Did you know that worldwide...
... 71 million people had a degree of hearing loss in 2005...
... around 80% of deaf people have a deficient education and/or literacy problems, lower verbal skills and mostly chaotic living conditions...
... 4 million people in the European Union are reported as profoundly deaf...
... 174,000 children in Europe suffer from severe hearing loss...

Referring to the statistics, the main problem is that deaf people cannot access the web sites as hearing people. The research of United Nations Motivation Global Audit of Web Accessibility in 2006 showed that in 20 countries around the world, only 3 of the 100 entry web pages have reached the base level of accessibility.

For SLI Module is required:

**Video broadcast equipment**
- Server system with video clips of the sign language interpreter.
- Web application server.
- Broadband Internet access.

**Equipment for watching video**
- Computer.
- Broadband Internet access.
- Adobe Flash Player plug-in.

The system was designed and developed by the University of Maribor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Maribor, Slovenia.

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**What is SLI Module?**

The SLI Module is a system which provides deaf and hard of hearing users a multimodal information retrieval on the Web. The video is shown over the existing website as a layer with a transparent background. The user can activate or deactivate the video on his own initiative.

The SLI Module system offers:
- Showing transparent videos over existing websites, without altering its structure.
- Multimodal information retrieval (video, audio and subtitles).
- Applying subtitling Timed-Text Authoring Format (DFXP).
- Cross browser Flash player (SLI Player).

**Why to use it?**

The SLI Module enables deaf and hard of hearing people a quick access to information in their first language. Consequently, it helps to increase their level of education, as it is known that vocal and sign language can be in case of hearing loss understood as two different languages.

The system provides simple usage and integration into websites. The developers only need to integrate a hyperlink button at the specific location of the web page and set the web address for the video to the server where the video is located.

**How does it work?**

In video production phase, the video with a transparent background is being prepared. The next step is the integration of audio, which can be recorded separately. The video clips are stored on a central video streaming server. Subtitles use the external Timed-Text format. The SLI Module uses custom cross-browser Flash player, called SLI Player, which acts as a presentation wrapper of different modalities.

Deaf people frequently use sign language and therefore they face difficulties when accessing written text in web content and web applications. Innovative solution is the Sign Language Interpreter Module.