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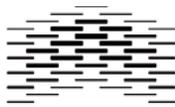
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QUALITAS

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★ Legal Interpreting

Assessing Legal Interpreting Quality through Testing and Certification

www.qualitas-project.eu



Help Desk



Help Desk for Quality Assurance in Legal Interpreting

In an effort to provide support and assist Member States in identifying and certifying qualified legal interpreters, the Qualitas Project has instituted an on-line help desk to provide a direct consultation service to anyone seeking specific information about testing and certification and assistance with steps that can be taken to implement the suggestions found in *Assessing Legal Interpreter Quality through Testing and Certification: The Qualitas Project*.

Go to www.qualitas-project.eu and click on "Help Desk"

Project background

The Qualitas Project complements and furthers the work done on previous EU projects. Its main objective is to enhance the ability of Member States to ensure reliable interpreting services to the legal system. This can best be achieved by providing the correct tools to adequately identify individuals who possess the knowledge and skills needed to assist individuals who find themselves involved in legal proceedings and do not share the official language of the court. The Qualitas project specifically addresses the issues raised in articles 2.8 and 5 of European Directive 2010/64/EU on the Right to Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings which states that interpreting services must be of "a quality sufficient to safeguard the fairness of the proceedings."

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to enhance the effective provision of spoken language interpretation in legal proceedings in EU Member States when suspects, defendants, witnesses and victims of crimes are not proficient enough in the language of the court to ensure that their procedural and civil rights are respected. By achieving this goal, the project will contribute to the "the development of the European Union as an area of justice for all, based on mutual recognition and mutual trust, ensuring legal certainty for citizens, consumers and businesses in claiming their rights within, and across, national borders" as foreseen in the mission statement of the EU's Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security. The project aims to provide the local, regional and national agencies responsible for providing interpreting services with the tools they need to adequately identify individuals who possess the competencies required to ensure quality performance and avoid miscarriages of justice.

Outcomes and outputs

The project will provide:

- Guidelines for the development of valid and reliable certification instruments
- Recommendations for the efficient administration of certification exams
- Exam templates and prototypes that can be adapted to the realities of each EU member state
- Direct consultation services both on-line and by phone

The project will also make every effort to heighten awareness throughout the EU of the importance of employing qualified interpreters in legal proceedings and of supporting efforts to properly train and compensate these professionals.

