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Marlene Hilzensauer is an assistant professor at the University of Klagenfurt and the deputy head of the Center for Sign Language and Deaf Communication (ZGH).

Marlene Hilzensauer graduated in Linguistics and English from the University of Klagenfurt in 1994. She worked in various linguistic projects before joining a sign language project in 1995. This project, which was affiliated to the Linguistics Department of the University of Klagenfurt, evolved into an autonomous institution, the "Research Center for Sign Language and Communication of the Hearing Impaired" (1997) which was re-named "Center for Sign Language and Deaf Communication" in 2004. At the moment, the ZGH has 15 employees (6 deaf and 9 hearing).

Marlene Hilzensauer has been involved in national and international sign language projects with partners from all over Europe; among the latest projects are the two "SignOn" projects (English courses for the deaf) where she was mainly responsible for the content of the Austrian lessons. Her special field of interest are multimedia courses for language learning (Austrian Sign Language for hearing people and German and English courses for deaf people).