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## TRANSLAW IS SPREADING



*Team TransLaw working on the next project phase at the 2<sup>nd</sup> partner meeting in Trieste, June 2018.*

TransLaw has been introduced to a broad audience at many conferences throughout Europe: TRANS 2018 (6<sup>th</sup> international Summer Academy in Translation Studies – Translation in the European Parliament) in Dubrovnik in July, the 6<sup>th</sup> ENCLE conference in Turin and the interdisciplinary workshop on language rights of the Special Interest Group on Language and Rights (SIGLaR)

in Warsaw in September, the Second WITTA Congress in London in October, a workshop of the “Practice of Criminal Defence” law clinic at FU Berlin in November, and many more.



*The Slovenian project team spoke about challenges and solutions concerning transcultural law clinics at TRANS 2018 at CAAS (Center for Advanced Academy Research) in July 2018.*





## EXPLORING INTERPRETING SERVICE PATHS OF PERSONS ACCUSED OR SUSPECTED OF CRIME IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM



This project is co-funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union



Workstream 2

### Legal and interpreting service paths of persons suspected or accused of crime

#### D.2.1. Desk research report

Project title: TransLaw – Exploring Legal Interpreting Service Paths and Transcultural Law Clinics for persons suspected or accused of crime

Grant Agreement number: 760157 — TransLaw — JUST-AG-2016/JUST-AG-2016-06

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Place: Antwerp, KU Leuven, Antwerp Campus

Date: November 2018

*Report “Legal and interpreting service paths of persons suspected or accused of crime”*

This TransLaw report describes the legal service paths of persons accused or suspected of crime (PACs) in Austria, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Slovenia. It examines the different stages of criminal proceedings in each country as well as the regulations concerning interpreting at all stages. Criminal proceedings (from investigation to hearing to appeal) in the five countries are quite similar, as are the aspects concerning interpretation (language rights), which are strongly influenced by European directives and regulations. In theory, oral

interpretation must be provided for any proceedings in which a PAC without sufficient command of the language participates and for the PAC’s communication with the legal representative; further, key documents must be translated.

However, a look at practice shows a number of challenges: There is no standard definition or measure of what constitutes a “sufficient” command of a language, the presence of a lawyer has a minimising effect on the assessment whether the PAC’s language rights are being violated or not, the quality of interpretation is questionable due to the use of lay interpreters, as is the fairness of a trial where the PAC only gets short oral summaries.

In the next step, we explore the actual interpreting service paths of PACs – at which points is interpreting required, what is the interpretation procedure and performance like, which possibilities and limitations do legal interpreters face, how do PACs feel about the service provided? We are currently analysing the data of qualitative interviews with PACs, legal interpreters and legal professionals. The results will be published in an empirical report (in preparation). Furthermore, we are preparing a recommendation paper for legal professionals concerning legal interpreting.

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





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## UPCOMING

During spring, we will hold awareness raising and joint training workshops in all countries.

The awareness raising workshops aim to spread the recommendations on legal interpreting developed based on the research and interviews conducted (see previous article) and promoting awareness of quality, mutual learning and cooperation between law and interpreting, as well as discussing new technologies in interpreting and how to use them.

In the 2-day joint training workshops, we will invite legal professionals such as judges, lawyers, public prosecutors, police officers, and legal interpreters as well as law and interpreting students to participate. Our goal is to improve language assistance in legal settings through better working conditions and closer cooperation between legal professionals and legal interpreters. Therefore, we will aim to promote a better understanding of the needs, requirements and expectations of all parties involved in interpreter-mediated events in legal settings.

More information on these workshops will be available in the next newsletter and soon on our website <https://translaw.univie.ac.at/>





Grant Agreement number: 760157 — TransLaw — JUST-AG-2016/JUST-AG-2016-06

## PARTNERS

The TransLaw consortium consists of four universities: **University of Vienna** (Austria), **KU Leuven** (Belgium), **University of Maribor** (Slovenia), **University of Trieste** (Italy).

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## IMPRESSUM

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The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

