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SHORT INTRODUCTION TO TRANSLAW



TransLaw project group at the kick-off meeting in Vienna – March 2018

The TransLaw project aims to foster cooperation between legal professionals and legal interpreters and enhance the efficiency of their work with a view to protecting the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime (PAC). The development of Transcultural Law Clinics, which is the final goal of the project, will provide an excellent training opportunity enabling future legal professionals and interpreters to acquire the competences needed in transcultural service paths.





OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANSLAW PROJECT

TransLaw aims to

- foster cooperation between legal professionals and legal interpreters throughout the project
- increase knowledge about universities' possibilities to provide legal support services to persons accused and suspected of crime (PACs) in transcultural law clinics
- study service paths of PACs who do not speak the language of the jurisdiction of the respective country and the possibilities and constraints of legal interpreters working with them
- publish recommendations on how to enhance these service paths
- implement joint interdisciplinary trainings and awareness-raising workshops for legal professionals and interpreting professionals
- pilot Transcultural Law Clinics at four universities

EXPLORING LEGAL CLINICS AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR INTERPRETING



Report “Development and current state of Transcultural Law Clinics”

The first output of the TransLaw project is the report “*Development and current state of transcultural law clinics*”, which looks at the situation of law clinics in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Slovenia, with a special focus on criminal law. Although the report found more than 100 law clinics in these countries, only few are active in the field of criminal law. The report also explores the availability of interpreting services in law clinics and finds that although some law clinics offer legal aid in more than one language, interpreting is often provided by lay interpreters, with only a few exceptions where interpreters receive





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training from the law clinic and one that involves interpreting students.

The report finds that law clinics are not meeting the needs of the vulnerable group of persons suspected or accused of crime who do not speak the language of the jurisdiction, and makes a strong case for the introduction of transcultural law clinics where students of law and interpreting work together on real

cases, not only benefiting the target group but also gaining a solid understanding of each other's work.

In addition to the introduction of the concept of transcultural law clinics and their benefits, the report provides a review of law clinics in the countries and an overview of the history of law clinics in Europe and worldwide.

The report is free to download at <https://translaw.univie.ac.at/en/downloads/>

PARTNERS

The TransLaw consortium consists of four universities from Austria, Slovenia, Belgium and Italy. Full list of partners: **University of Vienna** (AT), **KU Leuven** (BE), **University of Maribor** (SI), **University of Trieste** (IT).

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