



**Goals** Language policies for signing deaf Europeans require **reliable reference grammars** of their sign languages (SLs), which are generally lacking or of limited validity if they exist. They constitute the **basis for teaching and training purposes**. In addition, descriptive grammars are essential for the **documentation of a European linguistic and cultural heritage** which is largely unrecognized to date. Making SL grammars available to signing communities, policy makers, linguists and to civil society in general will **strengthen the status of SLs and support full participation of their users in society**. In parallel, deepening the knowledge on SL grammars with a theoretically informed comparative approach will contribute to the **characterization of the human faculty of language**, which is severely biased towards spoken languages.



## COST participants

Austria  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Iceland  
Italy  
The Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Spain  
Turkey  
United Kingdom

## Non-COST participants

Argentina  
Australia

## Working groups

**WG1: Phonology, Morphology and Lexicon**

Coord.: Roland Pfau

**WG2: Syntax**

Coord.: Caterina Donati

**WG3: Semantics and Pragmatics**

Coord.: Markus Steinbach

**WG4: Methodology and grammar design**

Coord.: Carlo Geraci

**Duration 2011-2015**



The **SignGram** blueprint will have two main components:

- **Table of Contents:** detailed checklist of linguistic features that the grammar developer needs to go through in order to get a comprehensive view of the grammar of the language under study.
- **Manual:** guidelines and background information that accompany the Table of Contents and provide the necessary information about how to implement



The Action also aims to deliver an open online **repository of elicitation materials** that will support the SignGram Blueprint.



Chair  
Josep Quer

Vicechair  
Carlo Cecchetto

Grant Holder  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
(Barcelona)

Grant Holder Administrator  
Gemma Barberà

Website  
[www.signgram.eu](http://www.signgram.eu)



COST Domain Committee  
Rapporteur  
Jacques DUBUCS

COST Science Officer  
Luule MIZERA

COST Administrative Officer  
Jeannette NCHUNG

## SignGram

COST Action IS 1006

**A blueprint for sign language grammars**



**Unraveling the grammars of European sign languages: pathways to full citizenship of deaf signers and to the protection of their linguistic heritage**