



DRUŠTVO
SUDSKIH
TUMAČA I
PREVODITELJA

ASSOCIATION
OF COURT
INTERPRETERS
AND TRANSLATORS

CHALLENGES IN THE EDUCATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COURT INTERPRETERS IN CROATIA – *recent developments*

Irena Gizdavčić Plohl
(ACIT, Croatia)

March 2015

Introduction

Court interpreters – legal framework

- Courts Act, Official Gazette 28/13,

§123

- „(5) *The Minister of Justice shall pass a **bylaw** defining the way of establishing if a person is eligible for appointment as a court interpreter, their rights and duties, the amount of their compensation and allowance of costs .*”

- **Bylaw on court interpreters** (Off. Gaz. 88/08 i 119/08)

- Basic legal norm defining the rights and obligations of permanent court interpreters

Introduction

„Permanent Court Interpreter“

- „court“ = appointed by the court, not restricting the business of an interpreter to only legal domain
- „interpreter“ = here meaning a translator doing both written and oral translations
- „permanent“ court interpreter – as opposed to "*ad hoc*" sworn interpreter, which can be done for instance by a judge under certain circumstances

Procedure of appointment of a court interpreter

A person is eligible to be appointed as a court interpreter if the prerequisites listed below have been met:

- general conditions for state servants (no criminal record)
- along with knowledge of Croatian, excellent command of the foreign language(s) the candidate applies for (**degree in languages** or **C2 certificate** acc. to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)
- acquired university graduate degree (Master degree)
- **exam in legal basics** (judicial administration organization, state administration, legal terminology) - Croatian legal system only!
- **training** for court interpreters candidates, done with an association of court interpreters

Procedure of appointment of a court interpreter

Application to
the County Court

Exams

Final training

university
graduate
degree

degree in languages

degree in economics,
engineering, ...

degree in law

C2

exam in
legal
basics

(County
Court)

training

(court
interpreters
association)

Training with a court interpreters association (ACIT)

Mentors/coaches – court interpreters with many years of experience

Other participants:

- ❑ accountant/ auditor
- ❑ judge
- ❑ police inspector

16-hour training course, two 8-hour sessions (Saturdays only).

Training with a court interpreters association (ACIT)

1. General information

- Rights and obligations of court interpreters (appointment and term of office, stamp, nameplate, court interpreters journal)
- Legal forms of business for court interpreters (as secondary source of income, craft business, public limited company)

Training with a court interpreters association (ACIT)

2. Tutorials by specific fields

- Extracts from public registers (birth/ marriage, death certificates...)
- School reports/ diplomas
- Finance
- Working with public notaries
- Working with the court – main hearing (involving a court interpreter)
- Working with the police – interrogation (simulation of real-life situation)

Training with a court interpreters association (ACIT)

3. Practical work

- Practical work – written translation (producing and verifying by signature and seal)
- Simulation of consecutive interpreting
 - at a public notary's office
 - at a wedding ceremony
- Final paper – written translation produced at home, based on which a formal opinion on candidate's skills is made and submitted to the competent County Court

Appointment of a court interpreter

Finally, after all the prerequisites have been met, the candidate takes an oath before the President of the competent County Court:

*»I solemnly swear that I shall perform my duties as court interpreter **abiding by the rules of professional conduct, to the best of my knowledge and ability.**»*

Further education opportunities

- Occasional linguistic seminars organized by ACIT or other similar organizations (rather random, no structured approach or continuity)
- Lawyer linguists programmes offered at law schools

Advertising ban for court interpreters

Bylaw on court interpreters, Art. 13:

- „A court interpreter or a legal person providing the services of legal court interpreting shall not advertise on any public or private premises in any way whatsoever except for the usual signage at the registered seat of the court interpreter.”

Official register of court interpreters in Croatia „Judges’ Web” www.sudacka-mreza.hr

The screenshot shows the homepage of the official register of court interpreters in Croatia, www.sudacka-mreza.hr. The website features a navigation menu with categories such as 'Sudska praksa', 'Sudski vještaci', 'Tumači', 'Sudovi', 'Državna odvjetništva', 'Pretraživač nadležnosti', 'WEB Stečaj®', and 'Sudske pristojbe'. A search bar is located in the top right corner, and a language selector is in the top right. The main content area displays the search results for interpreters, showing a list of 139 records. The search filters on the right include 'Pretraga tumača', 'Ime i prezime / naziv', 'Strani jezik 1', 'Strani jezik 2', 'Županija', and 'Grad'. The search results table has columns for 'Ime i prezime', 'Adresa', 'Ostalo', 'Jezici', and 'opširnije'.

Linkovi Donirajte Galerije Mediji o nama O nama Besplatna pravna pomoć Kontakt

Konsničko ime:
Lozinka:
Prijava Registracija

HR EN

Sudska praksa Sudski vještaci Tumači Sudovi Državna odvjetništva Pretraživač nadležnosti WEB Stečaj® Sudske pristojbe

Često postavljana pitanja

Naslovnica > Tumači

Rezultat pretrage tumača: 139 zapisa

Pretraga tumača

Ime i prezime / naziv

Strani jezik 1

Strani jezik 2

Županija

Grad

CV Priloženi radovi Tvrtke

Molimo usesite uvjete pretrage. Povećavajući uvjete pretrage, dobit ćete veću mogućnost pronalaska specifičnog tumača, a u slučaju

	Ime i prezime	Adresa	Ostalo	Jezici	
51	Velebit Kalinić	Kikićeva 13, Zagreb			opširnije
52	Marko Kallay	Petrinjska 47, Zagreb			opširnije
53	Tomislav Kallay	Mesnička 29, Zagreb			opširnije
54	Vesna Kaniški	Radićeva 56, Zagreb			opširnije
55	Ana Kardum	Josipa Vogrinca 19, Zagreb			opširnije
56	Snježana Kasapović	Medveščak 110, Zagreb			opširnije
57	Vanja Keindl	Kneza Mislava 13, Zagreb			opširnije
58	Snježana Kereković	Topolnica 1, Zagreb			opširnije
59	Tanja Kezelj Liović	Grobnička 47, Zagreb			opširnije
60	Ivana Klem	Petrovaradinska 5, Zagreb			opširnije
61	Vinka Komesar Rajković	Malešnica II. br. 10, Zagreb			opširnije
62	Antonela Konjevod	Francesca Tenchinija 1,			opširnije

Rates

Price (as stipulated in Art. 27 of the Bylaw on court interpreters):

- **Written translation** (with court interpreter's verification):
 - Calculation basis is a **standard 50-character line**
 - **(6.50 HRK approx. 0.9 EUR)/ standard line**
 - min. billing unit is **1 standard page with 30 lines (=1500 ch)**
(→ **195.00 HRK approx. 26 EUR**)
 - Price increase possible for the translation of scientific, specialised texts and texts with special alphabet (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and the like)
 - **URGENT TRANSLATION: 50% on top of the regular rate**

- **Oral translation:**
 - **150.00 kn (approx. 20 EUR)** for each started hour + expenses

Rates – a comparison (written translations)

Source: Eulita survey (2014 update)

Country	EUR/standard page* (1,500 ch)
Italy	4.00
Czech Republic	4.60 – 10.75
Poland	5.54 – 11.94
Portugal	8.50
Spain	9.30
Malta	10.00
Turkey	12.00
Austria	22.80
Denmark	24.20
France	25.00
Croatia	26.00
The Netherlands	23.70 – 46.20
Slovenia	25.00 – 41.00
Germany	46.25 – 61.50
Bulgaria	<i>Negotiable / case to case</i>

* For the sake of comparison, the prices indicated here were re-calculated on the *standard page* basis.

Rates – a comparison (interpreting)

Source: Eulita survey (2014 update)

Country	EUR/hour	Note
Italy	14.68 for the first two hours (7.34 each) 4.07 for following hours	
Czech Republic	5.50 – 13.00	
Poland	9.42 – 52.00 (depends on language)	
Malta	30.00 half day 50.00 full day	
Croatia	20.00	charged by each started hour + expenses
Austria	24.50 for the first half hour 12.40 for each subsequent half hour	
Spain	30.00 National criminal court 13.00 – 20.00 (police settings)	other rates for diff. regions
France	42.00 for the first hour 30.00 for following hours	
The Netherlands	43.20	
Slovenia	70.00	
Germany	70.00 (consecutive) 75.00 (simultaneous)	
Denmark	75.20	
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>102.00 – 204.00 per "service"</i>	
<i>Turkey</i>	<i>200.00 – 600.00 per day/job</i>	
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>negotiable / case to case</i>	

Just a few more things:

- Obligation to interpret in court (introduced into Civil Procedure Act in 2008):
 - penalty of 500 HRK – 10,000 HRK (approx. **70 EUR – 1,350 EUR**) to the court interpreter who does not appear in a hearing to which he/she has been properly summoned, without providing a timely excuse and reasonable grounds for non-appearance
- Professional liability insurance policy for court interpreters
 - only for the members of court interpreters associations
 - max. coverage 200,000 HRK (approx. **27,000 EUR**)

Any questions?

Thank you!