

# **Symposium 8\_2a**

## **Empowering schools for the deaf through participatory research and development**

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# Team

Regula Perrollaz, deaf sign language teacher, lecturer in the sign language interpreting program at the HfH

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                |

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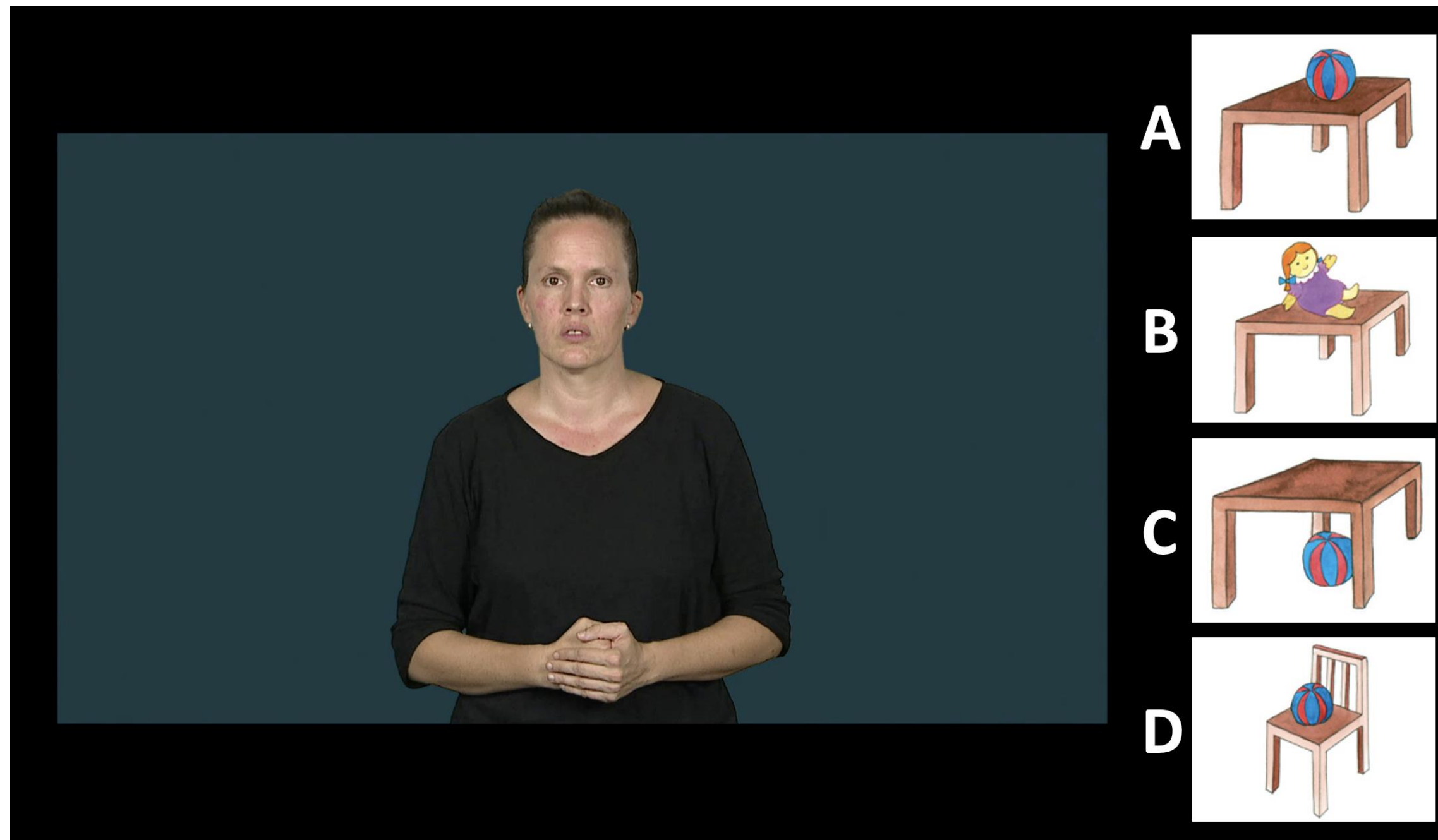
# DSGS Receptive Skills Test

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

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# DSGS Receptive Skills Test



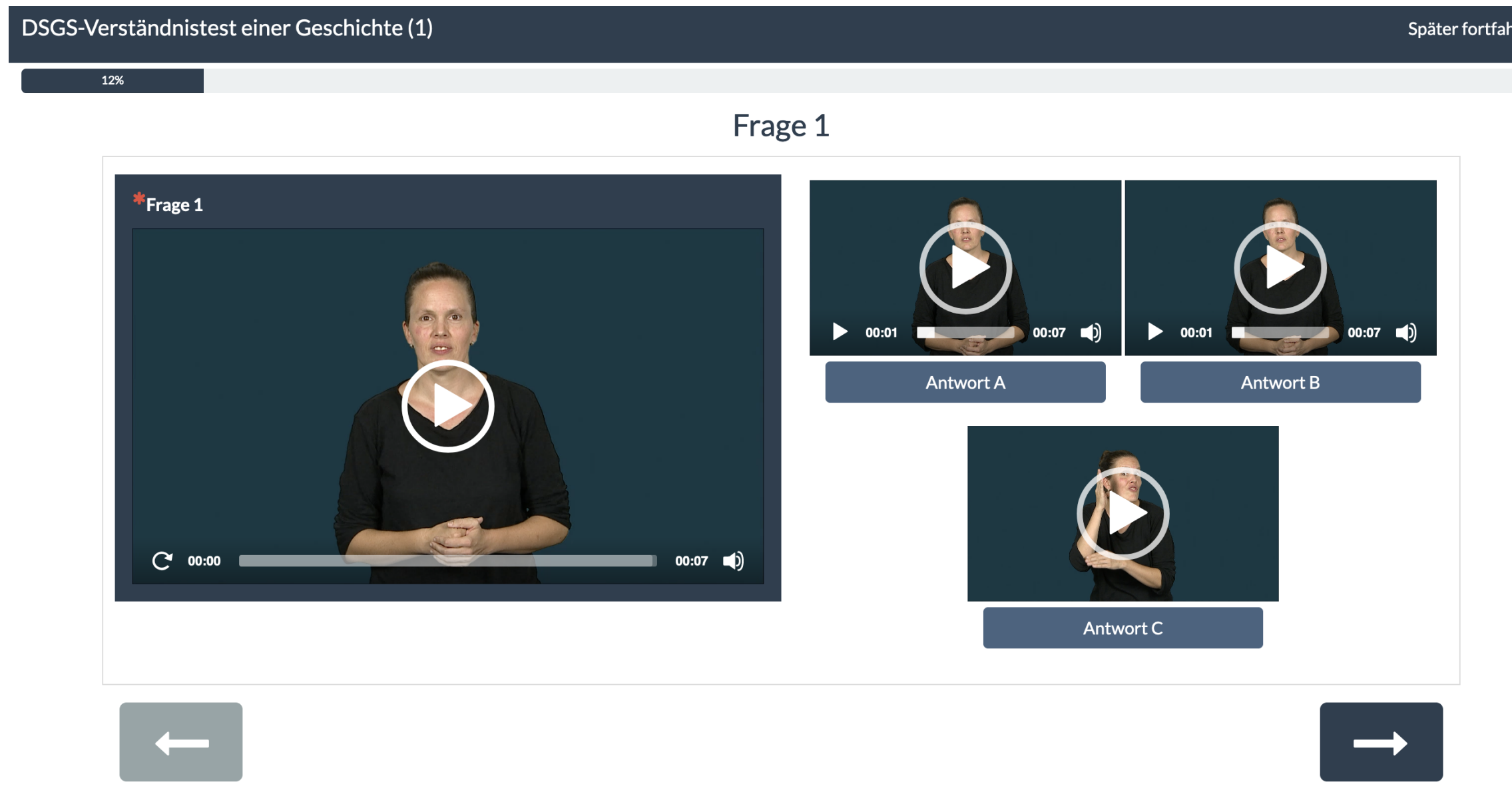
Developed as part of the EU project  
SignMET 2013-2015

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

# DSGS Narrative Comprehension Test

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Age range</b>                     | 4-11 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Comprehension/<br/>production</b> | Comprehension                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Linguistic areas</b>              | 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) |
| <b>Test method</b>                   | Multiple choice, 2 practice items, 15 items                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Test execution</b>                | Online implementation, approx. 30 minutes, results are saved automatically                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

# DSGS Narrative Comprehension Test (DSGS-GV)



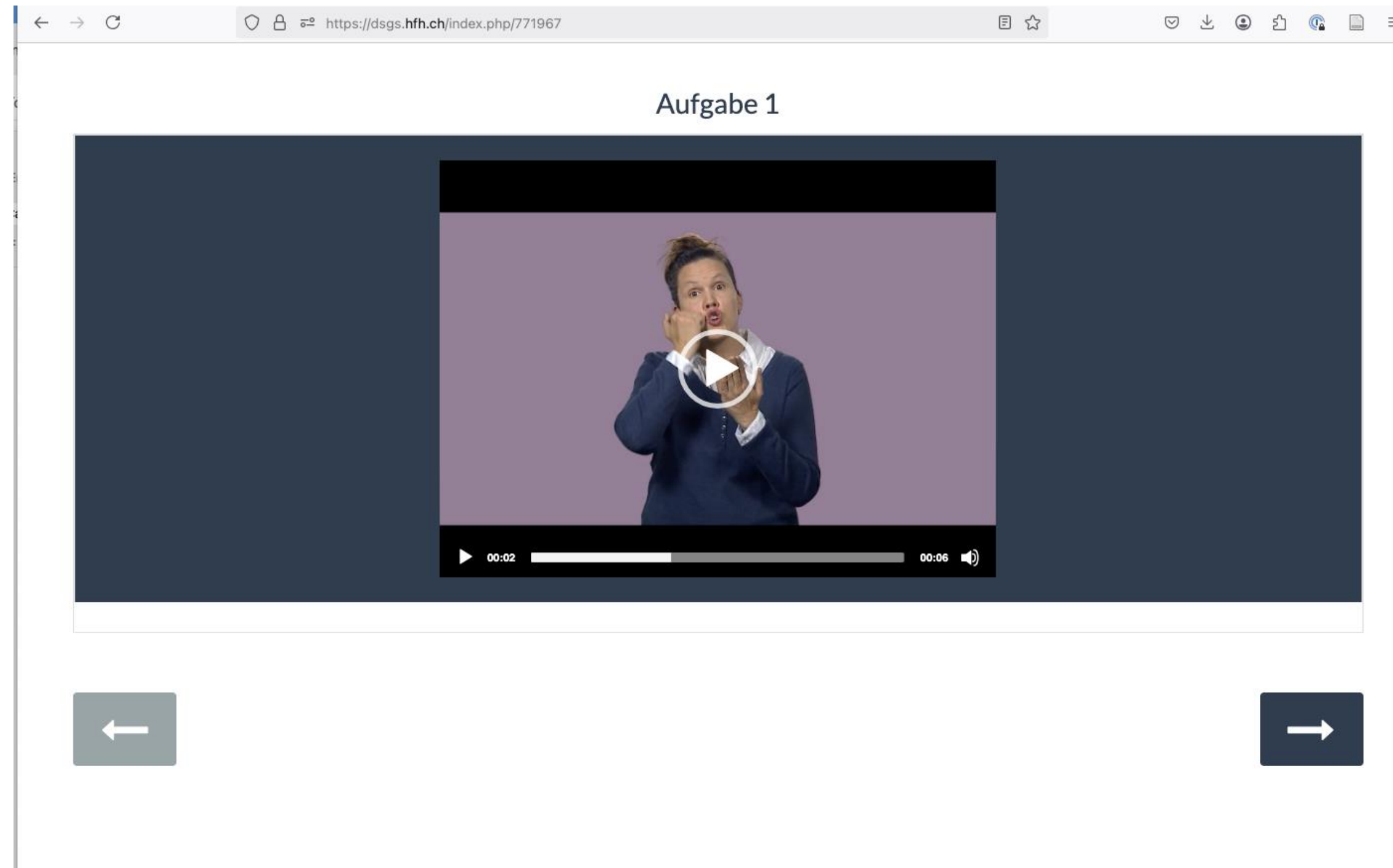
Developed as part of the EU project SignMET 2013-2015

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

# DSGS Sentence Repetition Test (SRT)

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Age range</b>                         | 6-16 years                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Comprehension/<br/>production</b>     | Comprehension and production                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Linguistic areas</b>                  | 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) |
| <b>Test and evaluation<br/>method</b>    | Sentence repetition, 4 practice items, 32 items, rating scale with specific criteria                                                                                                         |
| <b>Test execution and<br/>evaluation</b> | Online presentation, recording with webcam, approx. 25 minutes<br>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

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Age range</b>                         | 4-11 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Comprehension/<br/>production</b>     | Production                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Linguistic areas</b>                  | 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) |
| <b>Test and evaluation<br/>method</b>    | Tell the story of another person (Tom & Jerry)<br>Rating scale with specific criteria                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Test execution and<br/>evaluation</b> | Retell Tom & Jerry cartoon, record on video, approx. 10 minutes<br>Evaluation approx. 50-60 minutes                                                                                                                                                                       |

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# 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

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# 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**

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# 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

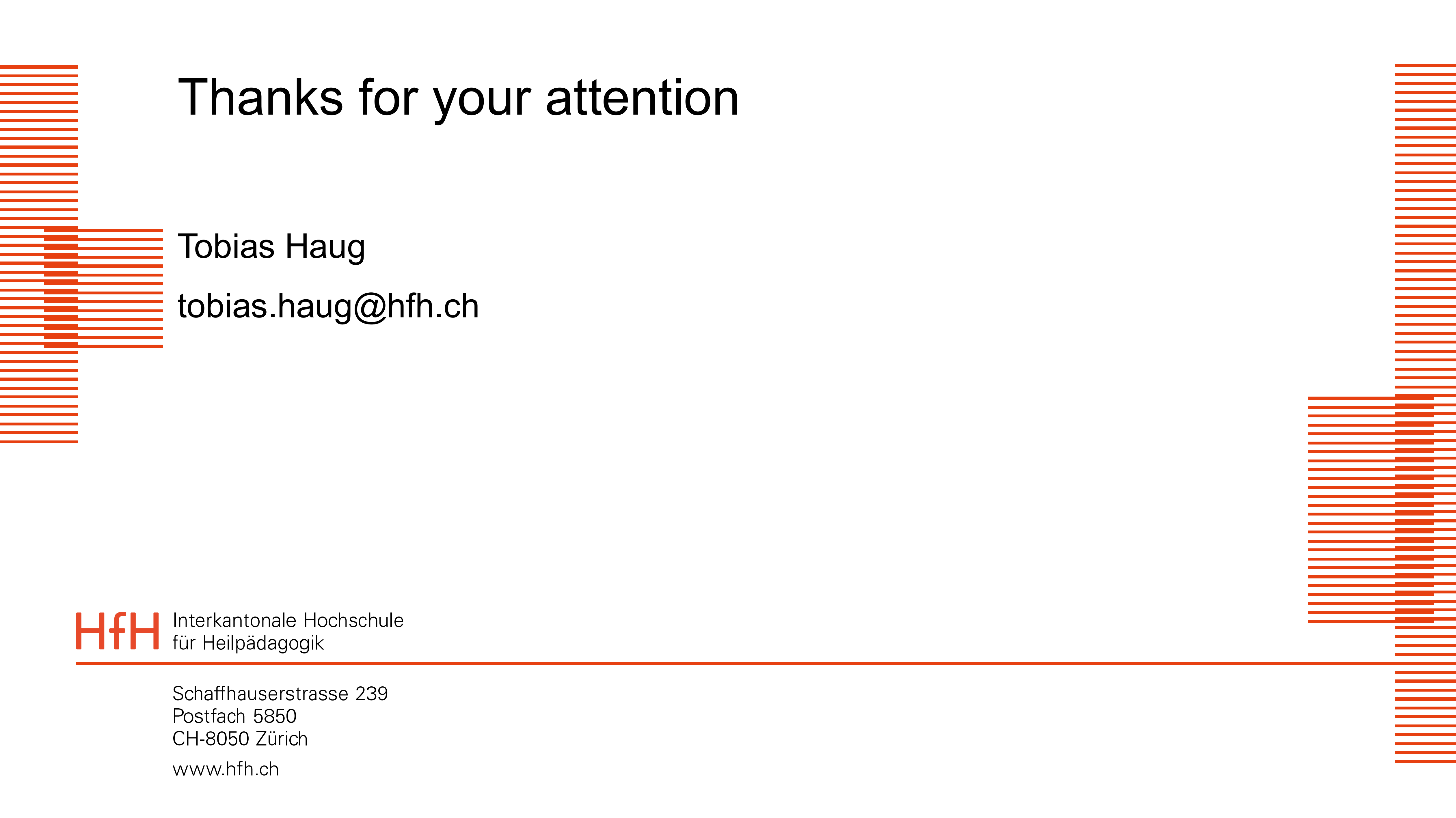
Possible add also other assessment approaches

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# 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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