



The finished project will allow cameras and sensors incorporated in the clothing to send data to software | Photo source [University of Borås](#)

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## HAPTIC CLOTHING HELPS DEAFBLIND COMMUNICATE

  HEALTH & WELLBEING

### An EU-wide project is working to create haptic clothing to allow the deafblind to communicate

**Spotted:** An EU-sponsored project called [SUITCEYES](#) (Smart, User-friendly, Interactive, Tactual, Cognition-Enhancer that Yields Extended Sensosphere), developed in conjunction with researchers in Sweden, Greece and the UK, has developed clothing that can help the deafblind to communicate. The clothing works by incorporating [haptic signalling](#). This is a technique used by those who aid the deafblind, where the helper communicates by touching the hand, or other parts of the body, of the deafblind person.

Researchers at the Swedish [University of Borås](#) were responsible for creating the textiles, which incorporate cameras and sensors to act as a haptic interface. Researchers at the [Centre for Research and Technology](#) in Hellenic, Greece, are responsible for data capture and object and face recognition software, while a team at the [University of Leeds](#) is developing software for perception and navigation. Prototype testing will be conducted at the [Eindhoven University of Technology](#) in the Netherlands. Other teams, located at universities in France, Poland and Germany, will be performing outreach.

The finished project will integrate all of the parts so that cameras and sensors incorporated in the clothing send data to software, which recognises objects and faces the surroundings, then

translates this into vibration and other haptic signals. The wearer then feels these through actuators in the clothing. In August 2020, the project is holding a symposium in Borås to present the project.

5th July 2019

Website: [suitceyes.eu](http://suitceyes.eu)

Contact: [suitceyes.eu/contact](http://suitceyes.eu/contact)

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## Takeaway:

The project's goal is to, "create improved and interactive communication possibilities for people with deaf-blindness." Springwise has spotted several innovations in haptics that help people achieve things they normally could not, including [a robotic hand](#) that gives users the ability to feel and manipulate objects from as far away as another country, and [a tape measure for the visually impaired](#) that connects to an app to allow an audio read-out of the measurements. However, by combining the efforts of teams at several different institutions, the SUITCEYES project hopes to produce a practical prototype at a faster pace.