

# Professionalization of Sign Language Teaching: An European Perspective

Christian Rathmann  
Universität Hamburg

[christian.rathmann@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:christian.rathmann@uni-hamburg.de)



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



## Institut für Deutsche Gebärdensprache und Kommunikation Gehörloser

UHH: Fachbereich SLM I: IDGS

A<sup>-</sup> A<sup>-/+</sup> A<sup>+</sup>

Suchbegriff eingeben

OK

### Startseite

- **Aktuelles**
- **Personal**
- **Studium**
- **Bibliothek**
- **Drittmittelprojekte**
- **Software**
- **Kontakt**
- **Events**
- **GGKG e.V.**
- **Links**

Herzlich willkommen auf der Homepage des Instituts für Deutsche Gebärdensprache und Kommunikation Gehörloser an der Universität Hamburg. Hier können Sie sich anhand des Menünavigators über das Institut im Allgemeinen, unsere Forschung und Studienangebote informieren. Wir wünschen Ihnen dabei viel Vergnügen.



### AKTUELLES

Ankündigung des neuen Vorlesungsverzeichnisses für kommendes Wintersemester 2013/2014...

**SIEHE MEHR...**

# Outline of Talk:

## 1. Professionalization

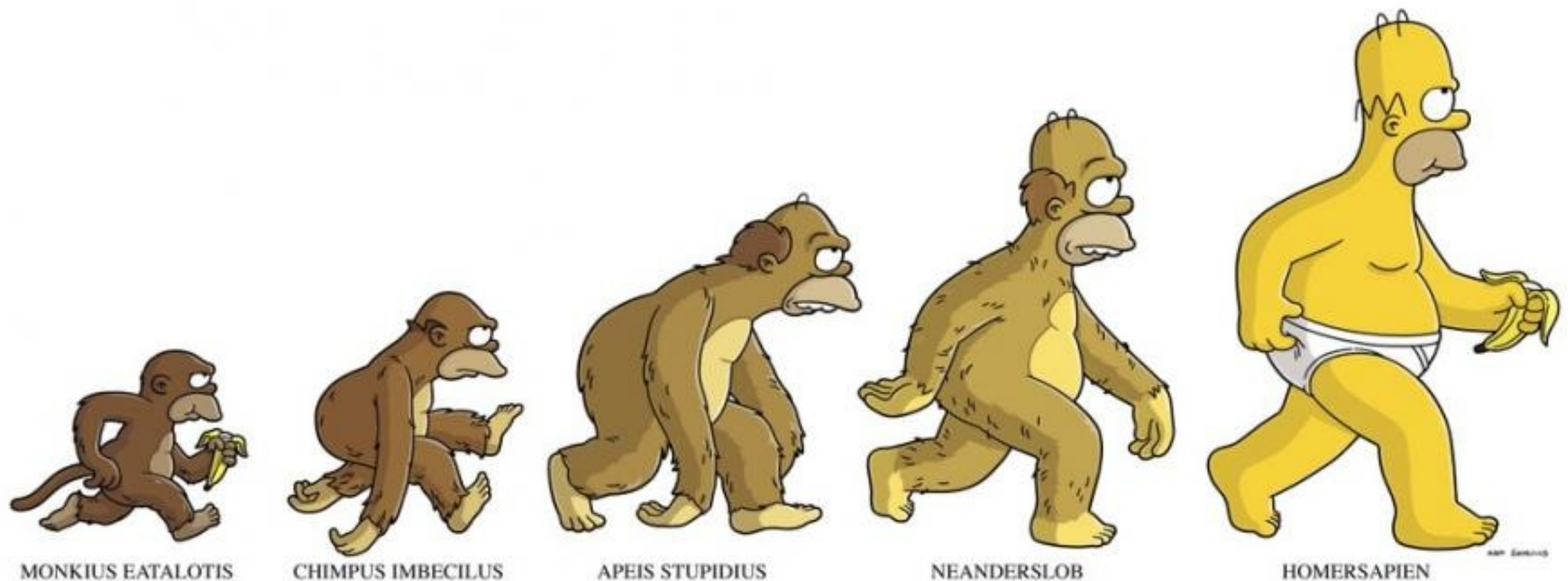
## 2. Sign Language Teacher

## 3. Current Issues in Sign Language Teaching and Learning in Europe





**Professionalization**  
is the **social process** by which any  
trade or occupation transforms  
itself **into a true profession.**



**HOMERSAPIEN**



The process of professionalization tends to involve

(a) establishing acceptable **qualifications**



The process of professionalization tends to involve

(b) a **professional body or association** to oversee the conduct of members of the profession



The process of professionalization tends to involve

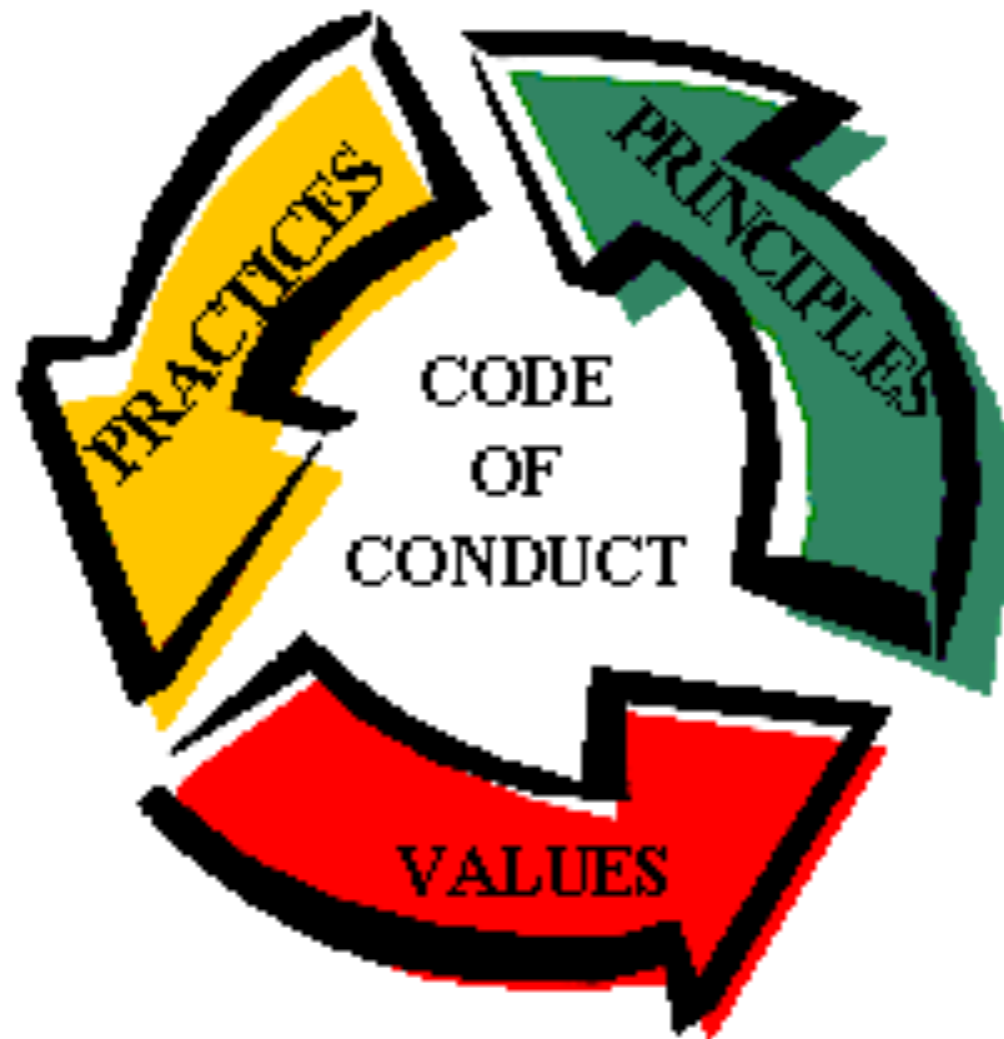
(c) some degree of **demarcation of the qualified from unqualified persons.**





The professionalization process tends  
to establish the **group norms of conduct and  
qualification of members of a profession**





Source: [http://sociology.about.com/od/P\\_Index/g/Professionalization.htm](http://sociology.about.com/od/P_Index/g/Professionalization.htm)

The professionalization process tends to insist that members of the profession abide with the **established procedures** and any **agreed code of conduct**.

### 3. Current Issues in Sign Language Teaching and Learning in Europe







(a) Sign Language  
Teacher -- **Who?**

(b) Sign Language  
Teacher -- **What?**

(b) Sign Language  
Teacher -- **Why?**

Lingu

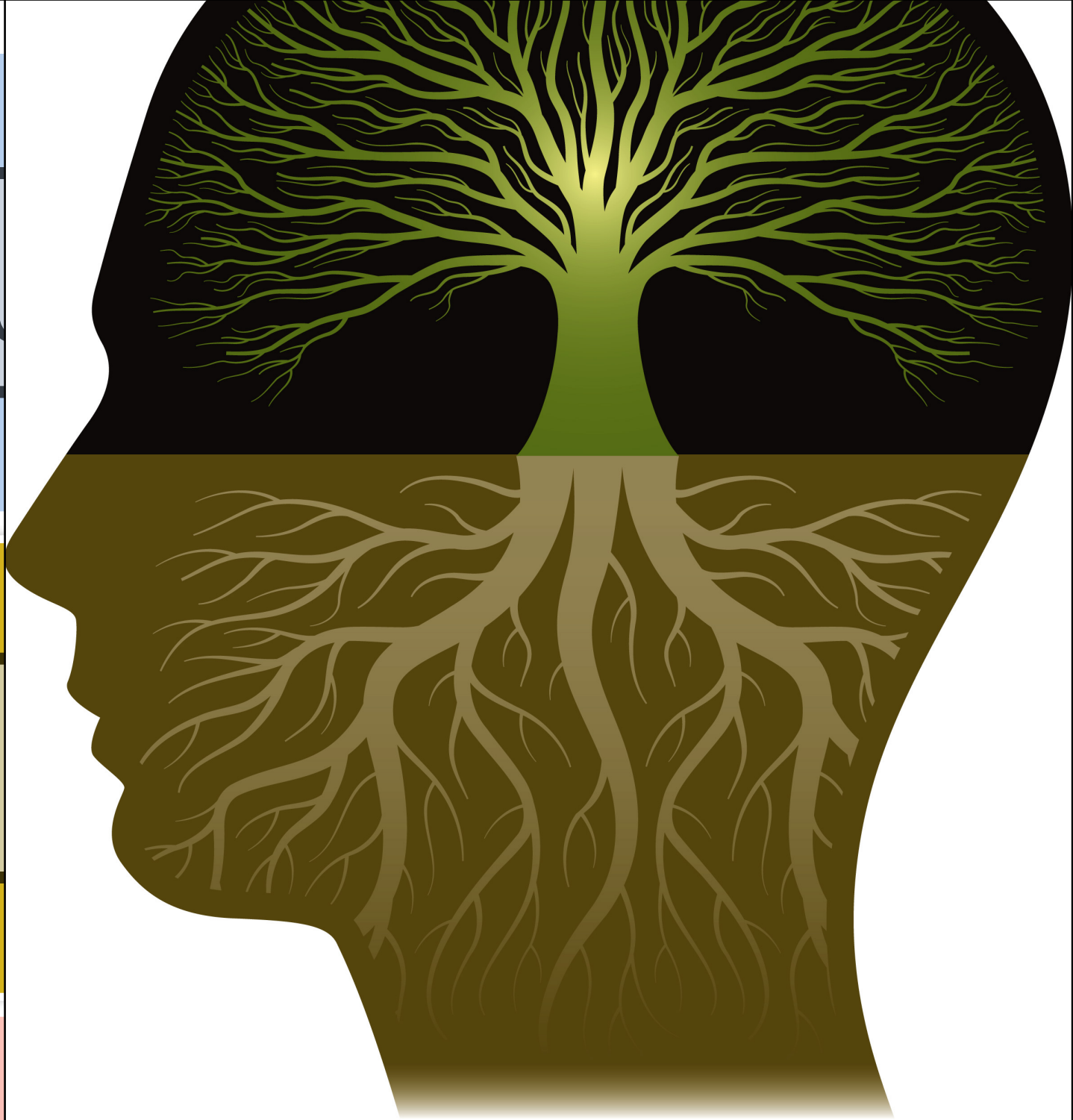
ture

Lea

hing

Asses

media



Linguistics

Culture

Learning

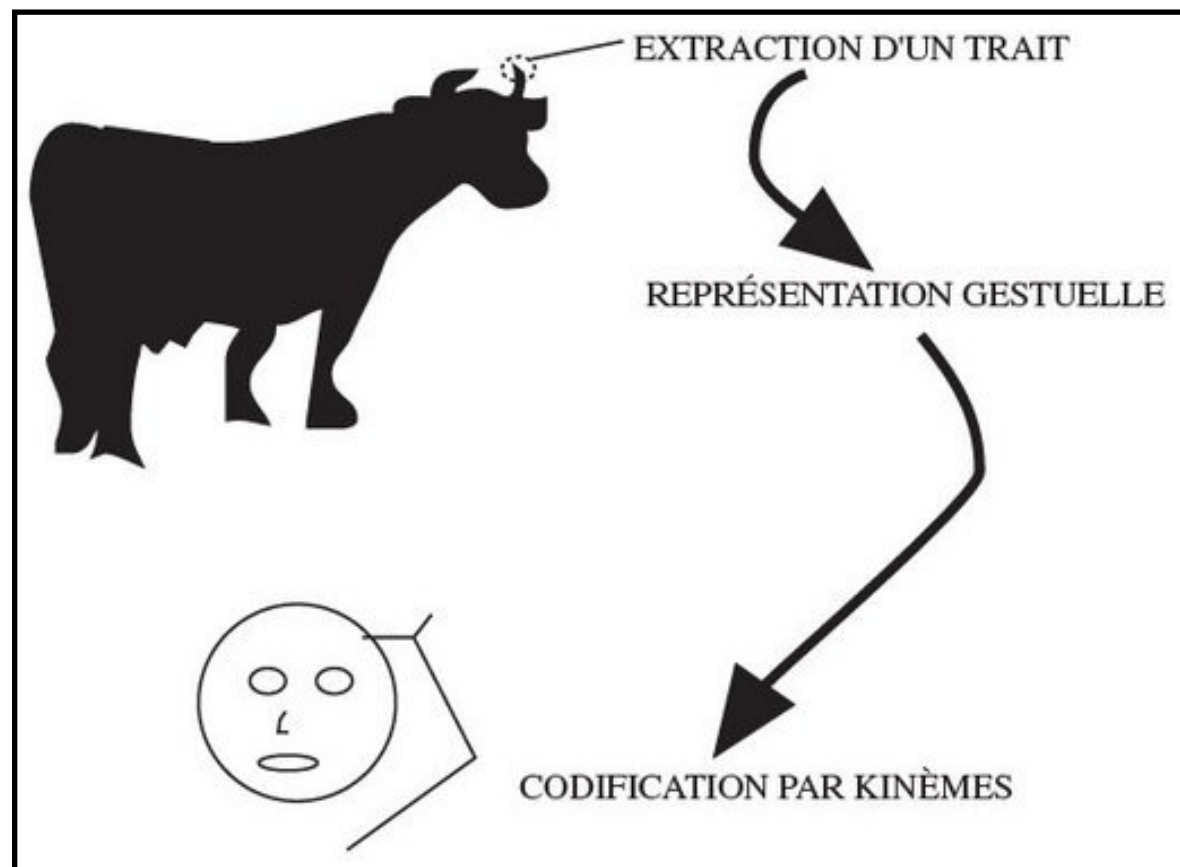
Teaching

Assessment

Multimedia

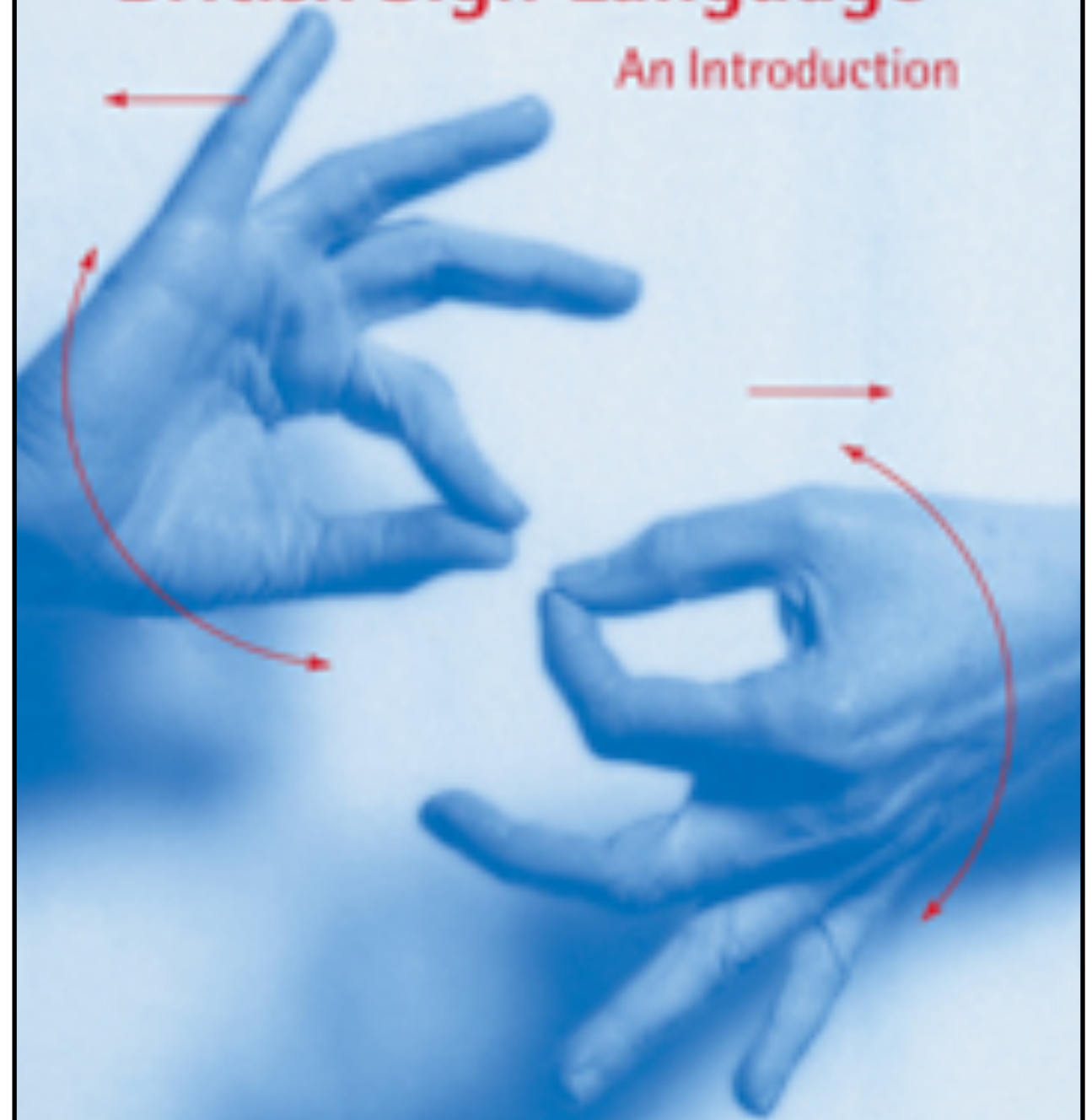


# Linguistics



## The Linguistics of British Sign Language

An Introduction



Rachel Sutton-Spence and Bencie Woll



# Culture



<http://nancyrourke.com/paintings/deaf/protectdeafculture.jpg>



Volkmar Jaeger

Ich sehe den  
Menschen.  
Ich höre ihn nicht.

KUNSTBLATT

DES FOTO GRASIN VERLAG IN DRESDEN

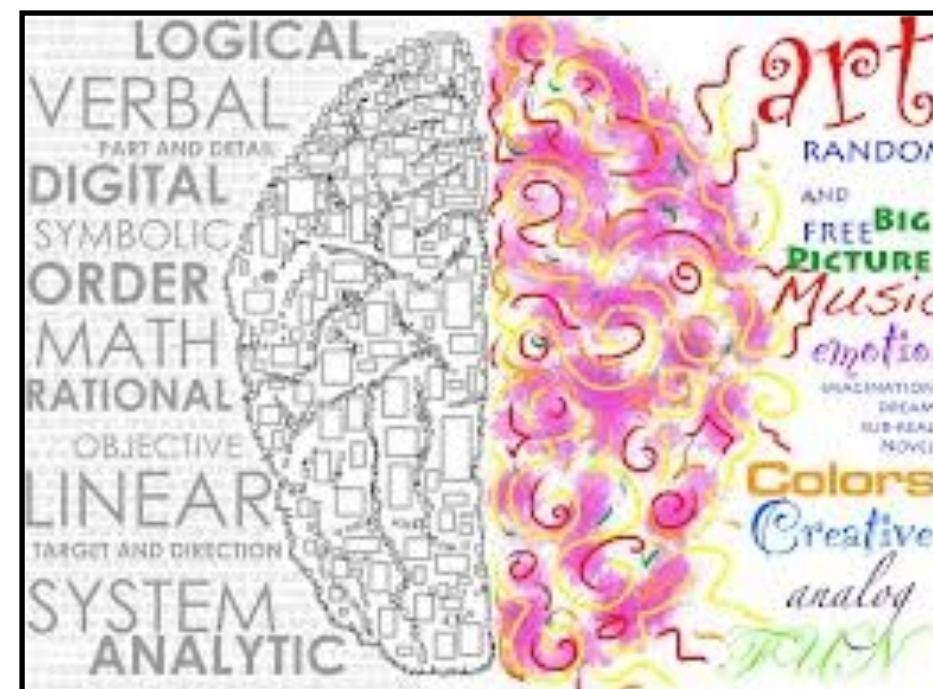
Culture



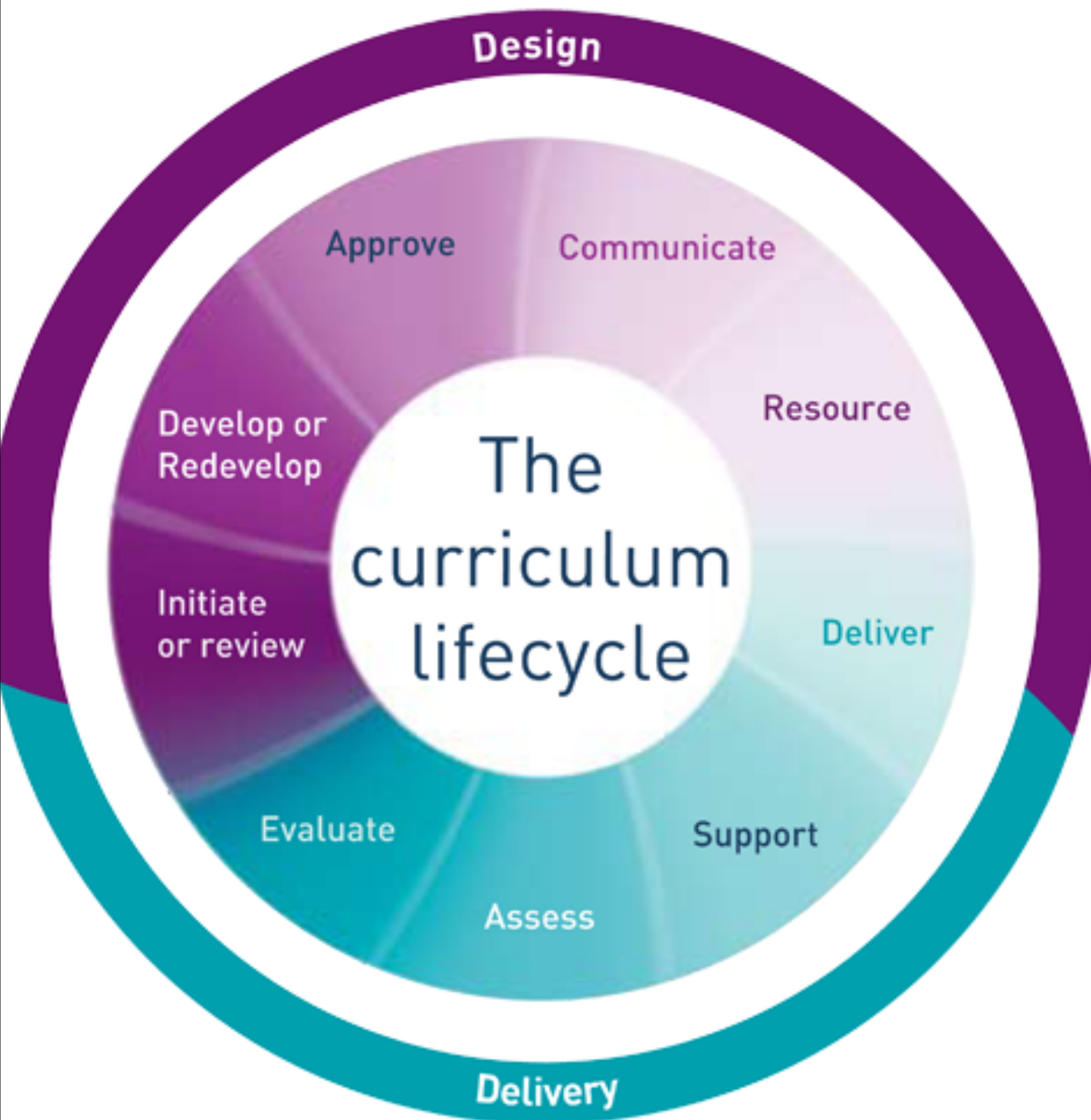
[http://  
www.strategiesinlanguagelearning.com](http://www.strategiesinlanguagelearning.com)

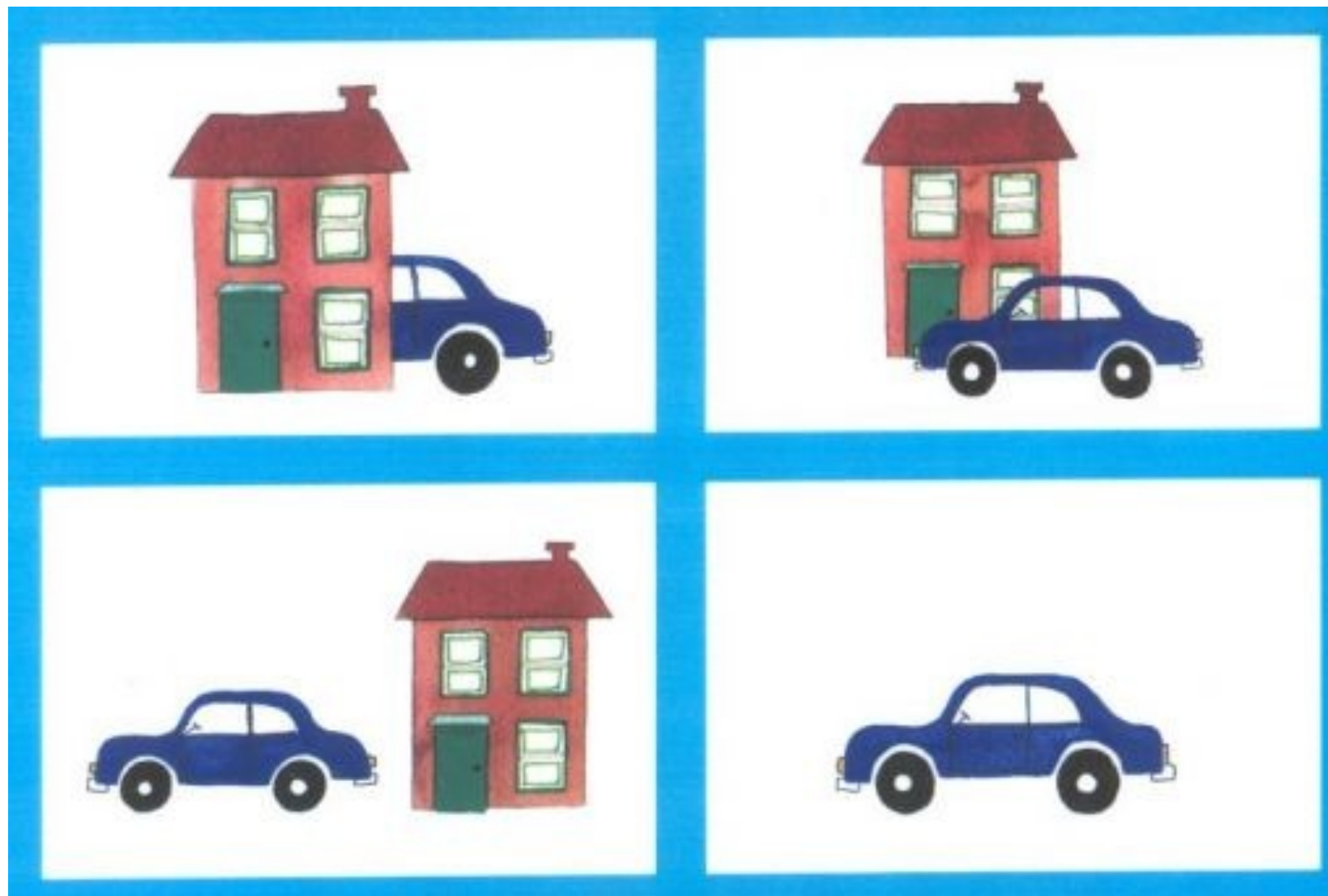


Learning



Teaching

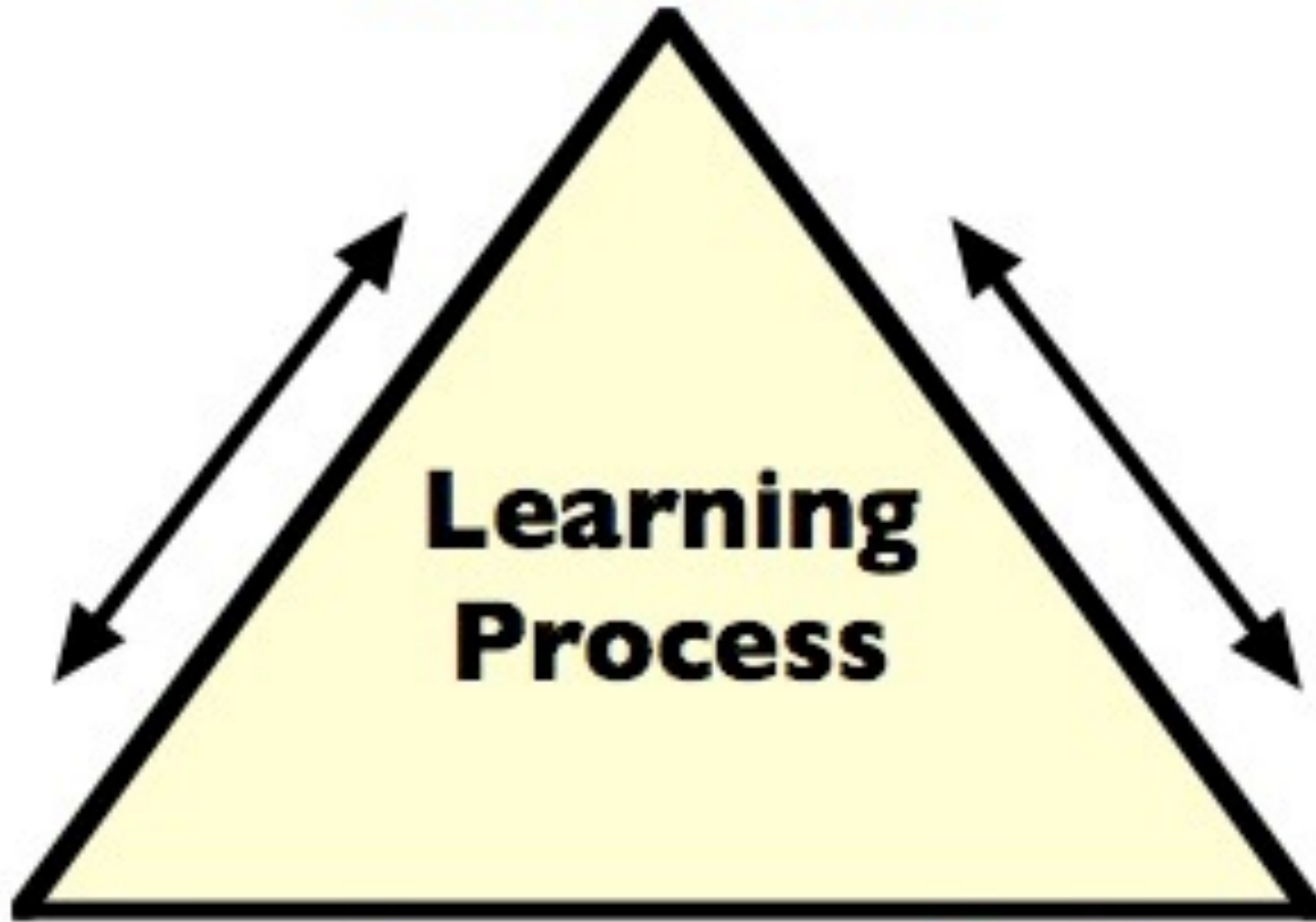




Assessment



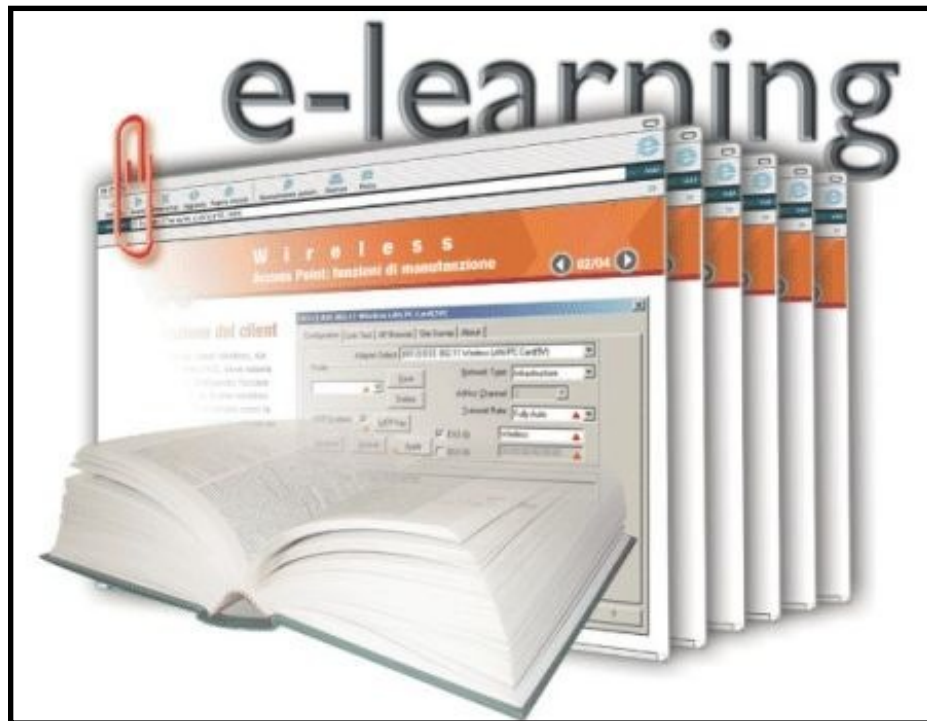
**Curriculum**



**Assessment**



**Instruction**





Linguistics

Culture

Learning

Teaching

Assessment

Multimedia



L2



**Sign Language Teaching - Why?**

L2



**Sign Language Teaching - Why?**





L1



**Sign Language Teaching - Why?**





**Sign Language Teaching - Why?**



L1

L2

МНОГОЯЗЫЧИЕ

språkets mångfaldighet

diversidá llingüística

różnorodność językowa

jăzəkòwô rozmajitoôrtnosc

sprogmanfoldighed

ferskaat oan talen

raznolikost jezikov

rěčna mnohotnosť

turlii di limb

diversitat linguistica

Sprachenvielfalt

diversitat d'idiomes

nyelvi sokszínűség



## language diversity

višejezičnost

feelesproken snakken

et maenouder foon maning spräke

amrywiaeth ieithyddol

liesseurted ar yezhoù

diverseth yethow

diversidade lingüística

rěčna wjelerakosć

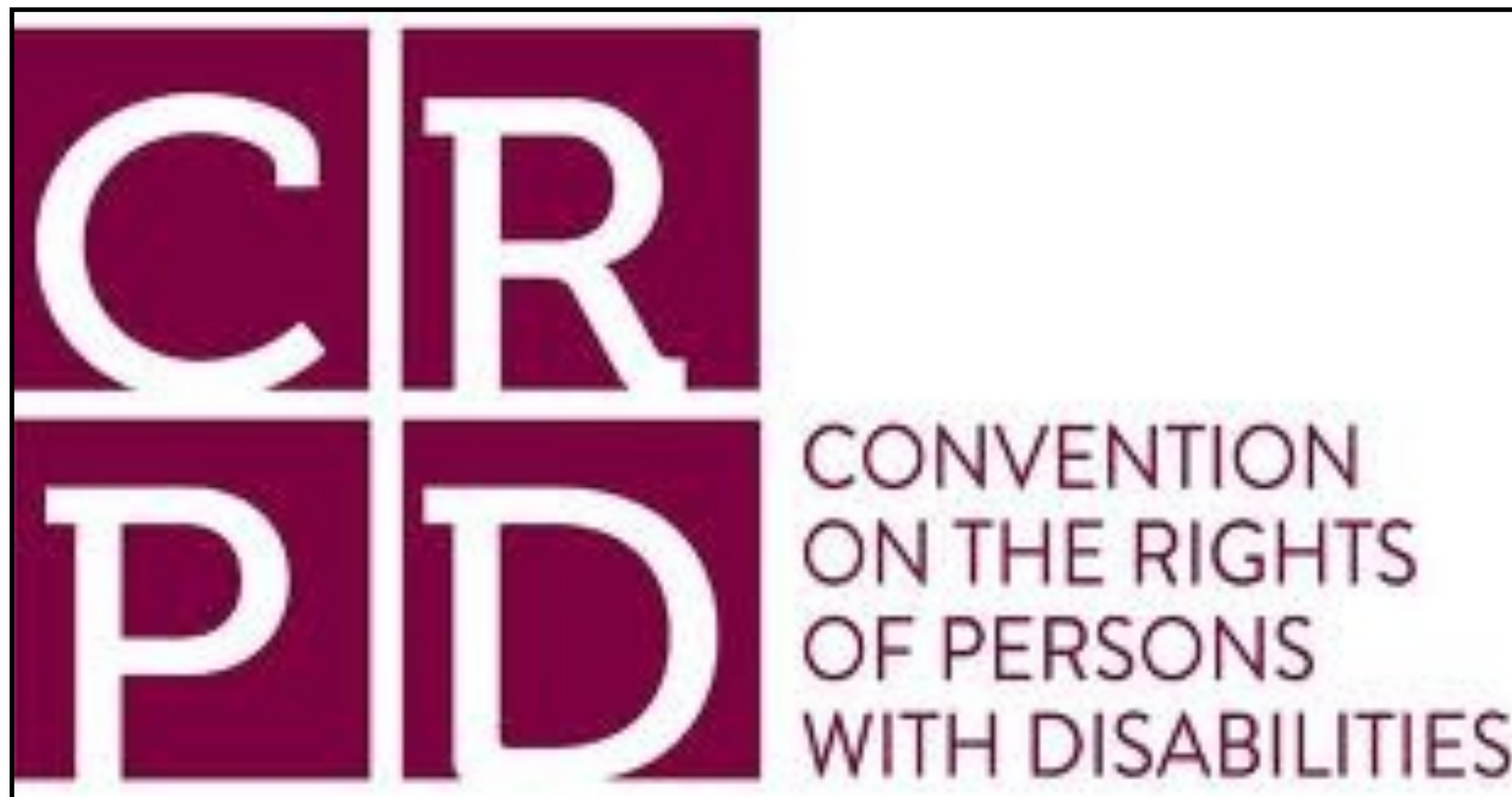
hizkuntza aniztasuna

# Sign Language Teaching - Why?

L2

L1

variety competition group sense athlete  
take almost opinions regards exclusivity circumstance  
think just change important making abstract...terms  
inclusion...they're Miller  
environment research simplistic  
body forbidden good wait least way  
Ryan Leon work gay Friday getting even  
individuals politically requires increasing emailed  
included Mari participate able definition seem many seen  
hoping understanding mental came however games  
drama mental came however games  
view words means actively makes question  
straightforward want controller  
Olympics number  
openness workshop possible  
thoughts attended michael@fullcirclearts.co.uk non-museum  
background demonstrate word  
groups/minorities whilst like using  
language something  
exclusion one adhering  
However course term sport  
long people  
disability memory  
culture/gender/race/physical  
process thought  
possible  
equal make  
backgrounds  
mean  
PANDA  
Arts safe rank  
bit Full fair  
meaning permit led capricious  
companies  
workshop  
ask  
etc  
rather inclusion meant  
shame engagement  
case choose  
others partake  
engage



Sign Language Teaching - Why?



# Outline of Talk:

1. Professionalization
2. Sign Language Teacher
- 3. Current Issues in Sign Language Teaching and Learning in Europe**



European  
Framework  
**LEVELCHART**  
CEFR

**A1**  
Starter

**A2**  
Elementary

Basic User

**B1**  
Intermediate

Independent User

**B2**  
Upper  
intermediate

**C1**  
Expert

Proficient User

**C2**  
Mastery

Promoting excellence in language education  
**European Centre for Modern Languages**



CEF competence levels			Skills
	Competent user	C2	Native speaker level in everyday life and workrelated situations
		C1	Almost native speaker level in everyday life and workrelated situations, presentations, reports, instructions and explanations in detail
	Independent user	B2	Puts complex information into practice both in everyday life and in work situations, presentations and meetings
		B1	Can understand, communicate and put into practice standard information both in everyday life and in workrelated situations
	Basic user	A2	Understands and communicates any important information both in writing and orally
		A1	Understands and communicates simple personal and workrelated messages
			<div>Listening</div> <div>Reading</div> <div>Speaking</div> <div>Writing</div>

## PRO-Sign

[Abstract](#)[Context](#)[Self-evaluation](#)[Dissemination](#)[Events](#)[Team](#)[Associate partners](#)[Project management](#)[News](#)[Links](#)

## Signed languages for professional purposes

**Project working languages:** English and International Sign

**Project term:** 2012-2015

**Project team:** [Lorraine Leeson](#), [Tobias Haug](#), [Christian Rathmann](#), [Beppie Van den Bogaerde](#)



### What is it about?

The PRO-Signs project aims to establish European standards for signed language proficiency for professional purposes, focusing specifically on sign language teaching in Deaf Studies and Sign Language Interpreting programmes. The project will provide definitions of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) proficiency levels for signed languages and develop a sample assessment kit for signed language competency at the C1/C2 level indicating the qualification of professional interpreters.



## PROSIGN



In cooperation with the  
[Moscow State Linguistic University](#)

### PARTICIPATE



**PROJECT  
EVENTS**

**Project workshop in 2013** - if you wish to participate [click here](#) and contact your National Nominating Authority



## Target audience involved in project activities

---

- Teachers
- Teacher educators
- Curriculum developers in tertiary educational environments
- University level educators who practice applied linguistics and offer signed language courses at the C1/C2 level or equivalent for professional purposes.
- International NGOs such as the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI) and relevant international organisations like the Conference of Interpreter Trainers as dissemination partners







# *Learning Outcomes*

*for Graduates of a Three Year  
Sign Language Interpreting  
Training Programme*



# European Language Portfolio



# Professionalization of Sign Language Teaching: An European Perspective

Christian Rathmann  
Universität Hamburg

[christian.rathmann@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:christian.rathmann@uni-hamburg.de)



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG