

SIGN LANGUAGE WORK

CASE STUDIES FROM KOSOVO AND ALBANIA



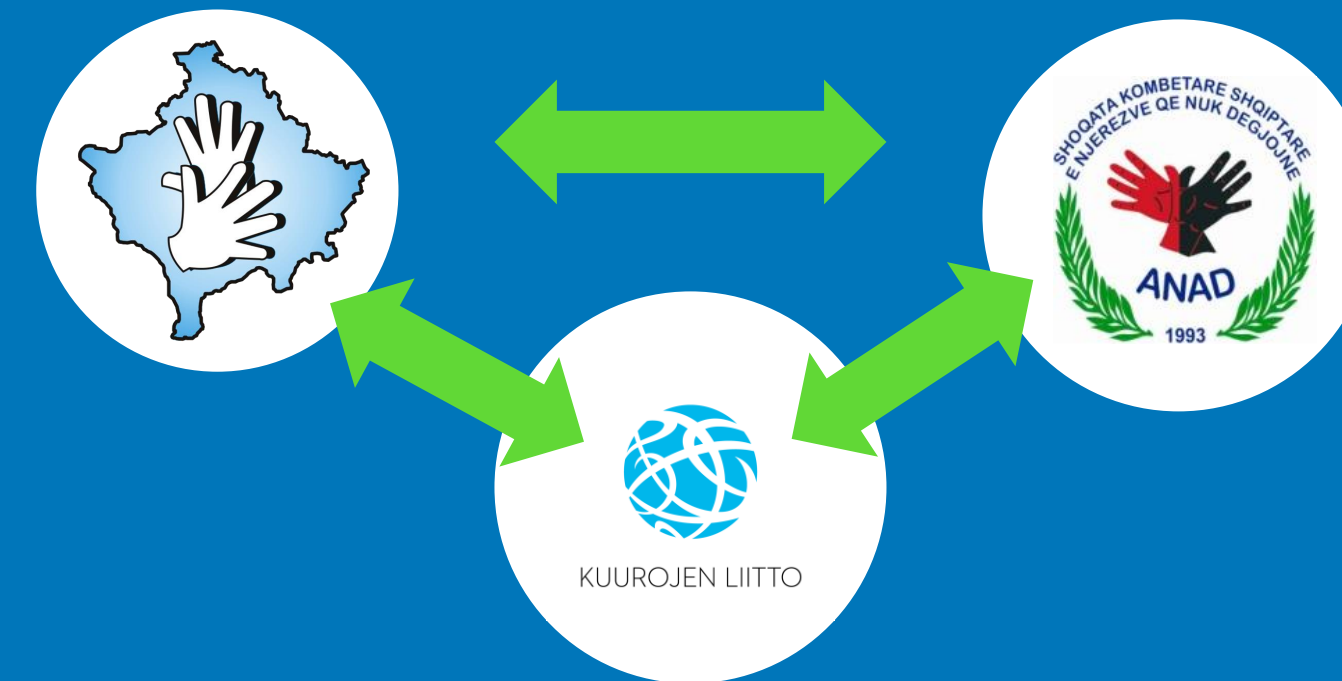
BUILD A DEAF
ORGANISATION

The Balkan Model of Sign Language Work: Sign Language Work Conducted in Albania and Kosovo



The history of Sign Language Work in Albania and Kosovo

Deaf associations in Albania and Kosovo have cooperated with the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) for 10-15 years.



Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) has ongoing development cooperation projects



Albanian National Association of the Deaf (ANAD) since 2000



Kosovar Association of the Deaf (KAD) since 2003

Steps in Albania and Kosovo

1. Organisational support

- Management training from an international advisor



2. Sign Language Work

- Work was implemented by a small team of deaf individuals
- As they did not have sign language linguistics, a linguistic advisor was recruited
- from abroad
- Sign Language Work staff received training from the linguistic advisor
- Other trainings were given by other advisors on teaching methods (pedagogy),
- interpreter training, lobbying, UN CRPD

3. South-South cooperation

- Albania and Kosovo worked close, shared experience and knowledge with each other



Sharing knowledge: south-south cooperation

ALBANIA

- Started Sign Language Work first
- One Albanian staff (who already received training) supported deaf community in Kosovo with starting Sign Language Work



KOSOVO

- Started Interpreter Program first
- One Kosovar interpreter trained was used to start interpreter training in Albania

Albania National Association of the Deaf - Kosovar Association of the Deaf

AlbSL Dictionary 2003 – 2005



KosSI Dictionary 2006 – 2012

Albania ITP 2007 – 2011



Interpreter Training A) 2005 – 2008
B) 2006 – 2012
C) 2012 – 2015

Youth WG 2009



Youth WG 2008

- Camps
- Info
- Statue

AlbSL Recognition 2014



KosSL Recognition 2010

- Advocacy Work

ANAD



KAD

- Deaf Clubs
- Women Work

Examples of results from Albania and Kosovo

Albania

2003 – Sign Language Work started

2005 – first part of a dictionary published

2014 – governmental recognition of Albanian Sign Language

2015 – ministry of education established a deaf education working group on developing deaf education in collaboration with the Albanian National Association of the Deaf

2015-2016 – education authorities developing bilingual teaching materials for deaf children

Kosovo

2006 – Sign Language Work started

2010 – governmental recognition of Kosovar Sign Language

2012 – first part of a dictionary published

2013-2015 Class Assistant and Sign Language Instructor programme (CASLI)

2015 – development of a governmental strategy on inclusive education including a bilingual aspect on deaf education

Sign Language Work method



2003 – 2005
The first Albanian Sign
Langugae dictionary



2006 – 2012
The first Kosovar Sign
language dictionary



2015
Working Together
Manual for Sign Language Work
within Development Cooperation



2017 – ongoing
Malawi
Sign Language Work

www.slwmanual.info

CASE STUDY: KOSOVO



Timeline, Kosovo

KAD – FAD
Development
Cooperation

2003 2005 2006 2008 2009 2010 2012 2013 2016

Organisational Management Training

2006-2007:
National Association of the Deaf
+ 11 local associatios

Women

Parent

SL Interpreter training

2005-2008: 1. Group
2006-2009: 2. Group

2012-2016: 3. Group

Sign language work (2006)

2012 the fist Kosovar
Sign Language dictionairy

Youth work (2008)

2012: Youth board

Advocacy work (2009)

2009: Survey
situation of Kosovar
Deaf people

2010 Kosovar Sign
language
recognition

National Sign Language
Plan of Action 2013 –
2016 approved and
budget for 2013-2015

2015-2016:
- Ministry of Education: National inclusive education strategy
- Intereter service law
-> Planning and
implementing

2013-2015 Class Assistant and Sign Language Instructor
training program(CASLI)

Timeline & results

KAD – FAD
Development
Cooperation

2003 2005 2006 2008 2009 2010 2012 2013 2016

Organisational Management Training

2006-2007:
National Association of the Deaf
+ 11 local associatios

SL Interpreter training

2005-2008: 1. Group
2006-2009: 2. Group

2012-2016: 3. Group

2016:
Interpeter service law

Sign language work (2006)

2012 the fist Kosovar
Sign Language dictionary

2016 – 2020
The web dictionary

Advocacy work (2009)

2009: Survey
situation of Kosovar
Deaf people

Sign Language Work in Kosovo



FAD: Hoyer & Lahtinen 2007

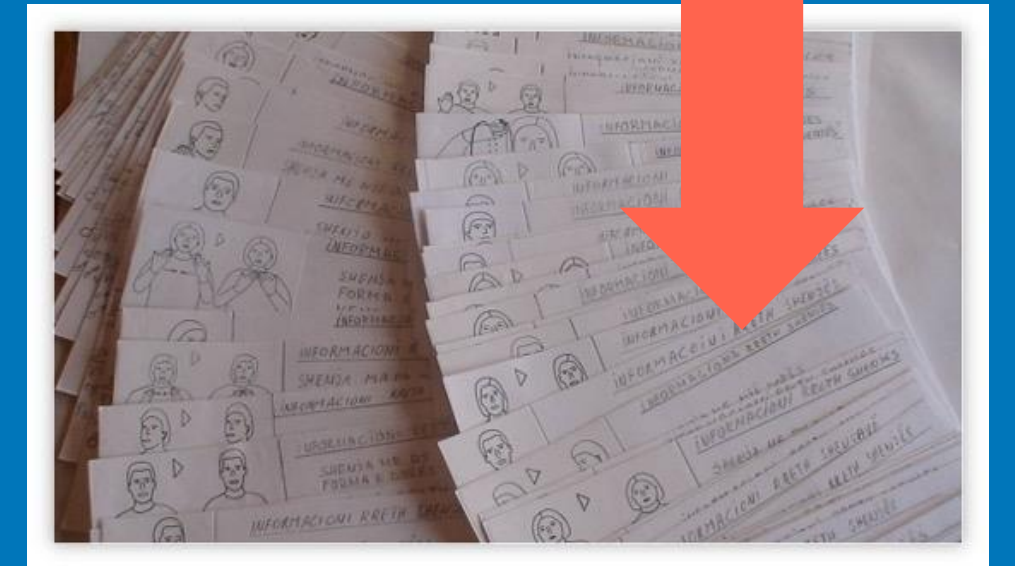
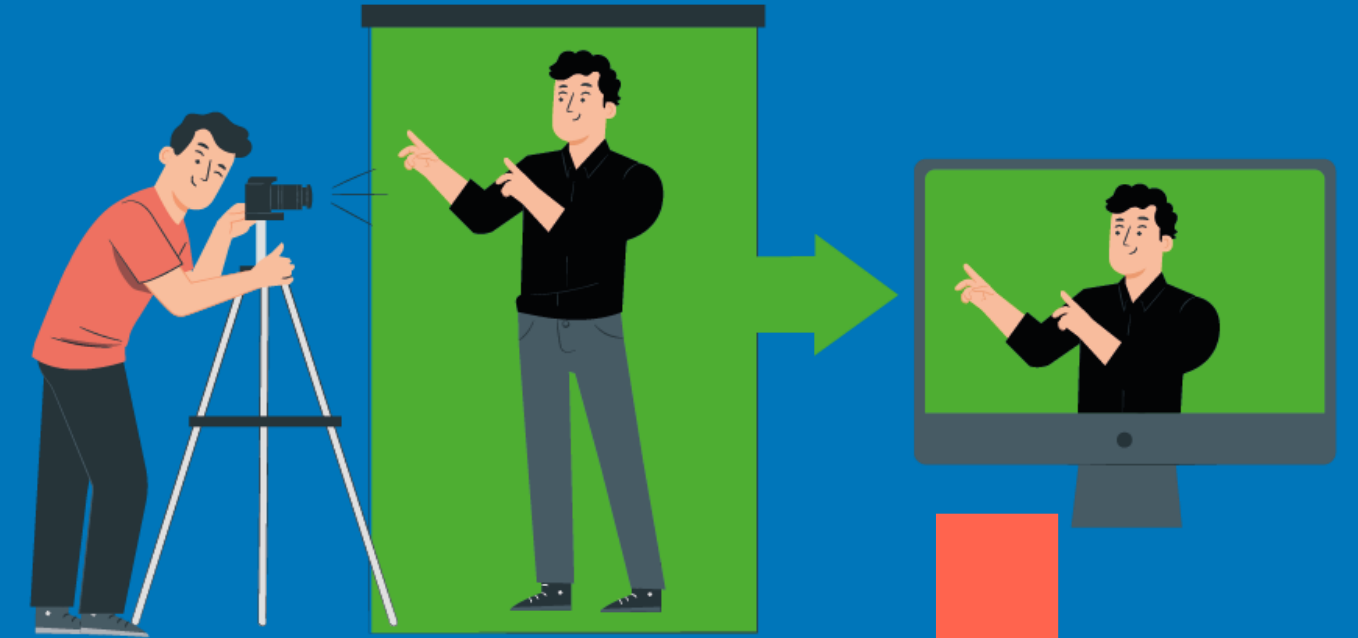
The process of KosSL dictionary (2006-2012)



Linguistic adviser from abroad and Kosovar Deaf Sign Language Workers worked together



Elicitation and analysing video materials



The signs were filmed from a good angle, and drawn from the TV screen using overhead plastic film



The First Kosovar Sign Language dictionary (Book and DVD)

SLW working Group (Deaf people)



Equivalent Working Group (Interpreters)

CASE STUDY: ALBANIA



Timeline, Kosovo

**KAD – FAD
Development
Cooperation**

2000 2003 2004 2005 2007 2008 2010 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Volunteer Training Program Provincial training Org. Management Training

2001
The first ANAD General Assembly
- ANAD statute
- ANAD board

2012
10 Years Strategy for ANAD with Albanian Deaf community

Sign Language Work

2003-2005
The first AlbSL dictionary

2011-2017
The web AlbSL dictionary

Women work

2018-2019
Women project with UNDP

SL. Interpreter training

Advovacy work

2013 CRPD
ratification

2014 Albanian
Sign Language
Recognition

2015 - 2016 Ministry of Education
Working group of Deaf Education
OPM + Survey

2018
The MoU of
CASLI,
Interpreter
service and
early invention

2015-2016 Survey "Deaf People in Albania"

Youth Work

Youth board

Parents

The process of AlbSL dictionary (2003 - 2005)



Sign language workers and sign linguistic adviser



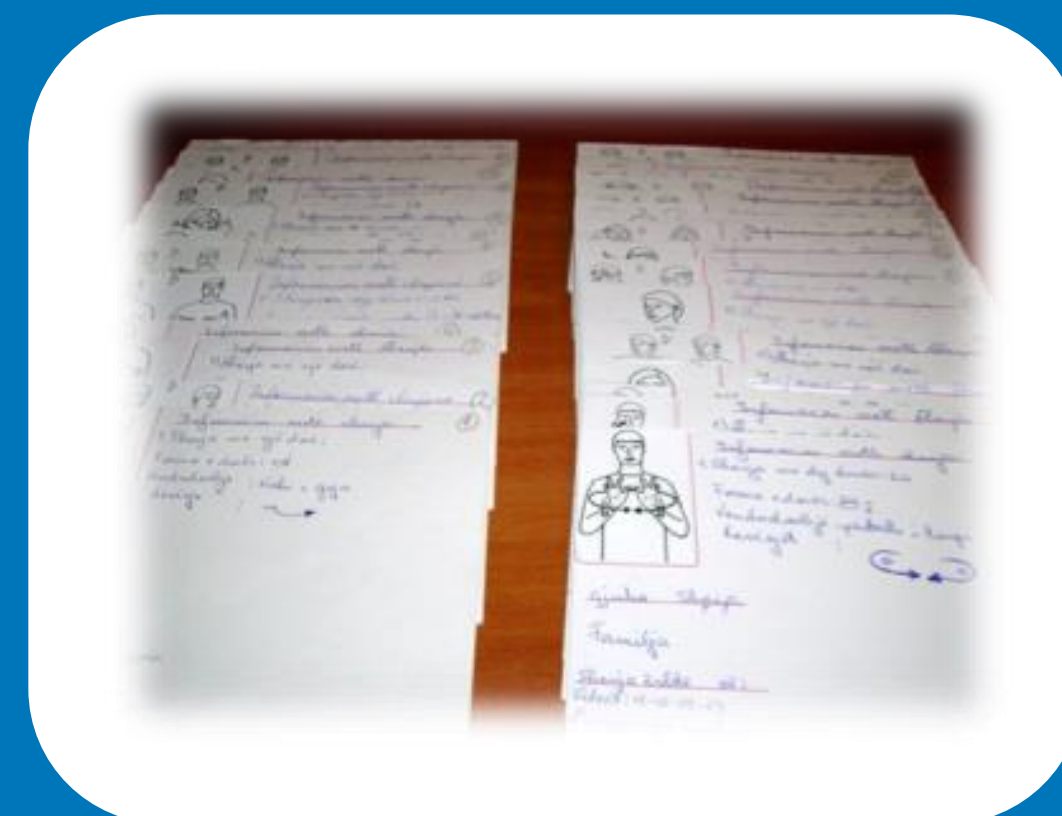
Sign Language Working Group



Equivalence Working group



The first AlbSL dictionary



Sign cards



The usage of the first publication of Albanian Sign Language



Published in 2005

Deaf
community

Advocacy

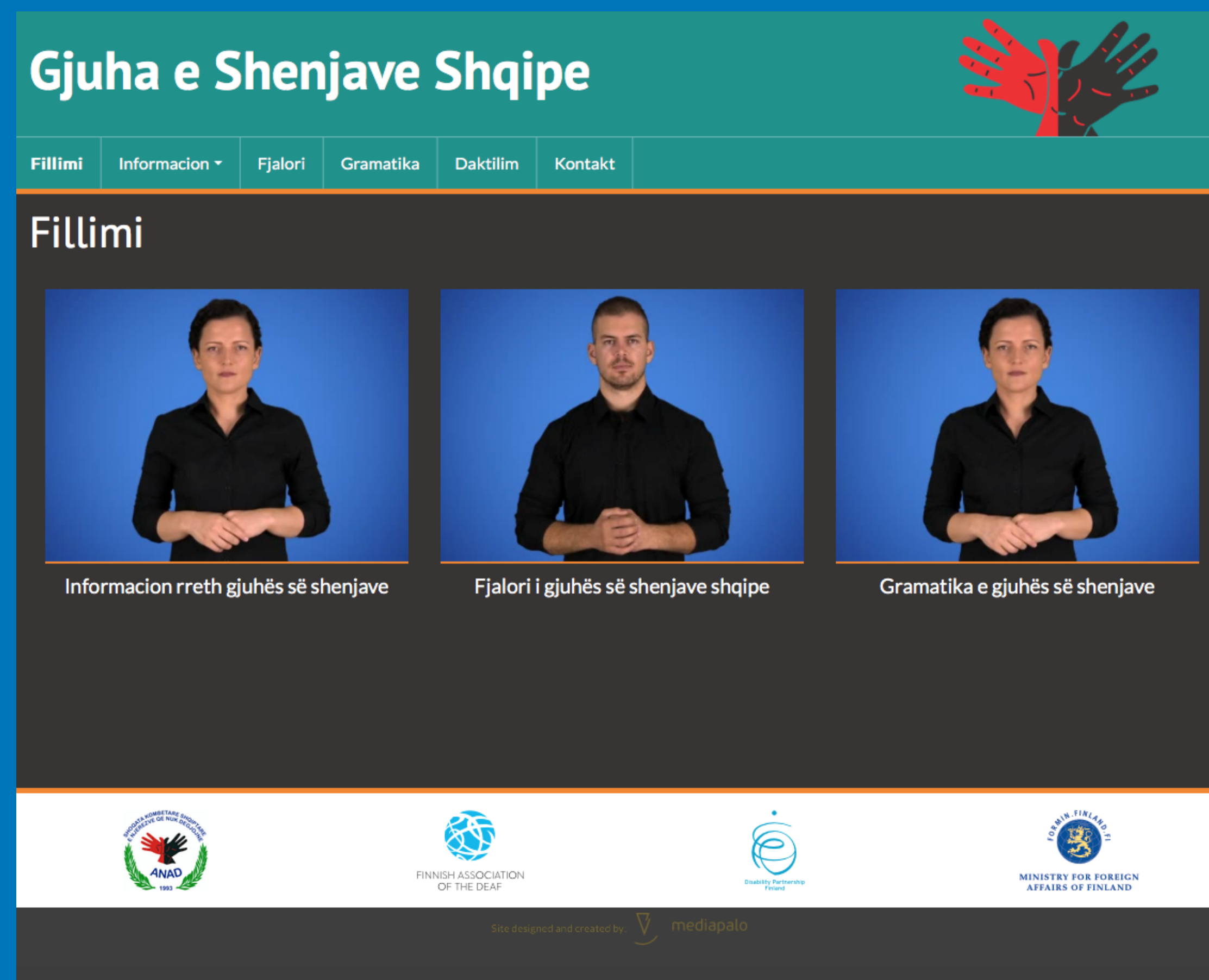
Deaf
school

Family

Interpreter

- After the publication ANAD started an informative campaign about the vocabulary, as well as providing basic AlbSL training sessions in 2005 - 2010
- In 2010, ANAD decided to enrich the AlbSL dictionary that would support sign language teaching. The second AlbSL dictionary started in 2011.

Albanian Sign Language website released the 21st September 2017



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Albanian Sign Language website. The main header is green with the title "Gjuha e Shenjave Shqipe" and a logo of two hands (one red, one black). Below the header is a navigation menu with items: "Fillimi", "Informacion", "Fjalori", "Gramatika", "Daktilim", and "Kontakt". The main content area is dark grey and features three video thumbnails with captions: "Informacion rreth gjuhës së shenjave", "Fjalori i gjuhës së shenjave shqipe", and "Gramatika e gjuhës së shenjave". The footer is white and contains logos for ANAD (Albanian National Association of the Deaf), Finnish Association of the Deaf, Disability Partnership Finland, and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. A small credit line at the bottom reads "Site designed and created by mediapalo".

www.gjshsh.al

ALBANIA

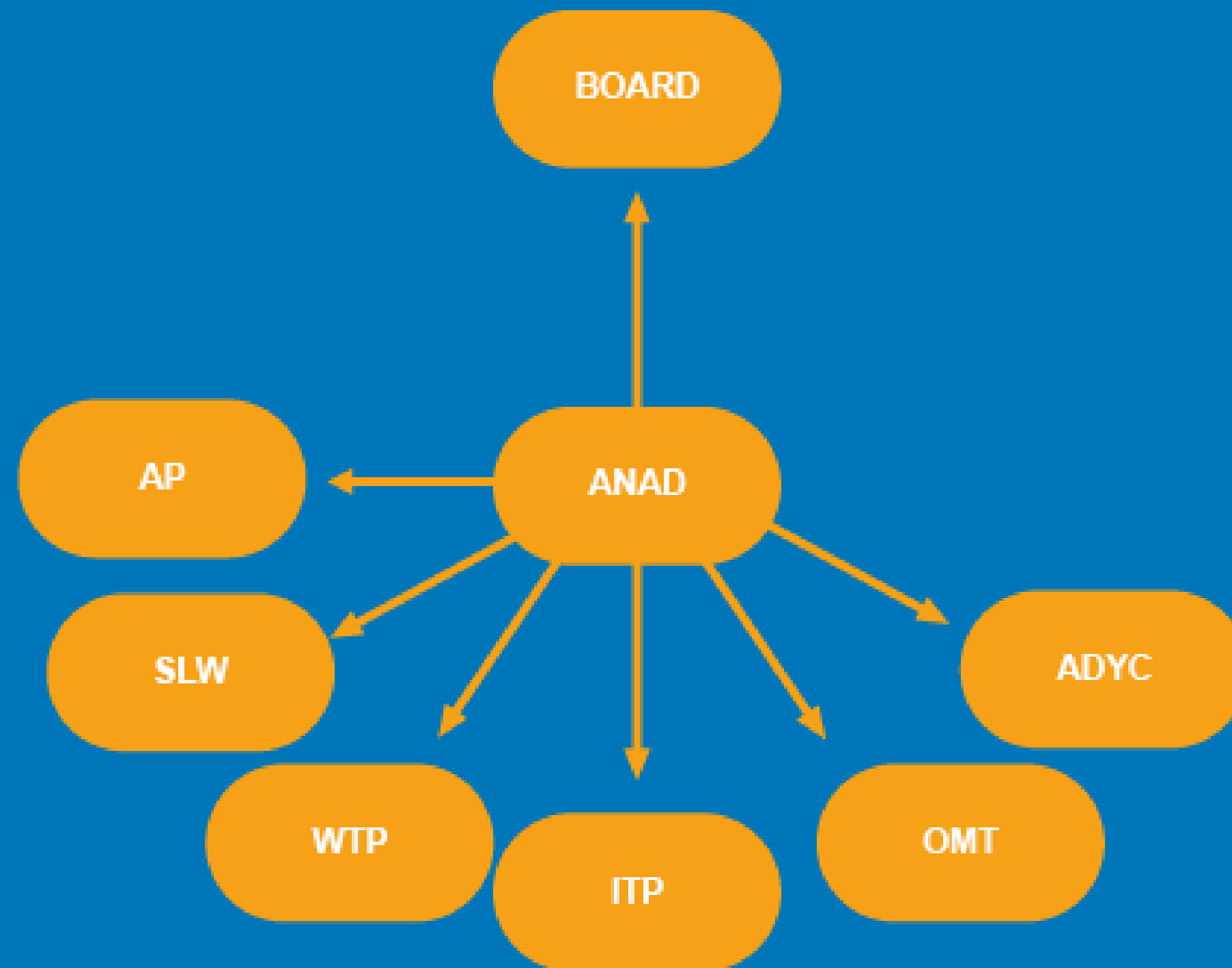
- In 1996, Situation Analysis Visit was carried out by the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD)
- In 2000, FAD / ANAD development cooperation started to strengthen the organisational capacity of ANAD
- In 2001, ANAD received an official status
- In 2002, Advocacy project started
- In 2003, Sign Language Work started
- In 2004, Deaf Women Training Project started
- In 2007, Sign Language Interpreter Training Project started
- In 2008, Volunteer Training program / Organisational management training started
- In 2010, Albanian Deaf Youth Committee was established
- In 2012, trainings were provided to parents
- In 2012, 10 years strategy for ANAD was developed with Albanian deaf community
- In 2016, ANAD held strategy meeting with Albanian deaf community, where they created a strategy for 2016-2018
- In 2017, Albanian sign language dictionary website was released
- In 2017, ANAD started doing advocacy work

PROGRESS OF ANAD'S ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

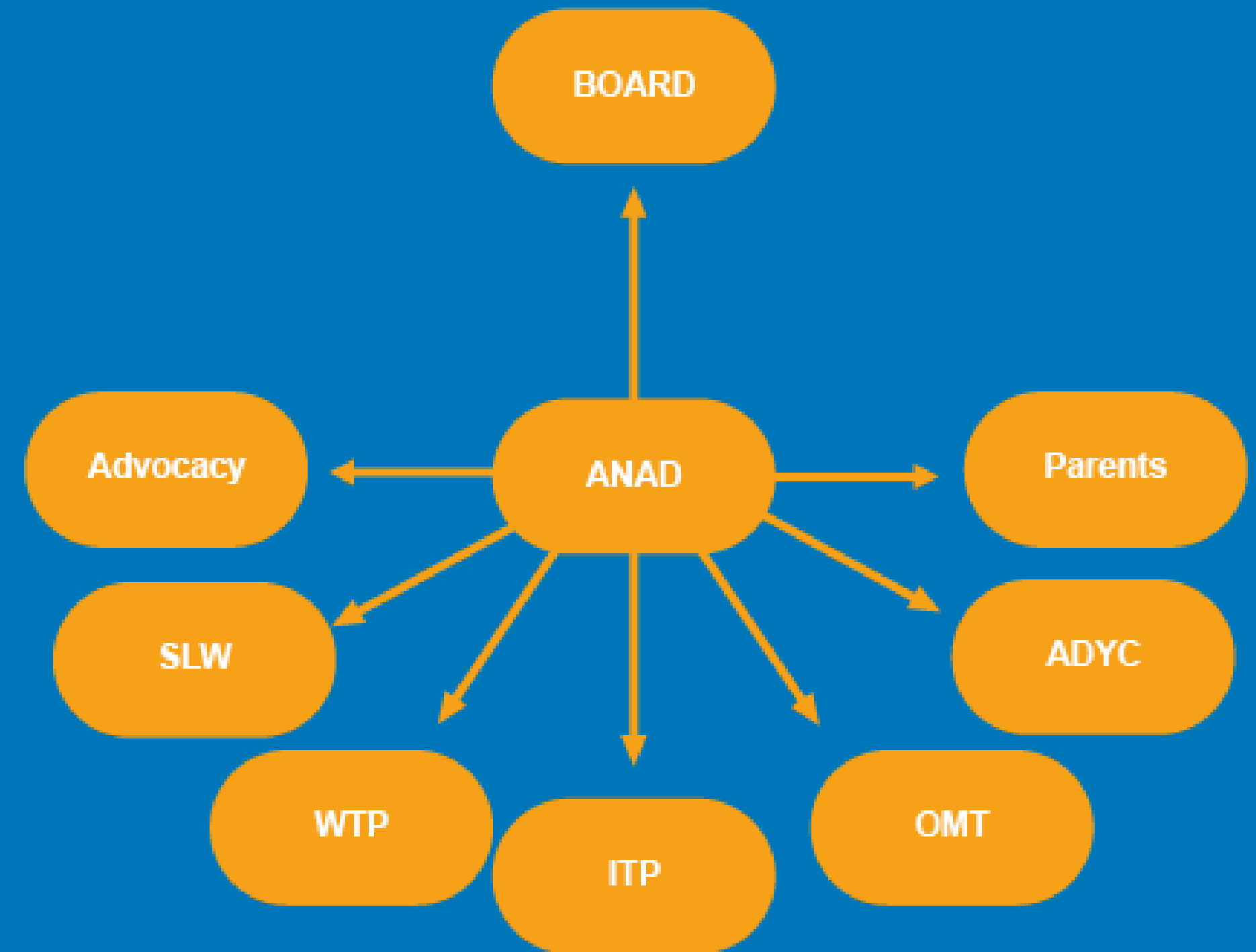
ANAD in 2000



ANAD in 2010

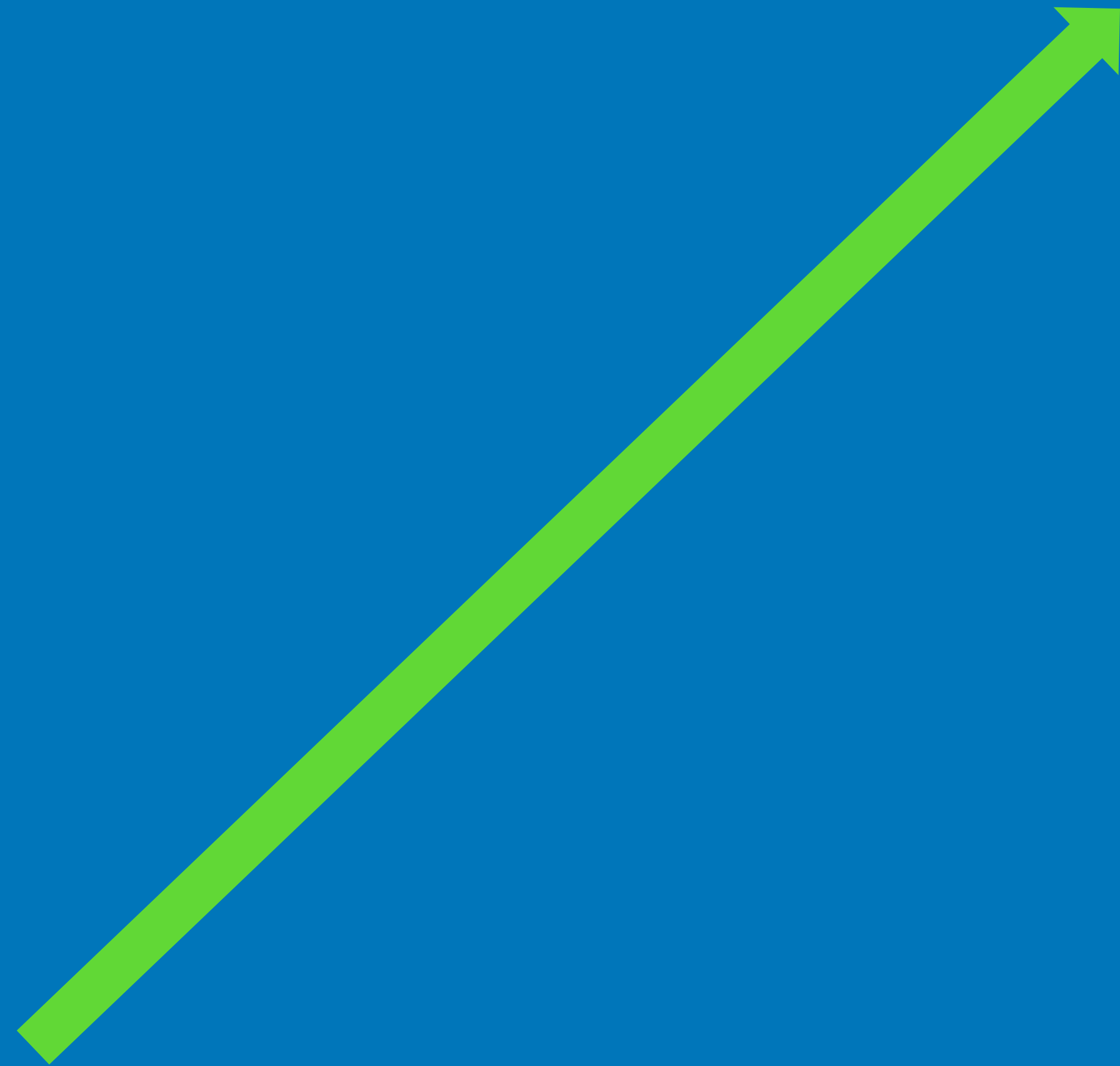


ANAD in 2017



FAD- ANAD development cooperation results 2000 - 2018

Year 2000
From nothing to



Year 2018

Deaf-led organisation

- ANAD board
- ANAD staff

Youth work

- ADYC, Youth committee
- More activate deaf youth

More active deaf women

Deaf leaders in provincial

- More empowered deaf persons

Stronger advocacy work

- ANAD is expert organisation in deaf issues and sign language



**BUILD A DEAF
ORGANISATION**

What ANAD has received?

Legislations for Deaf people in Albania:

- Albanian Government has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities CRPD (No.157 Official Journal, December 2012).
- Albanian Government recognized the Albanian Sign language (Council of Ministers Decision, No. 837 Date 03.12.2014)
- In addition, the Law on Pre-university Education in the Republic of Albania (Law No. 7952, Article 63) states that Deaf students have the right to education on sign language

Sign language materials:

- The dictionary of Albanian Sign Language
- 'I Learn' digital (bilingual) teaching material for Deaf children



Results since 2000 – 2018

- Deaf-led organisation
- Follows its statutes: democratic & transparent
- ANAD board members all are deaf and gender balance is now over 50% (4 of 7 women)
- More empowered deaf members in Albania
- More women and youth members
- Draft of ANAD branch statutes (2018)

Deaf Women Empowerment and Training

Results since 2005

- More empowered and active deaf women
- Increase in membership
- Increase in ANAD board and Youth board (From 1-2/7 to 4/7 board members are women)
- Women project with UNDP 2018 – 2019
- Aim to establish local women wings in provinces

Sign Language Interpreter Training

Results

- 2005 – 2008 training of 15 students, only 4 passed, two employed in ANAD
- Weak competence in sign language (no CODAs in Albania)
- Lack of employment opportunities → little interest in training
- 2018 the MoU for developing Interpreter service law

Advocacy work

- **February 2013** – Government of Albania ratified **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**
- **March 2014** – Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) launched interministerial **Working Group** for the recognition of Albanian Sign Language and coordination of developing of services
 - **Albanian Sign Language recognized on the 3rd December 2014**
 - **Survey Study – situation of Deaf people in Albania (2014-2016)**
- **July 2014** – Albanian Parliament approved Law No. 93/2014 **On Inclusion and Accesibility of Persons with Disabilities**. And **drafting several by-laws** (2014 – on going) that would serve to improve the status of persons with disabilities
- **2015** – Ministry of Education and Sport (MoES) established the Working group of Deaf Education.
 - **Deaf education situation and quality?**
 - **Deaf Institute Report 2016**
- **2015/2016** – **National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2016-2020)**
- **2018** – **Memorandum of Understanding (5 years)**
 - Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHS)
 - Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (MoESY)
 - Ministry of Finance and Economy
 - Albanian National Association of the Deaf
- **Class Assistant and Sign Language Instructor – training program**
- **The Service of Sign Language Interpreter**
- **Early Invention**

Albania Deaf Youth Committee



Result of training and activating youth since 2005

- 2010 Albanian Deaf Youth Committee
- More active and competent deaf youth
- First generation of deaf "raised" within ANAD
- Empowered community and pool for future leaders

CHALLENGES:

1) Hearing people tend to dominate in sign language research

Example:

Albania – hearing people involved in the first sign book

2) The work is done without an active involvement of the Deaf community

Example:

Kosovo – the first sign book was compiled in isolation by only three deaf persons

