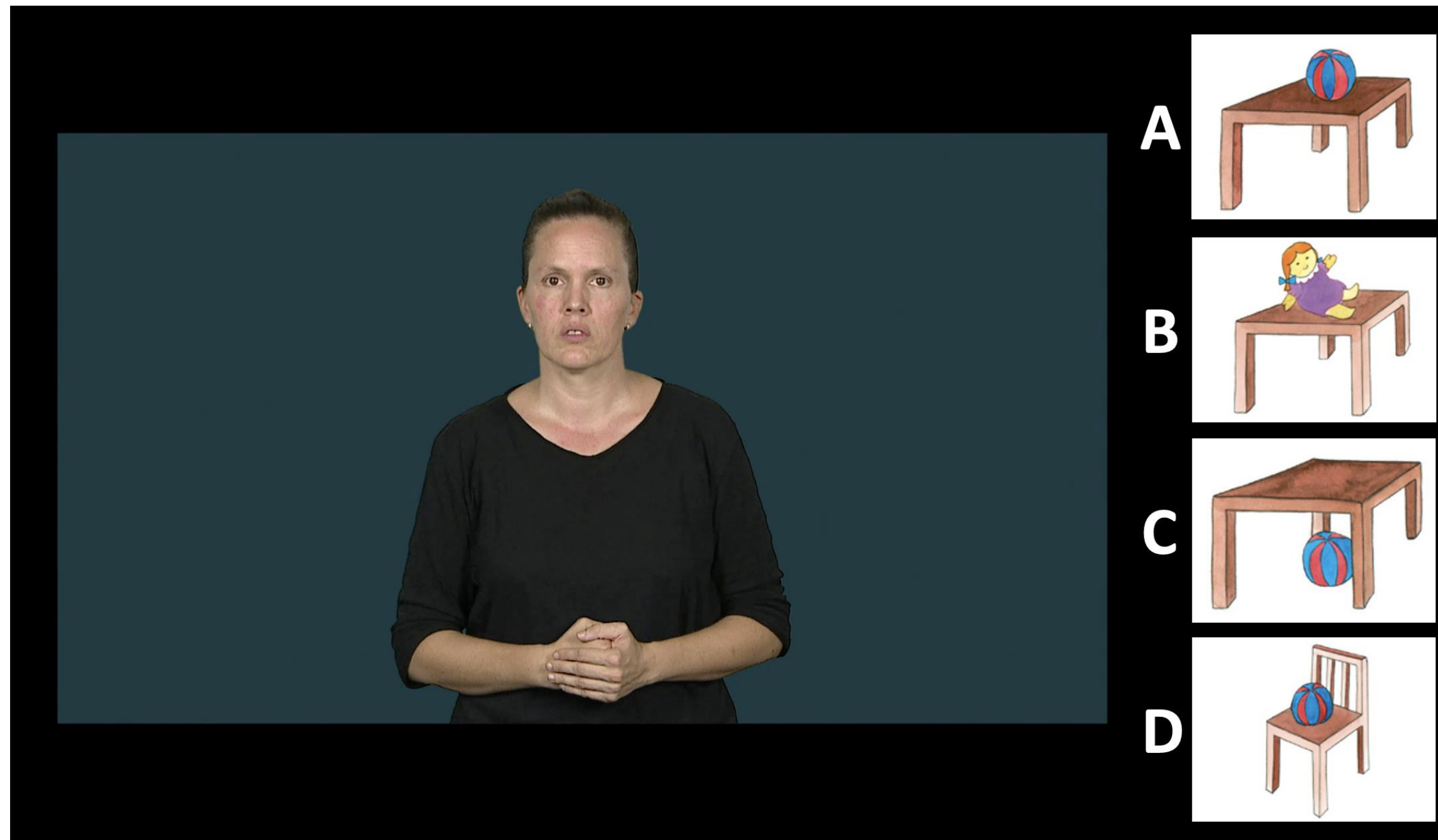
Overview of existing DSGS tests

Comprehension tests	Production tests	Age range of the children
DSGS Receptive Skills Test (morpho-syntax)		3-11 years
DSGS Narrative Comprehension Test		4-11 years
	DSGS Sentence Repetition Test	6-16 years
	DSGS Narrative Production Test	4-11 years

DSGS Receptive Skills Test

Age range	3-11 years
Comprehension/ production	Comprehension
Linguistic areas	Morphology (e.g. plural, negation, spatial concepts, classifiers), syntax (e.g. simple sentence combinations)
Test method	Multiple choice, 3 practice items, 43 items
Test execution	Online implementation, approx. 30 minutes Results are saved automatically

DSGS Receptive Skills Test



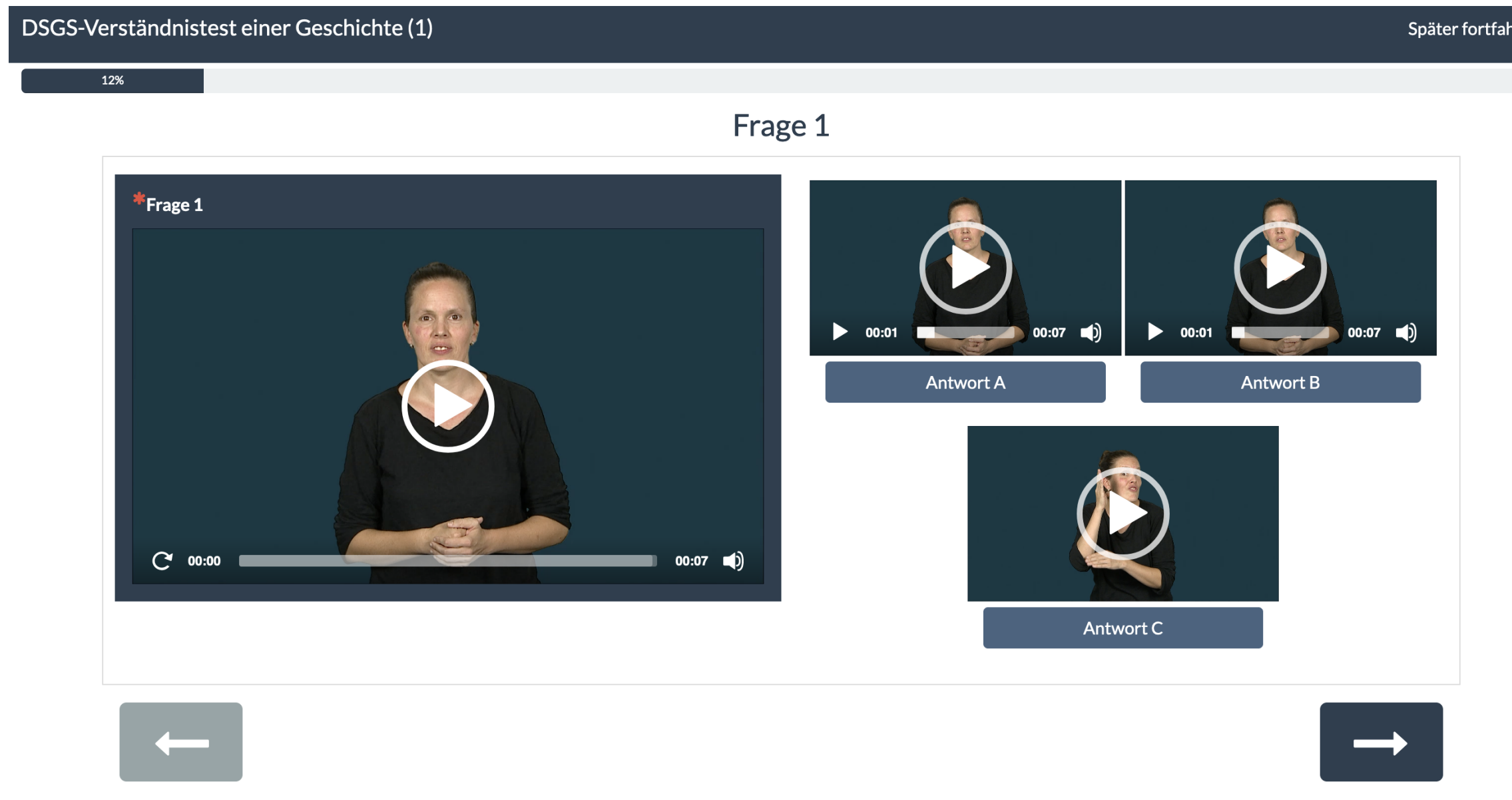
Developed as part of the EU project
SignMET 2013-2015

Use as part of the project, not yet available
in schools

DSGS Narrative Comprehension Test

Age range	4-11 years
Comprehension/ production	Comprehension
Linguistic areas	Morphology (e.g. plural formation, spatial concepts, classifiers), syntax (e.g. location of references, sentence connections), vocabulary, discourse strategies (e.g. constructed action/role reversal), narrative aspects (e.g. overarching narrative aspects, general plot structure)
Test method	Multiple choice, 2 practice items, 15 items
Test execution	Online implementation, approx. 30 minutes, results are saved automatically

DSGS Narrative Comprehension Test (DSGS-GV)



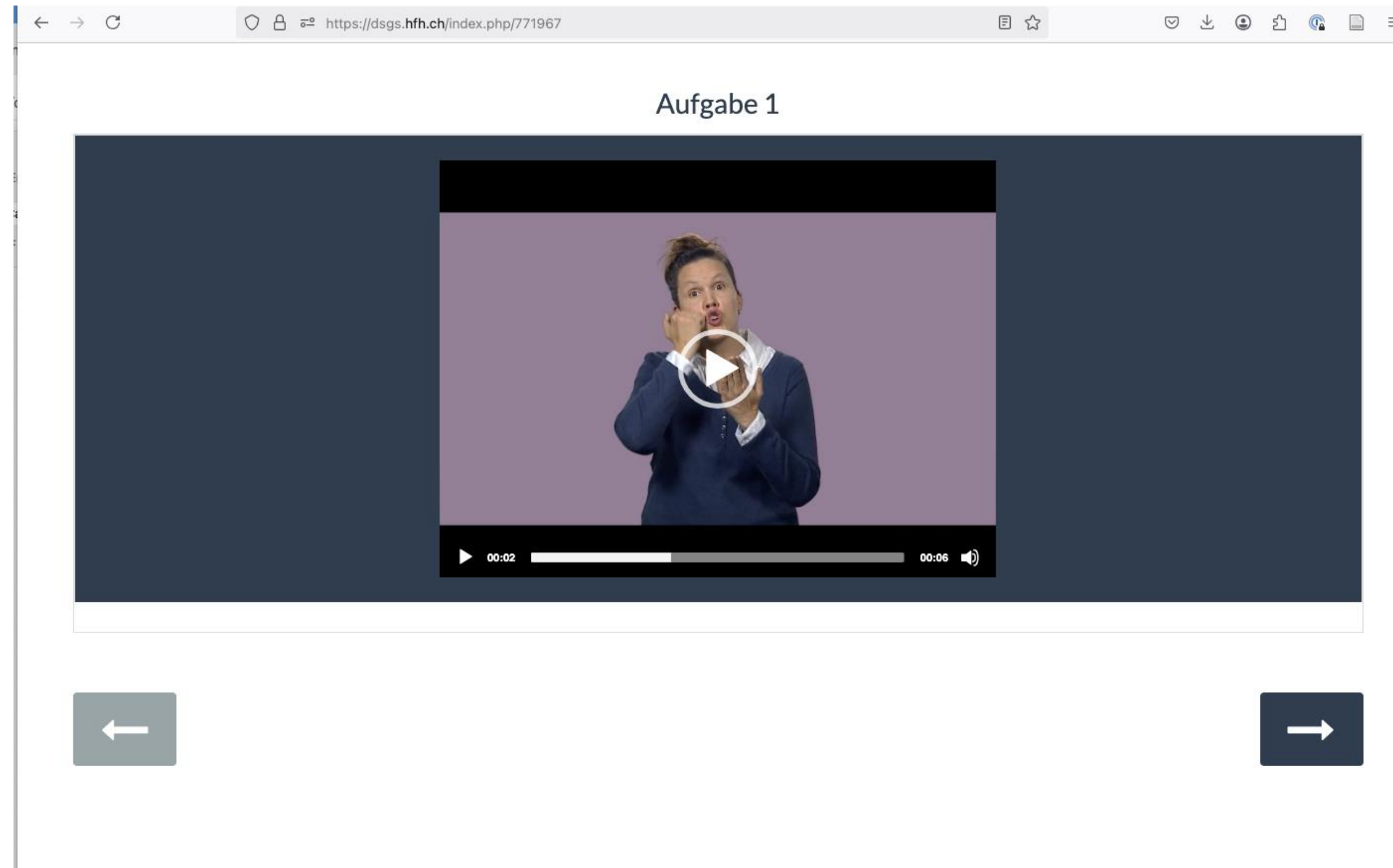
Developed as part of the EU project SignMET 2013-2015

Use as part of the project, not yet available in schools

DSGS Sentence Repetition Test (SRT)

Age range	6-16 years
Comprehension/ production	Comprehension and production
Linguistic areas	Phonology (e.g. hand forms), morphology (e.g. verbs, negation), syntax (e.g. different sentence types, non-manual components) and discourse strategies (e.g. constructed action/role change)
Test and evaluation method	Sentence repetition, 4 practice items, 32 items, rating scale with specific criteria
Test execution and evaluation	Online presentation, recording with webcam, approx. 25 minutes Evaluation approx. 50 minutes

DSGS Sentence Repetition Test (DSGS-SRT)



Developed as part of an HfH project (and third-party funding)

Use as part of the project, not yet available in schools

DSGS Narrative Production Test

Age range	4-11 years
Comprehension/ production	Production
Linguistic areas	Morphology (e.g. verbs, spatial concepts, classifiers), syntax (e.g. location of references, sentence connectives), discourse strategies (e.g. <i>constructed action/role reversal</i>), aspects of stories (e.g. overarching narrative aspects, general plot structure)
Test and evaluation method	Tell the story of another person (Tom & Jerry) Rating scale with specific criteria
Test execution and evaluation	Retell Tom & Jerry cartoon, record on video, approx. 10 minutes Evaluation approx. 50-60 minutes

Deaf-lead workshops

A small grant allowed for the development of free workshops for deaf sign language teachers

Conducted by two deaf sign language teachers that were involved in original test development

Format:

- Four workshop sessions

Focus on:

- Test usage & scoring (with rating scales)
- Field-testing in classrooms
- Follow-up reflection sessions

Optional individual coaching sessions with deaf facilitators

Participatory approach

Participatory elements

- Deaf professionals as **designers and facilitators**
- Sign language teachers as **co-learners and future implementers**
- Space for deaf teachers to **reflect, ask questions, and co-develop practices**

7 participants from **3 Deaf schools**

Long-term goals

Empowerment of deaf sign language teachers in the schools:

- Developing sign language assessment literacy
- Establishing annual testing routines

Data use (with parental consent):

- Contribute to norming DSGS tests

Possible add also other assessment approaches

Conclusion and impact

This initiative shows how **small-scale participatory projects** can:

- Bridge research and practice
- Empower teachers to **take ownership** of assessment
- Pave the way for **impementing** assessment practices in school



Thanks for your attention

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