



Royal
Kentalis

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Kentalis International Foundation

Kentalis in the Netherlands

Royal Kentalis is a national organization in the Netherlands, specialized in providing diagnostic, care and education to persons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or deafblind, and to those who have complex communication needs or a developmental language disorder. Our expertise is focused on bridging communication barriers.

In the Netherlands, Kentalis is a key player in inclusive education, running special schools and providing itinerant service in regular settings. It offers diagnostics and care to children from all target groups. We combine academic and applied research, staff training and hands-on practical experience all under one roof, thus enabling mutual continuous learning and creating space for innovation.

CARE - EDUCATION - DIAGNOSTICS

Kentalis Academy

At the Kentalis Academy you can find our latest research results, publications and teaching materials, training courses and event details. This department strives to demonstrate the added value of our education and to build the basis for innovation.



History

Royal Kentalis has a history of more than 225 years. On 14 April 1790, the Walloon Reverend Henri Daniel Guyot took the initiative to start teaching deaf children in Groningen in the north of the Netherlands. After this, **more pioneers started** schools for the deaf. Together, they laid the foundation for Royal Kentalis.

Factsheet

7500 Pupils

Schools for special education 34

Staff members 4700

6490 Clients

Audiological centers 13

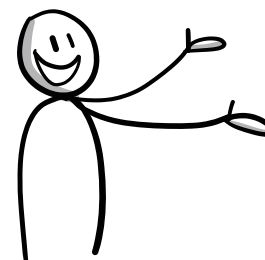
75 Assessment and care locations



Kentalis International Foundation

Kentalis International Foundation is the international project office of Royal Kentalis.

It was established in 2010 as a non-profit foundation and is an integral part of the Kentalis Academy where applied research and training are situated. The team focuses on international training for quality inclusive education for **deaf and hard-of-hearing learners in low and middle-income countries**, often considered the Global South. We operate as a knowledge broker, linking the expertise of Kentalis to the specific needs of our partners.



How we work

We work with **international partners, NGOs, universities, and governments** as well as **local organizations**. Our trainers are highly experienced colleagues from our diagnostic centers, schools, care units, and research teams in the Netherlands. We deliver our **training programs** preferably in a blended format, combining online learning with practical on-location training.


Vision & mission



Our goal is to work towards a world where all education and care needs of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing are answered.

We aim to do this by:

- Sharing Kentalis expertise through a **train-the-trainer model**.
- Involving the target group as much as possible. **"Nothing about us without us."**
- Working in a **holistic manner** uniting diagnostics, early intervention, language and reading development, and innovative teaching.
- Amplifying our training programs by cooperating with **multipliers and beneficiaries**.



“We target educators. The key changemakers are teachers. However, to achieve a meaningful educational experience more stakeholders need to be involved. Parents, community workers, deaf associations, governmental actors as well as local universities.”

Maria Brons, program manager Kentalis International Foundation.

What we do

As an expertise organization in the field of hearing and communication, we share knowledge worldwide through training and coaching.

Kentalis International Foundation engages in capacity-building training of professionals in the field of inclusive deaf education. We aim to create value by focusing on a three-pillar program. Moreover, by looking at our interventions from a holistic standpoint, we intend to create a conducive learning, physical and social environment for deaf and hard-of-hearing learners. In this, effective teaching, accessible classrooms as well as a supportive home and community environment are key.

Our pillars are:



Early childhood education

Deaf and hard-of-hearing children are often born into hearing families and only begin to learn (signed) language at school, resulting in a delay in reading comprehension. Supporting the early language development of deaf and hard-of-hearing toddlers and preschoolers will benefit the child's steps toward literacy.

Focus of this pillar: From language to literacy.



Primary education

Teaching reading skills means learning a second language for a deaf child. It requires time to first build sign language skills before focusing on word and text reading. By improving the knowledge and skills of teachers, the quality of literacy education in developing countries can be boosted.

Focus of this pillar: Learning how to read.



Secondary education

Understanding abstract concepts, such as math or biology, can be challenging for deaf and hard-of-hearing teens due to a less developed vocabulary. By incorporating visualization and other teaching methods into the curriculum secondary schools can create an inclusive environment where deaf and hard-of-hearing students thrive.

Focus of this pillar: Understanding abstract concepts.

Our experience

Kentalis International Foundation intensively worked with a variety of partners in Africa.

In our partnerships, we reap the benefits from our 200+ years of experience working in deaf education in the Netherlands. We contextualize this expertise in collaboration with local teaching colleges, universities, deaf associations, and NGOs.

Uganda

Kentalis supported the **Uganda National Deaf Association** in the training for the Parent Awareness Workshop. This format aims to empower (mostly) hearing parents on how to support the early development and communication with their deaf child. Local Deaf role models are the facilitators of these workshops. The association has integrated this course into its outreach program to parents.

Kentalis worked with the **National Curriculum Development Center** in adjusting and integrating a reading method for deaf children in primary education. The material is approved as an additional teaching aid to the regular teacher training curriculum.

Kentalis worked with **Uganda Martyrs University** in establishing a Bachelor in Inclusive Deaf Education. The university has also developed – independently - courses in Sign Language teaching as well as post-graduate teacher training for Deaf Education.

Together with the National Curriculum Development Center and Uganda Martyrs University, Kentalis trained 20 teachers from primary and secondary schools in designing online interactive lessons for the Deaf learner, to be used online as well as in the form of ICT-support for remedial and pre-teaching activities.

Tanzania

Together with the **Archbishop Mihayo University College of Tabora** Kentalis developed the Open Visual Education Resource, a set of multimedia teaching aids for grades 1-4 in lower secondary education. This is now used by the 25 secondary schools in Tanzania that are assigned to include Deaf learners in their student population.

Kentalis also initiated a Bachelor of Education Special Needs – Hearing Impairment at the Archbishop Mihayo University College of Tabora. Five years later, more than 400 secondary school teachers graduated from this Bachelor's program. The team of lecturers received training in teaching reading to deaf children in early primary as well as testing the language development, executive functions, and socio-emotional well-being of Deaf learners.

Kentalis cooperated with the **Organization for Special Needs Education Teachers** in setting up sign language clubs in 22 secondary schools in Tanzania. Deaf and hearing peers learn sign language, interact in social events, and receive community support within the school. The program also included training for headmasters and regular and special teachers on how to improve an inclusive pedagogical learning environment at secondary schools.



"It's important to realize that hearing loss may be unknown and cause problems in learning and development of pupils. Early detection helps to make sure that children with hearing loss receive the education and care they need."

Bernadatte Namirembe, project partner Uganda Martyrs University.

Kenya

Kentalis produced, with the support of the **Kenya National Association of the Deaf**, a documentary on Deaf role models in Africa. The film emphasizes believing in the potential of students who are deaf. It is aimed at convincing parents to invest in their Deaf child's education. The video is used in all English or Kiswahili-speaking countries where parent awareness workshops and teacher training programs take place.



Watch the documentary on
Deaf role models in Africa here!

Kentalis cooperated with **eKitabu**, a social enterprise that develops digital storybooks for Deaf children. Kentalis contextualized the sign language and vocabulary assessment tools for the young learner (as it is used at Kentalis in the Netherlands) for Kenya as well as Tanzania and Ethiopia. The eKitabu team was trained and coached in using the tools.

Zambia

Kentalis supported the **Zambia National Deaf Association** in training for the Parent Awareness Workshop. The association used the course in its outreach program to parents.

Kentalis worked with governmental actors such as the **Ministry of Education Teacher Education Special Services** and the **Department of Standards & Curriculum SNE** as well as educational partners such as the **University of Zambia**, the **Kitwe College of Education**, and the **Zambia Institute of Special Education** in adjusting and integrating the teacher's reading method for deaf learners for primary education to the Zambian context. It is used by lecturers in their teacher training for deaf education. The method was piloted with 20 primary school teachers from 4 schools.

Kentalis designed a training module for inclusive early childhood education for the Deaf child for the **Zambia Institute of Special Education**. Today it is still an integral part of the pre-service teacher training at the college.

Partnerships

Scan the QR code to contact us
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International Foundation.





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**The key changemakers
are teachers.**



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