



*Ministero dell'Istruzione dell'Università e della Ricerca*

**ISTITUTO STATALE PER SORDI - ROMA**

## **Assessing Sign Language in Clinical and Classroom environment: learning from experience exchange**

**=== PROVISIONAL PROGRAM ===**

### **Dates:**

9-11 November 2017

### **Organizers:**

- **Maria Tagarelli De Monte**, Pd.D., Istituto Statale per Sordi di Roma – Italy
- Prof dr **Beppie van den Bogaerde**, Deaf Studies Research Unit, Hogeschool Utrecht, University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht / University of Amsterdam - The Netherlands
- **Tobias Haug**, Prof. Dr. phil., Ed.M., Sign Language Interpreter Trainign Program, Interkantonale Hochschule für Heilpädagogik Zürich (HfH), Zürich - Switzerland;
- **Felipe Venancio Barbosa**, Prof., Department of linguistics, University of Sao Paulo, Brasil

### **Location:**

Istituto Statale per Sordi di Roma, Via Nomentana 54-56, Roma, Italy

### **Workshop abstract:**

The field of sign language education is still a developing field in linguistics research and the results of the ECML PRO-SIGN project has confirmed this perspective (<http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2012-2015/ProSign/tabid/1752/Default.aspx>).

In many countries in Europe, sign languages have been taught by Deaf associations and private circles, where testing learners' achievement was often left to intuition and experience of their teachers. Considering that formal education in sign language teaching is hardly a reality in Europe, it is likely that SL teachers have varying degrees of teaching skills and, consequently, language assessment is left to personal judgements rather than professional ones. In this context, the aim of aligning sign language education to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages faces many obstacles, including the lack of appropriate standards when defining the meaning of "fitting" into one level or another.





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On the other hand, Brazil began teaching Sign Language of Brazil (LIBRAS) in Universities and started the professional education of Sign Language Teachers in 2002 (thanks to the Law number 10436/02 - recognizing LIBRAS as a legal communication language for the deaf community, thus requiring the need to develop undergraduate courses on this language – and the executive decree number 5626/05 – regulating the law execution and establishing the National Proficiency Test in Sign Language (ProLIBRAS). Sign language became a university subject, thus raising the status and the importance of this minority language in Brazil.

At a time when Europe is raising awareness of the status of Sign Language for the deaf communities and Brazil is establishing a methodology for its education and investigating how to assess LIBRAS, this workshop enables researchers and professionals with different backgrounds to meet and to exchange the experience gained in the field for at least 10 years

For this reason, we are asking our candidate attendees to send us a brief note about their experience in this field and questions that will be used to stimulate discussion during the workshop and pick up public replies by the organizers and their invitees.

Address for subscription and experience sharing will be forwarded soon.

The workshop is mainly thought for deaf teachers but it is also open to professional interpreters and students of sign language interpreting programs.

All meetings will be recorded and made available on the official website and YouTube page of the State Institute for the Deaf in Rome, as an activity of the QCER-LIS Laboratory (<http://www.issr.it/LABORATORIO-INTERDIPARTIMENTALE-QCERLIS.html>, English to come).

### NOTES:

We are waiting for confirmation of invited hearing and Deaf professionals who have experience in the field of Sign Language in clinical environments and in SL assessment and evaluation.





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## **Activity Program:**

Workshop languages will be English and Italian Sign Language (LIS). English-LIS interpretation will be provided. International attendees wishing to attend through International Signs should express their interests via email to [ricerca@issr.it](mailto:ricerca@issr.it).

### **November 9 – Thursday**

14-17 – Workshop opening and general introduction to topics;  
- Stimulating and picking up more questions from the audience, collecting and merging questions in preparation for the following day.

### **November 10 - Friday**

A.M.

9-10 – “Testing and assessment in clinical environment”, introduction by Felipe Barbosa; scientific questions for future discussion;  
10-12 – Working on discussion questions and looking for practical responses;  
12-13 – Putting it all together: Summarizing results from the morning activities and taking note for the future;  
13-14.30 Lunch (at own costs and convenience);

P.M.

14:30-16:00 – “Testing and assessment in classroom environment”, from the first experiences to CEFR. Introduction by Beppie van den Bogaerde and Tobias Haug;  
16:00 – 17:30 – working on discussion questions and looking for practical responses;  
17:30 – 18:30 – withdrawing results from the activity and taking note for the future;

### **November 11 - Saturday**

10-11 – “Learning from experience, what we get out of sharing experiences and what is left to do”, joint presentation by organizers and sharing the experience we've gained. Provide feedback on the activity of the previous day;  
11-12 – Picking up feedbacks and discussing results with the audience;  
12 – 12:30 – Wrap up and closing.

