

“Portuguese Sign Language [psr] (A language of Portugal)

- **Alternate Names:** LGP, Língua Gestual Portuguesa
- **Population:** 52,000 (2014 IMB). 60,000 sign language users (2014 EUD). 150,000 deaf (2010 Federação Portuguesa das Associações de Surdos).
- **Location:** Scattered, including Azores and Madeira islands.
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing).
- **Dialects:** Lisbon, Oporto. Historical influence from Swedish Sign Language [swl]. Older signers attended separate schools for boys and girls in Lisbon and Oporto, resulting in some variation by gender and region. (Van Cleve 1986) These differences have largely disappeared in younger signers. No apparent relationship to Spanish sign language, based on a lexical comparison of non-iconic signs. (Eberle and Eberle 2012).
- **Typology:** One-handed fingerspelling.
- **Language Use:** While Portuguese Sign Language is the primary language of communication for most deaf people, widely varying degrees of bilingualism (spoken and written) in Portuguese [por] are common. Written Portuguese is valued for access to mainstream society and employment.
- **Language Development:** Videos. Dictionary. Grammar.
- **Other Comments:** Fingerspelling system shows many differences from other European countries. 100 working sign language interpreters (2014 EUD). Taught as L2 at the university level. Christian (Roman Catholic).”

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.)

2015. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Eighteenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

Related Readings

Carmo, Patrícia do, Alexandre Castro-Caldas, Ronice Müller de Quadros, Joana Castelo Branco, and Ana Mineiro

2013 Handshape is the Hardest Path in Portuguese Sign Language Acquisition: Towards a Universal Modality Constraint. *Sign Language & Linguistics* 16(1): 75.

Santos, Cátia, and António Luís Carvalho

2012 The Core Competencies of the Portuguese Supervisor's Sign Language Interpreters' Students. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences* 69: 874-883.

Last Updated: April 16, 2015