

Dear Colleagues,

The Russian Society of the Deaf, Moscow State Linguistic University, and the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences are pleased to announce the International Scientific Conference **“Sign Languages in an Interdisciplinary Paradigm: Inclusion, Research, Education, Interpretation,”** commemorating the centenary of the All-Russian Public Organization of Persons with Disabilities “The Russian Society of the Deaf” (VOG). The conference will be held on September 23–25, 2026 in Moscow at the premises of the Russian Society of the Deaf, Moscow State Linguistic University, and the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The conference aims to consolidate the efforts of researchers—linguists, philologists, and practitioners in the fields of inclusive communication, intersemiotic translation and interpreting, education, and related disciplines—for a comprehensive review of Russian Sign Language (RSL) and other national sign languages, and of their communicative and functional potential to facilitate the creation of an accessible environment and to foster social cohesion.

The conference program envisions **two** forums:

The first forum, entitled “Sign Languages in the Focus of Inclusive Communication: Interpretation, Education, and Social Practices,” will focus on topical issues of contemporary theory and practice as far as ways to promote social inclusion through bimodal interpreting are concerned, as well as the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, and the professional training of interpreters, teachers, and researchers of sign languages, and specialists in inclusive communication who employ natural languages of differing modalities.

Scope and Topics of the Forum:

- Current issues in the specialized theory of bimodal interpreting.
- Bimodal interpreting across professional communication domains: education, culture, courts, healthcare, and sports.
- The role of intersemiotic translation and interpreting in promoting social inclusion: audio description, tactile/deafblind interpreting, translation into easy language, and audiovisual translation — current status and way ahead.
- Applying modern technology in training Russian Sign Language interpreters under the professional standard “Translator of Russian Sign Language”.
- Sign languages in the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing learners.
- Teaching sign languages within the system of primary and supplementary education.
- Contemporary professional training of sign language teachers.
- Approaches to the development of modern teaching materials and electronic databases for instruction in Russian Sign Language and for the training of RSL interpreters and teachers.
- Sign languages in online communication.

- Sign-language and spoken-language interpretation: avenues for interaction.
- Gesture studies and sign language linguistics: points of intersection and way ahead.
- Contemporary research on the history and culture of the Deaf in Russia and abroad.

The second forum, entitled “Sign Languages in the Focus of Contemporary Linguistics: Structure, Functioning, and Development,” continues the series of annual linguistic forums initiated by the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 2026 the forum will focus entirely on current issues in the study of sign languages as another type of full-fledged human languages.

Scope and Topics of the Forum:

Theoretical linguistics of sign languages

- the internal structure of signs;
- morphology, syntax, and the lexicon of sign languages;
- discourse structure, semantics, and pragmatics of sign communication.

Sociolinguistics of sign languages

- variation (regional, social) and language contacts in signing communities;
- language policy, planning, and the legal/social status of sign languages.

Typology and Comparative Studies of sign languages

- cross-linguistic comparison of sign languages;
- comparing linguistic structures across sign and spoken languages.

Methodology and Applied Research

- fieldwork methods for documenting sign languages;
- corpus linguistics: building and analyzing sign language corpora;
- psycholinguistic and cognitive aspects of sign language production and perception;
- sign language lexicography.

We invite Russian and international scholars to participate in the conference, including professionals in sign languages, inclusive communication, intersemiotic translation and interpreting, education, as well as representatives of related linguistic disciplines with an interest in discussing the conference topics within contemporary scientific paradigms.

The conference will be held in a hybrid format. The working languages are Russian, Russian Sign Language, English, and International Sign. Interpretation to and from the specified languages will be provided.

Application submission

Submission Guidelines

Those wishing to take part in the conference are encouraged to submit anonymous abstracts until **April 26** to the emails below:

Forum “Sign Languages in the Focus of Inclusive Communication: Interpretation, Education, and Social Practices,” – sign-forum2026@yandex.ru.

Forum “Sign Languages in the Focus of Contemporary Linguistics: Structure, Functioning, and Development” – lingforum@iling-ran.ru

Abstract specifications: 1 page A4 (a second page may be used for examples and references); formatting: Times New Roman, 12 pt, single spacing, 2.5 cm margins. File formats: .pdf, .doc(x).

In the body of your submission letter, please include:

- the name of one of the two forums – specifically the one you are applying for;
- topic of the presentation;
- author information: full name(s) and affiliation(s).
- contact details (email address and phone number).

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **July 27, 2026**.

For general inquiries regarding the organization of the conference, please contact see@voginfo.ru.

Key Dates

- Abstract deadline: **April 26, 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **July 27, 2026**
- Conference dates: **September 23-25, 2026 (VOG, MSLU, ILing RAS)**

Best regards,

Organizing committee