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Liesbeth Pyfers is the director of Pragma, a small R&D company in the south of the Netherlands. She was trained as a cognitive psychologist in the Netherlands (Utrecht) and the USA (Gainesville). Her main interests: the effects, and the rehabilitation of language and communication disabilities in children and adults. What are the cognitive, linguistic and social-emotional consequences of growing up deaf, in an oral environment with little or no communication? What are the consequences of growing up deaf with a sign language as your first language? What are the consequences of growing up hearing, then suddenly becoming deaf? Or: of suddenly losing the ability to read and write or to use any language at all, as a result of brain damage (stroke, trauma)?

Since 1997, Pragma has participated in EU and national R&D projects in this field. The objective of all projects was to enable people with communicative or other disabilities to participate on a more equal basis in all aspects of society: daily life, education, culture, the labour market, social activities, politics, etc. etc. From the very start, we have explored the possibilities that ICT offers for rehabilitation and participation: from the very first personal computers, via Laser Discs, signing avatars, to currently the use of video-conferencing, and video-based e-learning.

The "Signs2Go" project and the "English without Frontiers" project were both initiated by Pragma. In 2009, "English without Frontiers" received a gold award at the "Innovation and Creativity in the Lifelong Learning Programme" conference, in Prague; The "Together" project, another Pragma initiative, recently received the Grundtvig Award 2009 in Germany.