



Legal translator training at Croatian universities – between wishes and reality

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Introduction

Objectives:

- to gain a more accurate picture of education level and translation training experience of practising (legal) translators in Croatia
- to establish what practising translators see as desirable formats and specific contents of legal translator training
- to establish what position is granted to legal translation in the curricula of the relevant programmes offered at Croatian universities

Goal:

- *contribute to informed discussion and future course and curricula development*



Introduction

Questionnaire:

- information about respondents
 - education level/ field (attendance of translation/ legal translation course of studies/ attendance of courses outside universities)
 - translation volumes & types
- views on LIT education
 - relevance of expert knowledge and competences
 - who should provide it and in what format

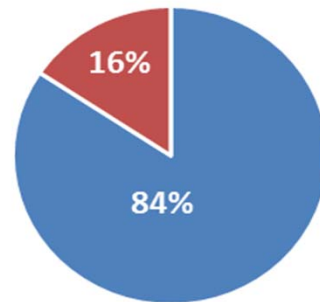
Information on university programmes and courses:

- university web sites
- interviews

„Faculty of Philology” - Zagreb (7), Rijeka, Osijek, Split, Zadar, Pula
Law School – Zagreb, Osijek, Rijeka

Survey among CI/LIT – Sample structure

Sample structure



■ Court Interpreters ■ Non Court Interpreters

Questionnaire sent out to approx. 120 addressees

→ 32 respondents

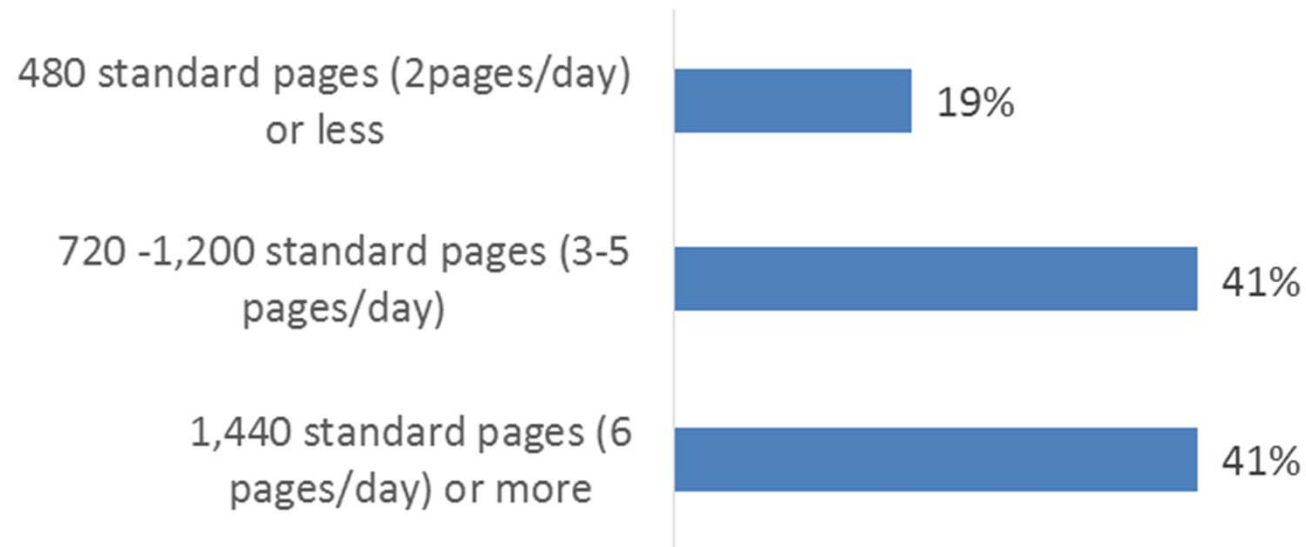
Level of education:

67% Bologna Master's or pre-Bologna graduate degree

33% Postgraduate degree (pre-Bologna MSc/MA or PhD)

Survey among CI/LIT – Volumes (general)

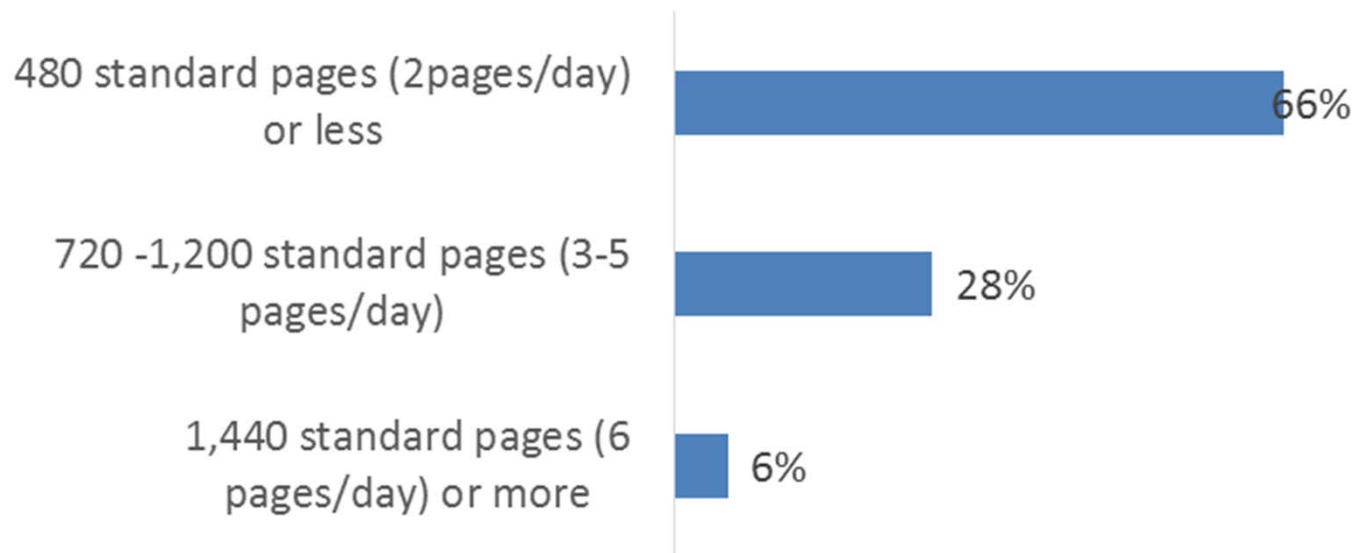
Average volume of written translations
(on an annual basis)



- 6 pages/day or more = most likely main source of income

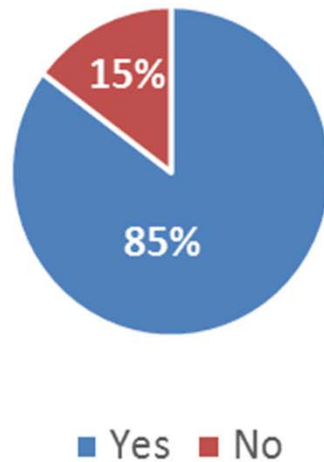
Survey among CI/LIT – Volumes in the field of LAW

Average volume of written translations in the field of law (on an annual basis)

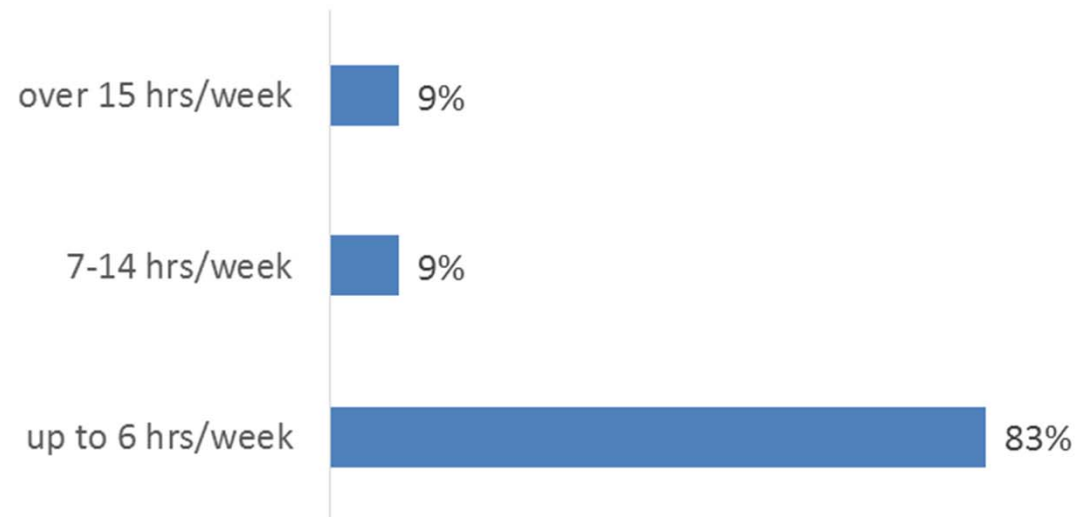


Survey among CI/LIT – Interpreting

Do you provide interpreting services?



Estimated hours of provided interpreting services

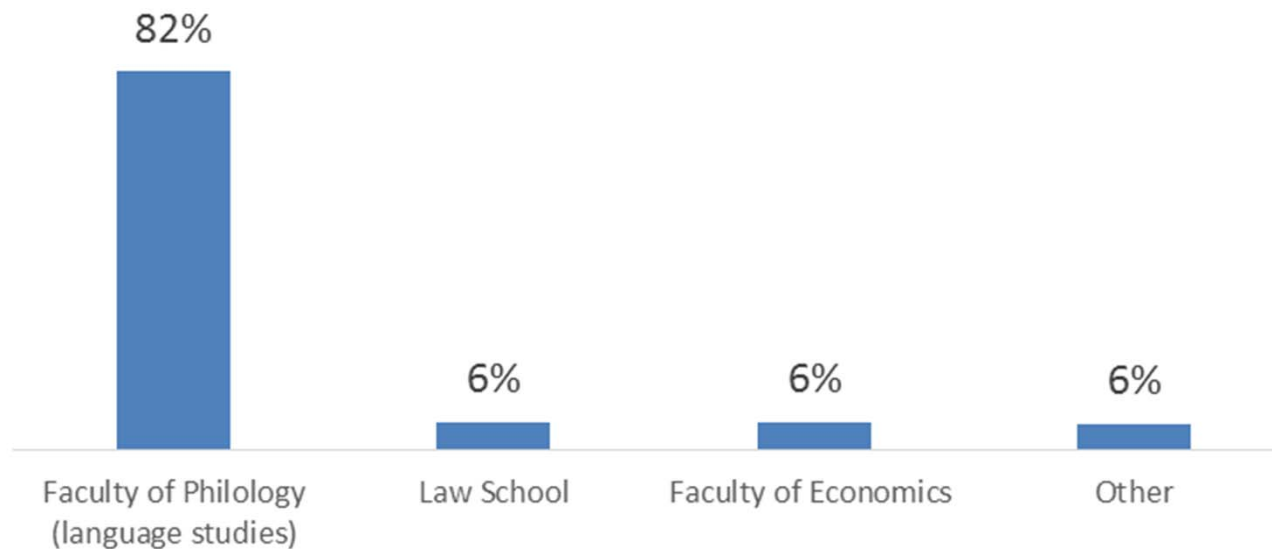


- 59.82% of interpreting services are provided in the field of law (mostly requested by courts, public notaries, lawyers or at professional meetings)

Survey among CI/LIT – Education (level, structure)

- 67% Bologna Master's or pre-Bologna graduate degree
- 33% Postgraduate degree (pre-Bologna MSc/MA, PhD)

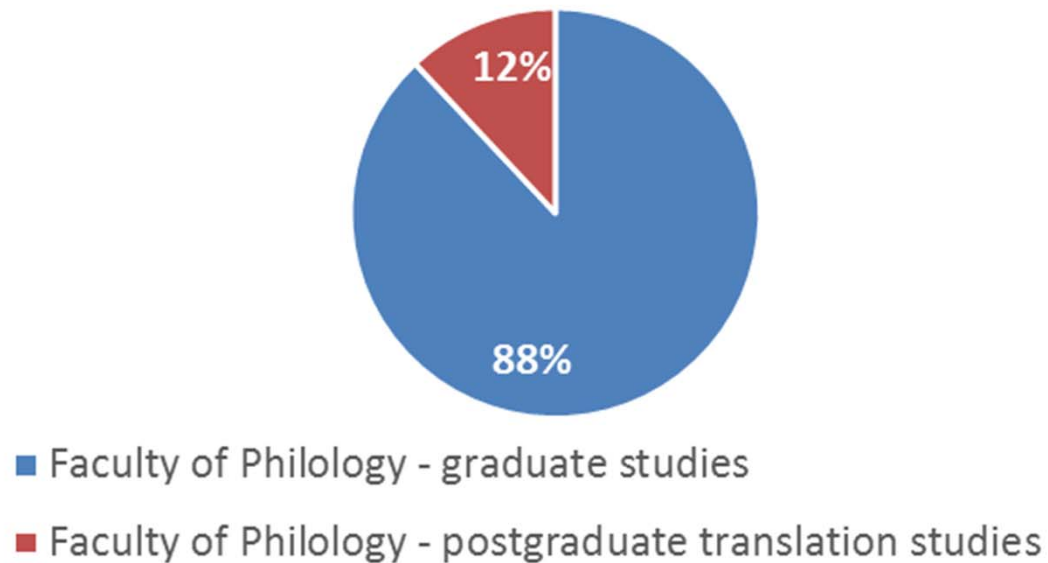
Degree obtained from the:



Survey among CI/LIT – Translation courses

- 56% HAVE attended university courses related to translation
- 44% HAVE NOT attended university courses related to translation

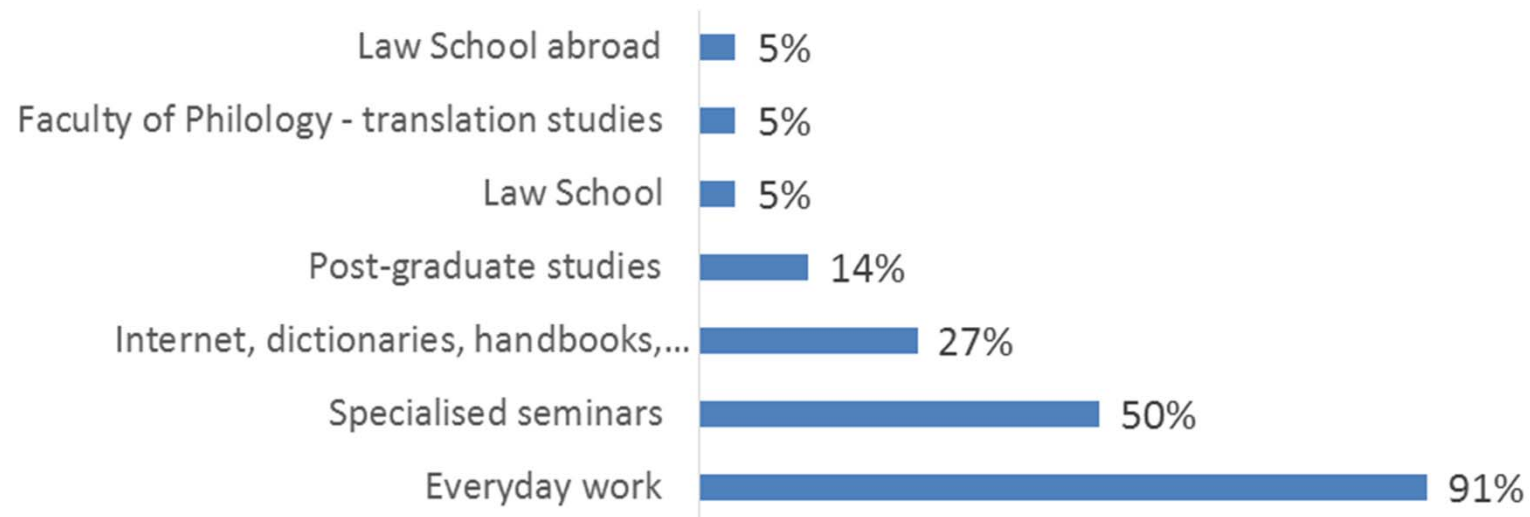
Attended university courses related to translation
- where?



Survey among CI/LIT – Sources of education

- 19% some formal education as Legal Translator
- 81% NO formal education as Legal Translator

Acquisition of terminology - sources for those who haven't acquired formal LIT education: (sum exceeding 100%, due to possibility of multiple answers)



Training offered at Croatian universities – „Faculties of philology”

- Graduate programmes (MA level), translation streams, mostly:
 - **Translation of specialized texts (law as one of the areas)** -> terminology, text types, structures, phraseology + remarks on legal systems as prompted by the text
 - **EU** (*Institutions of the EU, EU and international organizations, European integration and translation...*)
 - commonly: one / a couple of introductory lectures + practical translation -> terminology, text types, structures, phraseology + remarks on legal instruments, institutions, bodies, procedures... as prompted by the text
 - exceptionally: a theoretical course + introducing EU terminology

cont.

Training offered at Croatian universities – „Faculties of philology”

- Graduate programmes (MA level), translation streams common:

- Croatian
- Translation Studies

less common:

- legal system and (legal) institutions of the relevant country (English speaking; German speaking)
- terminology (theoretical + translation of specialized texts)
- legal language and translation of legal texts

exceptional:

- an elective course at the School of Law
- legal translation – theoretical considerations within a TS course

Training offered at Croatian universities – „Faculties of philology”

- Undergraduate programme (BA) – exceptional:
 - Translation – politics, law and EU (terminology, text types, text structure)
- Postgraduate programmes
 - general translation programme
 - conference interpreting

Training offered at Croatian universities – Law schools

- Undergraduate programmes in law and in public administration:
 - language course (English / German for legal professionals) over 4 terms, obligatory

exceptional:

 - French language course, elective
- Graduate programmes:

exceptional:

 - English for EU law (elective)

Training offered at Croatian universities –

Law schools

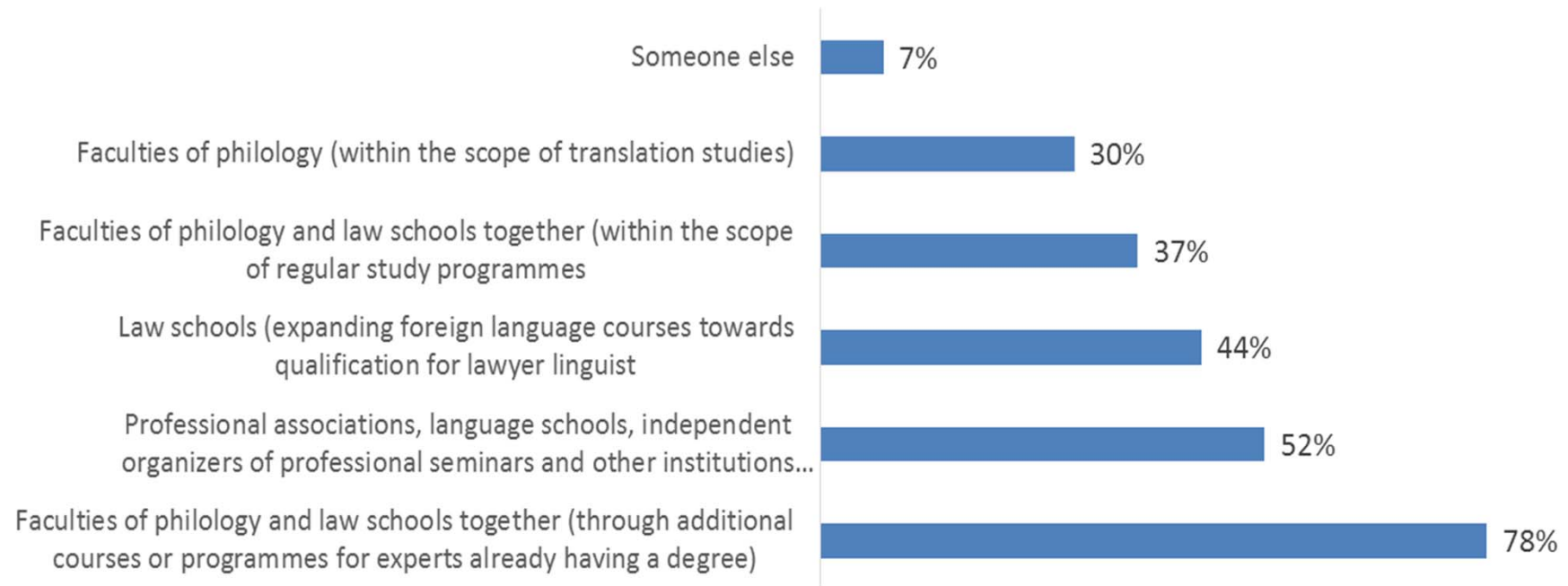
- Lifelong learning programmes
 - Lawyer linguist training (Zagreb, Osijek)
for law school graduates, 3-4 month programmes
2 languages (English, German) + French,
legal terminology, translation of legal texts, Croatian,
EU law, EU terminology, online tools
- Courses in legal translation (Zagreb)
small groups
English, German, French, Italian

presentations by Ljubica Kordić (Osijek), Miljen Matijašević and Lelija Sočanac (Zagreb)

Survey among CI/LIT

Who should educate legal translators?

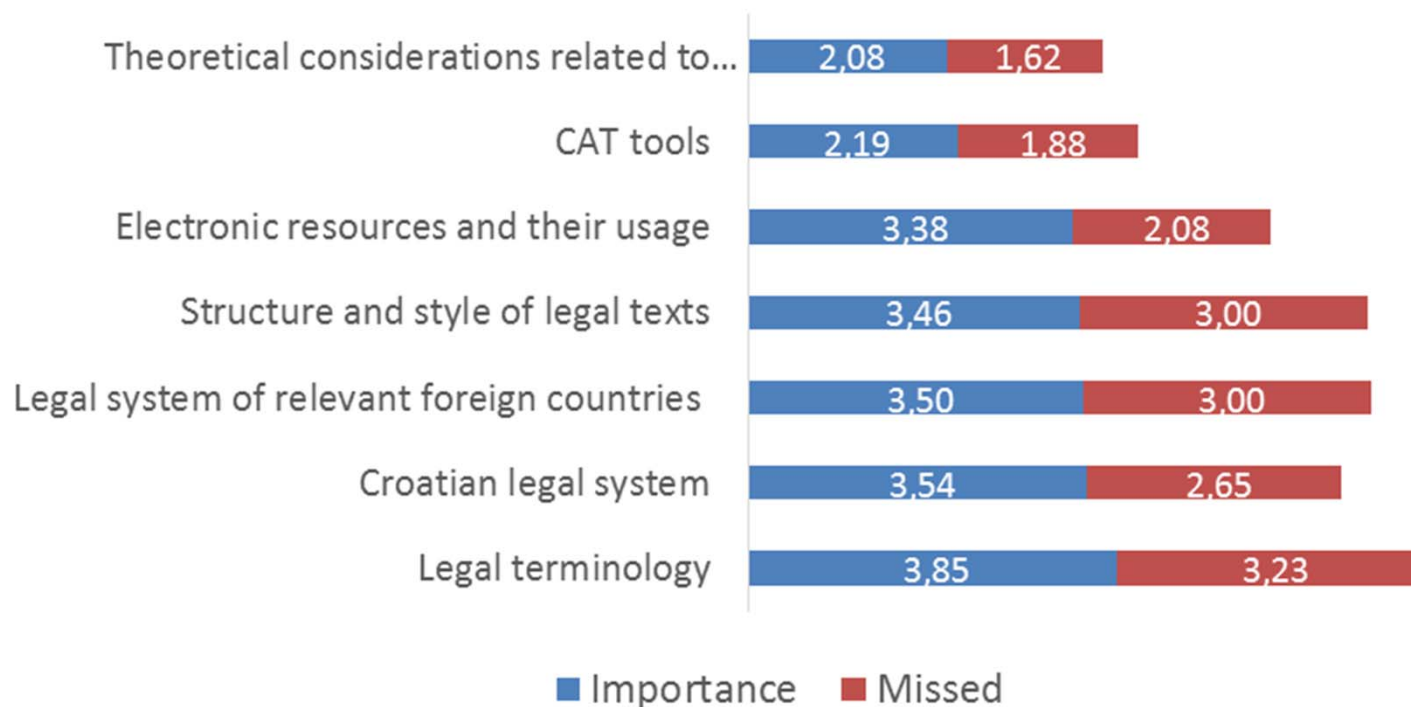
Who should educate legal translators? (sum exceeding 100%, due to possibility of multiple answers)



Survey among CI/LIT

Relevance of expert knowledge and competences

Expert knowledge and competences



- Assessment on a scale from 0 to 4 for **importance** and how much it was **missed**

Desirable contents of translation programmes

- comparative **legal linguistic knowledge**
- analysis of a substantial number of legal texts
- **economic terminology** encountered in LITs' practice (e.g. in contracts, commercial documentation, or in commercial disputes);
- introduction to the source and the target **political system** and socio-cultural circumstances
- **Croatian** standard
- **non-West European** languages, **European** languages other than English and German
- setting up one's own **term bases**; terminology management
- methodology of **comparative analysis** (of terms, texts, legal systems)
- **communication skills**; preparation for „public appearance“
- interpreting; **community interpreting**, interpreting in legal settings
- professional **ethics**
- **field work**; mentors
- **self-defence** courses

Desiderata and the (university) realities

General translation programmes:

- already included in (most) translation programmes:
 - Croatian standard
 - introduction to the source and the target political system and socio-cultural circumstances
 - communication skills; preparation for „public appearance”
- already included in (some / a few) translation programmes:
 - analysis of a (substantial) number of legal texts
 - economic and legal terminology
 - professional ethics
 - interpreting
- awareness of / introductory comments on / small-scale practical work with
 - setting up one's own term bases; terminology management



Desiderata and the (university) realities

Programmes in legal translation (Law school specifics):

- comparative legal linguistic knowledge
- analysis of a substantial number of legal texts
- economic terminology encountered in LITs' practice :
 - introduction to the relevant aspects of the source and the target economic system ??

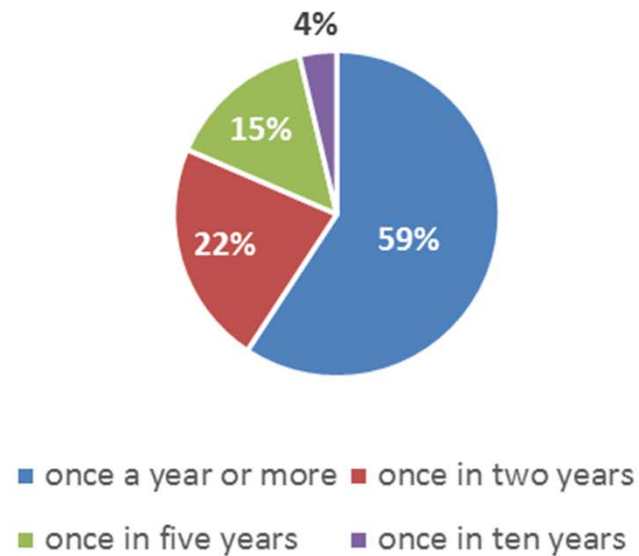
Professional associations (specifics):

- „applied” legal linguistic knowledge (language, texts)
- administrative aspects of the profession
- preparation for „public appearance”
- mentors

Survey among CI/LIT – Seminars

- Who should organize seminars for legal translators
52% Professional organisations etc. (other than universities)

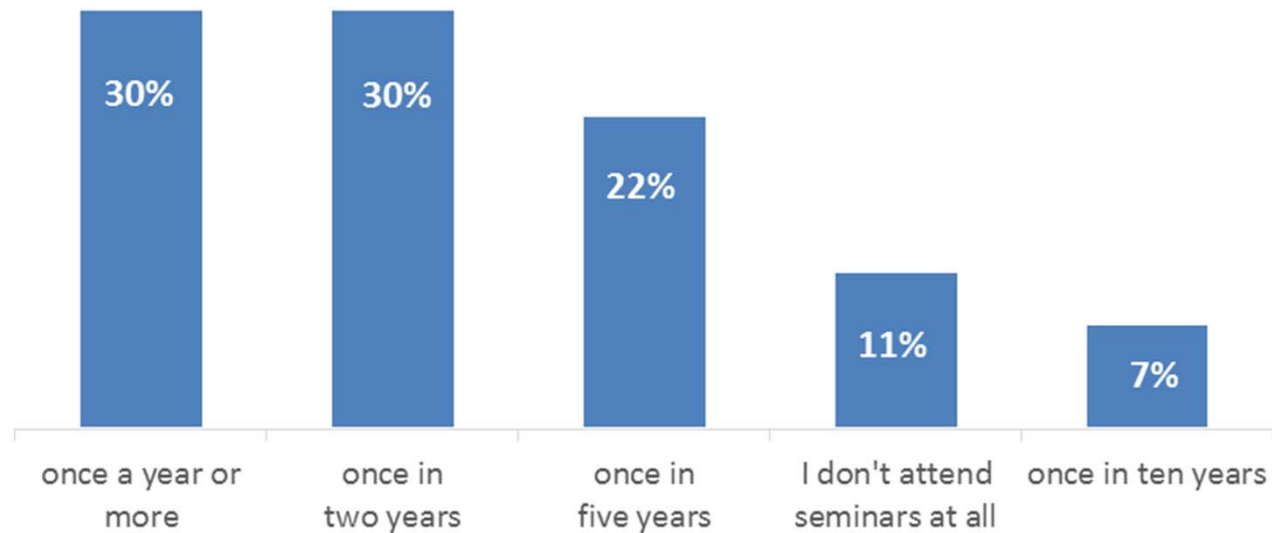
How often do you attend specialised seminars for translators (general)?



Survey among CI/LIT – Seminars

- 51% of respondents indicated (specialised) seminars as a learning source

How often do you attend specialised seminars for translators in the field of law?





Survey - Reasons for attending seminars less than once a year

- **Price** (*with exceptions!*)
- **Location** (travel & accommodation expenses; no state subsidies)
- **No time to attend** or timing is an issue due to other obligations
- **Language** – English dominating, almost no offer for:
 - French (among the 3 procedural EU languages !)
 - Italian
- Poor offer of seminars dedicated to legal terminology
(If offered, then pretty basic, not for experienced translators)
- Inadequate topics
- Independent learning and studying of legal terminology and documents



Conclusions

Implications for Croatian universities

Legal translator training

what?

contents – a high level of correspondence

who? what format?

(post-)graduate translation programmes, LIT as a separate stream or a strong element in the general stream → collaboration of faculties of philology, law schools, professional associations

seminars → the three in collaboration, roles depending on the immediate purpose and various ‘technicalities’



Thank you!