

“Swiss-Italian Sign Language [slf] (A language of [Switzerland](#))

- **Alternate Names:** Lingua dei segni della Svizzera italiana, Lingua dei Segni Italiana, LIS, LIS-SI
- **Population:** 300 (Boyes Braem 2010). 10,000 deaf signers in all of Switzerland (2014 EUD).
- **Location:** Scattered. Ticino and Graubünden cantons.
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2002, Federal Parliament, Law on Equality for Disabled People).
- **Dialect:** None known. Two main varieties: Lugano, Bellinzona (Boyes Braem and Rathmann 2010). Similar to Italian Sign Language [ise]. Variety used around Bellinzona influenced by sign languages of immigrants from the former Yugoslavia, Lithuania and Poland. (Boyes Braem and Rathmann 2010) Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl].
- **Typology:** One-handed fingerspelling.
- **Language Us:** Deaf school has closed (Boyes Braem and Rathmann 2010). Deaf association. Status of signing is increasing. Other signed and written languages in Switzerland and surrounding countries, including ASL [ase] (Boyes Braem and Rathmann 2010).
- **Language Development:** TV. Videos. Dictionary.
- **Other Comment:** Taught as L2. 13,000 hearing signers (all three sign languages) in Switzerland, estimate based on participants in sign language classes (Boyes Braem and Rathmann 2010). 7 working sign language interpreters (2014 EUD). 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>.

Last Updated: May 11, 2015