



## **EFSLI POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL SIGN TRAINING**

Increasing interaction between Deaf communities all over the world led to the need of an International Sign System which was formally discussed in 1951, when the World Federation of the Deaf was set up. That's history. More than 50 years have passed since then, but International Sign is still widely being used when communication among signers of different native signed languages occurs.

International events often offer International Sign Interpretation from and into a spoken language in order to support those countries that cannot afford to bring their own interpreters or when national sign language interpreting is not available.

More recently, immigration flows of Deaf people from developing countries to the Western industrialized world have challenged professional Deaf and Hearing interpreters. In most of these cases, International Sign has been used to establish a first communication exchange.

It clearly appears that International Sign Interpretation should not be considered a substitute for national sign language interpretation.

The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters promotes the use of national sign language interpreters and encourages national sign language interpreting training.

efсли encourages those who would like to learn International Sign to attend International meetings and join Deaf people from all over the world.

Should you need further information, please feel free to send us an email at [training@efsli.org](mailto:training@efsli.org) or [marinella.salami@efsli.org](mailto:marinella.salami@efsli.org).

On behalf of the efsli board

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