TechWhiz
A Sign Language Dictionary of Technical Terms

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The TechWhiz project

- Three year Project

- 5 partners (Portugal, Greece, Slovenia, Germany, Cyprus)
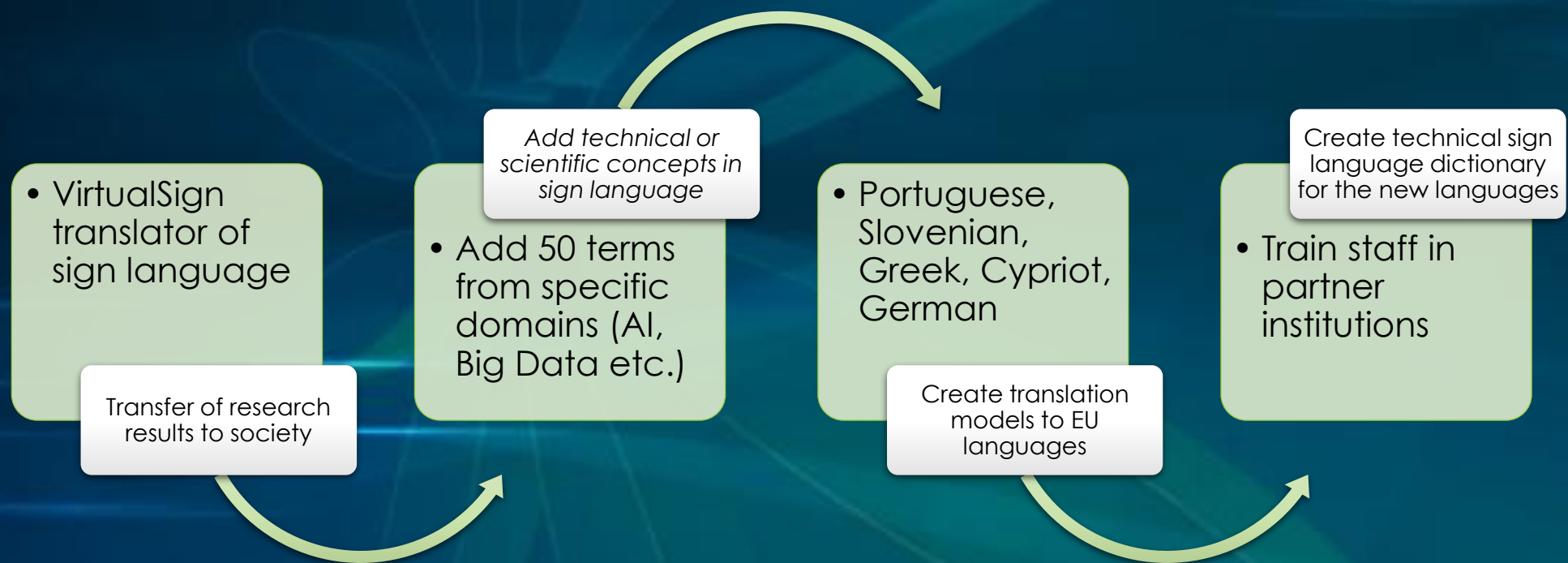
Motivations

- To overcome barriers to daily communication faced by deaf students

- Compromise the development of creative, emotional and social skills

- Constraining future opportunities and social inclusion

Aims

- Promote equity and social inclusion
- Boost mobility of deaf students.

Methodology

- VirtualSign translator of sign language

Transfer of research results to society

Add technical or scientific concepts in sign language

- Add 50 terms from specific domains (AI, Big Data etc.)

- Portuguese, Slovenian, Greek, Cypriot, German

Create translation models to EU languages

Create technical sign language dictionary for the new languages

- Train staff in partner institutions

Sign languages characteristics

- Sign languages are distinct from oral languages

- Linguistic features are different

- The first language of deaf people is sign language

- Their country oral language is a second language, like English for most of us

- Despite being able to read in our native language we cannot read English without training

- The same happens to deaf people that cannot read Portuguese because their native language is Portuguese Sign Language, not Portuguese.

Technical terms

Deaf people cannot understand technical terms:

➢ there are no such words in their sign languages

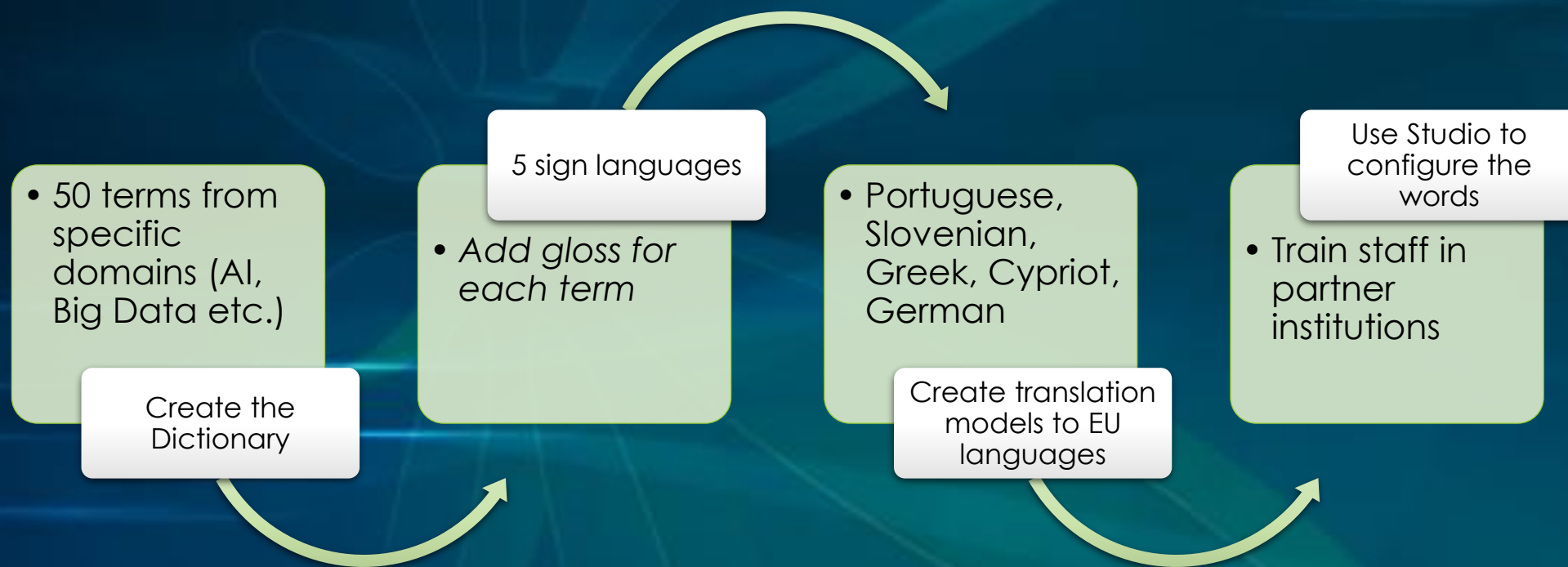➢ there is no dictionary – worldwide- for these terms

TechWhiz Objective

To create an online semi-automatic platform and search a glossary providing explanations of technical or scientific terms in sign language

TechWhiz Components

- the **Dictionary** i.e. an online glossary of technical terms explained in the sign language of the user

- the **Gloss Loader** which allows experts from the technical fields to upload explanations in spoken language and sign language experts to load the corresponding sign language gloss

- the **Studio** which is a tool allowing sign language experts to create and load new sign animations in a specific sign language.

Methodology

- 50 terms from specific domains (AI, Big Data etc.)

Create the Dictionary

5 sign languages

- Add gloss for each term

- Portuguese, Slovenian, Greek, Cypriot, German

Create translation models to EU languages

Use Studio to configure the words

- Train staff in partner institutions

TechWhiz

- Visit our website for more information

- https://techwhiz.hmu.gr/

Thank you !