

# Proposal for Pro-Sign Conference

## University of Belgrade, 19-20 October 2018

---

### **Name and affiliation:**

Maria Tagarelli De Monte – Istituto Statale per Sordi di Roma and Università degli Studi di Roma Tre.

### **Title:**

Filling the gaps. Italian Sign Language education before and after the SignLEF and the Pro-Sign project

### **Topic:**

Report of CEFR-related activities and development in my country.

### **Abstract**

The publication – by the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) - of descriptors for Sign Language education following the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the completion of the germinal work for course adaptation done within the SignLEF project (<http://signlef.aau.at/en>) has started a small but apparently irreversible process of change in Italian Sign Language (LIS) education.

Many schools of LIS have looked at the CEFR to measure their methodology, finding areas – especially at the B and C level - that were left uncovered by previous approaches. Some have tried to fill the gap by adding an extra level to their educational path. Others have focused more on evolving the methodology in use for both teaching and assessment, filling the gap by enriching existing paths with new didactic materials and more prepared teachers.

In this talk, I'll provide an overview of the changes occurred in LIS education starting from the publication of the first works based on the CEFR by ECML and the results of the SignLEF project, showing the positive outcomes of the new descriptors for Sign Language education and the areas where D/deaf teachers need a fast and effective update of their skills.