

Interview with Simon Bak

Frontrunn3rs – <http://fr3.frontrunners.dk>

Simon: Hello, my name is Simon and I am from Denmark.

Pascal: What are the aim and the topic you are giving here?

Simon: I am here to give a talk to Frontrunners 3 about “What’s after Frontrunners...?” As I have participated in the previous Frontrunners 2 and now I am here to give my personal experiences on the life about Frontrunners.

Pascal: What were your thoughts on Frontrunners before participating in Frontrunners 2?

Simon: Before the Frontrunners 2 started, I didn’t really plan to join FR2 as I was unsure and FR2 was my back-up, plan B. Many people encouraged me to attend FR2, I was uncertain also I didn’t have any work after getting my degree. I decided to go for it and participated in FR2; I was given the first two weeks free to give me a clear idea whether to stay on for the rest of the FR course. That time I decided to join FR2 only just one week before the course started, it was very last minute for me. But afterwards, within the first two weeks, I felt some changes and I want to stay as it was really good.

Pascal: Since the end of FR2, What did you do afterwards? Action, campaigns, could you explain more details?

Simon: After FR2, now looking back to FR2, I really thank FR2 for the experiences and awareness that I have gained which has helped me to work within the board of the Danish Deaf Youth Association. Thank to the knowledge of association work from FR2, I was able to work in the youth association. Within the youth association there is project of Developing Countries which is very new but from my experiences in FR2, I am able to know what we must do and know in that way can empower the rest of the youth board members. Also more awareness about deaf and the future, as before I thought it didn’t matter as my life was good and didn’t think I need more. But after gaining these experiences, now I am bit afraid of what the future changes might brings and I feel that I must do something now, and that is my motivation.

The other way is my private, before I didn’t have any determination but being in FR2 I have learnt more and have strengthen my personal development. With that I have an aim to set up my own company and it is true that I thank to FR2.

Pascal: Now what about the other participants of the previous Frontrunners?

Simon: Not only me that have changed after FR, becoming more active. It is also the participants from both Frontrunners 1 and 2. Several of them have changed, picking out a few for examples; one person went to Brazil to support, not help, deaf children in school as a volunteer for three months; also another person involved in European Forum of Sign Language recently in Czech, Prague; some were involved in their association work; another was involved in regional football club, it may seems small but at least that person is making some difference and many more.

Pascal: Is there anything you would like to say to the youth for the future?

Simon: Well, I know that you (youth) all are our future, the youth must do something now to make changes in the future. I am so certain that the Deaf community will change in the future. We need you! I hope that you may want come and join Frontrunners in the future and learn more to be active or be more involved actively in the Deaf community for example association work, volunteer work, working in developing countries, working with Deaf people. I hope you will do that!