

QUALETRA

QUALITY IN LEGAL TRANSLATION



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Bressan, 8.7.2009
SEC(2009) 915

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Proposal for a Council Framework Decision on
the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings

Accompanying the

Proposal for a

FRAMEWORK DECISION

on the right to interpretation and to translation in criminal proceedings

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(COM(2009) 338 final)
(SEC(2009) 915)

26.10.2010

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

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(Legislative acts)

DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE 2010/64/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 20 October 2010

on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings

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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European
Union, and in particular point (b) of the second subparagraph
of Article 32(2) thereof,

Having regard to the initiative of the Kingdom of Belgium, the
Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Estonia, the
Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Italian Republic,
the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Hungary, the
Republic of Austria, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the
Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden (1),

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national
parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure (2),

Whereas:

(2) On 29 November 2000, the Council, in accordance with
the Tampere Conclusions, adopted a programme of
measures to implement the principle of mutual recogni-
tion of decisions in criminal matters (3). The intro-
duction to the programme states that mutual recognition
is 'designed to strengthen cooperation between Member
States but also to enhance the protection of individual
rights'.

(3) The implementation of the principle of mutual recogni-
tion of decisions in criminal matters presupposes that
Member States have trust in each other's criminal justice
systems. The extent of mutual recognition is very much
dependent on a number of parameters, which include
mechanisms for safeguarding the rights of suspected or
accused persons and common minimum standards
necessary to facilitate the application of the principle of
mutual recognition.

(4) Mutual recognition of decisions in criminal matters can
operate effectively only in a spirit of trust in which not
only judicial authorities but all actors in the criminal



Background Information

QUALETRA (19 November 2012 – 18 November 2014)

The project is aimed at raising the quality of legal translation and training in criminal proceedings through the development of core curricula, assessment procedures and training materials

Background Information

The project will focus on:

- development of training materials

- translation memories

- multilingual term bases

- accredited tests

- implementation of training programmes

- > Improve the training of legal translators and practitioners to interact efficiently with beneficiaries: police, prosecutors, court staff, judges, lawyers and professionals providing victim support

Background Information

The project will focus on:

developing a systemic chain of quality assurance, which includes assessment of the specific needs of the EU Member States, customized and certified training materials (through ECQA), which will eventually lead to an EU-wide accreditation

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Project Activities



Workstream 1

Essential Documents

Objectives

Generic analysis of the essential document types listed in Directive 2010/64/EU with a view to defining indicators, templates, and terminology to achieve quality in legal translation of such documents

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
1	Parallel and comparable multilingual corpus	Electronic (xml)	All partner languages	All stakeholders (mainly universities)	22
2	Multilingual templates of the essential documents	Electronic and printed	All partner languages	All stakeholders	22
3	List of quality parameters and indicators	Electronic	English French	All stakeholders (mainly translation services and MoJ)	22
4	Elaborated list of Essential documents	Electronic	English French	All stakeholders (mainly translation services and MoJ)	22
5	Multilingual legal termbase	Electronic: xml/SDL MultiTerm (TERMit)	All partner languages	All stakeholders (mainly legal actors, translation services and academics)	22

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
6	Translation memory	Digital (xml/tmx)	All partner languages	All stakeholders (mainly translators and universities)	22
7	Publication on the findings and results	Digital and print	English	All stakeholders	24



Workstream 2

The EU Arrest Warrant (EAW) as a *Special Case*

Objectives

Generic analysis of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) with a view to defining indicators, templates, and terminology to achieve quality in legal translation of these documents

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
1	Parallel and comparable multilingual corpus	Electronic (xml)	All partner languages	All stakeholders (mainly universities)	22
2	List of quality parameters and indicators	Electronic and printed	English French	All stakeholders	22
3	Translation memory	Digital (xml/tmx)	All partner languages	All stakeholders (mainly translation services and MoJ)	22
4	Multilingual legal termbase	Digital: xml/SDL MultiTerm (TERMit)	All partner languages	All stakeholders (mainly translation services and MoJ)	22

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
5	Training course	Digital and print	All partner languages	All stakeholders (mainly academics)	22
6	Publication on the findings and results	Digital and print	English	All stakeholders	22



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Workstream 3

Training

Objectives

Development of one or more core curricula and training materials for LTs

Development of one or more core curricula for language training of legal practitioners

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
1	Survey	Electronic and printed	All partner languages	Translator trainers Legal practitioners Professional associations	3/ 2013
2	Grid of competences for LTs	Electronic and printed	English	Translator trainers Legal practitioners Professional associations	10/ 2013
3	Curriculum for LTs	Electronic and printed	English	Translator trainers Legal practitioners Professional associations	3/ 2014
4	Legal translation module for legal practitioners	Electronic and printed	English	Translator trainers Legal practitioners Professional associations	6/ 2014

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
5	Harmonization	Electronic and printed	English	Translator trainers Legal practitioners Professional associations	9/ 2014

Workstream 4

Testing, Evaluation & Assessment

Objectives

Development of testing, evaluation and assessment procedures and materials for LTs related to the specific working conditions of legal translation in criminal proceedings

Development of EU-wide recommendations and best practices for testing, evaluation and assessment procedures and materials

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Target group (d)	Month
1	Survey on the testing, assessment and evaluation on the current legal translation practices in criminal proceedings in the EU (product, translator and service/process quality assurance)	Websites and manuals (updatable and online information on product, translator and service/process quality assurance)	EN Translator trainers Legal practitioners Professional associations	12/ 2013

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
2	Reliable and valid testing, assessment and evaluation materials and procedures	3 Tests developed in cooperation with ECQA, compatible with the ECQA course materials	English	Universities, EMT, translator trainers, LTs, legal practitioners, Professional associations	9/2014
3	Curriculum for LTs	Electronic and printed	English	LTs, legal practitioners, Universities, EMT, Professional associations	9/2014

Workstream 5

Conferences



Objectives

Offering a wide forum to discuss best practices and practical implementation of the project results

Dissemination of project results

Deliverables

No.	Deliverable name/type (a)	Format (b)	Language (c)	Target group (d)	Month
1	Launching Conference publication	Printed / electronic (via EULITA website)	English	Academics, translators and legal practitioners	24
2	Final Conference publication	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>

Methodology

First, a state-of-the-art report of the current programmes in legal translation will be compiled through a survey sent to the EU universities, professional associations and other training providers of curricula in legal translation

This survey will lead to a comparative assessment grid of the content, the assessment procedures and the possible certification and accreditation strategies of these programmes

On the basis of this comparative instrument, best practices will be defined so that a competence grid can be developed which will serve as a benchmark for training in and assessment of legal translation which will comply with the quality criteria envisaged in Directive 2010/64/EU

A systemic chain of quality assurance in the project can be secured thanks to the sequential as well as concurrent development of the different workstreams

Methodology

This approach will facilitate curriculum development of LTs by focusing first on the specific training issues related to the Essential Documents specified in Article 3.2 of the Directive (Workstream 1) and Article 3.6 related to the quality of translation of the European Arrest Warrant (Workstream 2)

These workstreams will provide a sound basis for developing legal translation training programmes which will develop the recommendations made in the Reflection Forum on Multilingualism and Interpreter Training and which will at the same time be flexible enough to meet the specific needs in the different Member States

Methodology

Building on Workstreams 1, 2 and 3, the project consortium will use the available state-of-the-art expertise in test development and test administration to develop valid and reliable assessment procedures in Workstream 4

The combined results of curriculum development and assessment procedures, when implemented by a particular training institute or organisation in a member state, can lead to an EU-wide certification scheme and quality label

Innovation

In contrast with the previous projects of the partners, mainly focusing on legal interpreting, this project focuses on Legal Translation (LT)

There is

no survey of curricula, best practices, valid and reliable assessment procedures

No consistency with regard to the quality of legal translation programmes in the Member States

Innovation

- > An overall systemic chain of quality in legal translation in criminal proceedings
- > Practical tools for valid and reliable assessment of legal translation in criminal proceedings
- > Guidelines or recommendations on legal translation as to an EU quality label
- > Practical tools to respond to the urgent and immediate needs of the EU Directive 2010/64/EU

Interdisciplinary group to tackle these issues

This project attempts to fill in these lacunae with regard to the pressing issues of quality in legal translation in criminal proceedings as is urgently required by the Directive and the transposition and implementation process

Qualetra

Thank you for your attention!

Dr Hendrik J. Kockaert, Coordinator
hendrik.kockaert@arts.kuleuven.be

Prof. Dr. Frieda Steurs, Dean
frieda.steurs@arts.kuleuven.be