

Translation and Interpretation for the Portuguese Courts

Portuguese Code of Criminal Procedure

- The language used at any procedural act, written or oral, is Portuguese.
- The procedural acts in which this rule is violated are considered void.

Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

- “Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him; everyone charged with a criminal offence has the minimum right to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him”

Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

- “to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.”

My concerns

1

- No official selection procedure at Portuguese Courts for legal translators or interpreters
- Disadvantages for citizens as well as unfair trials.

2

- Interpreter's lack of specific training

Difficulty in finding proper translators and interpreters

- Interpretation is a complementary, but still **necessary** specialization.
- There are only a few interpretation courses in Portugal

Difficulty in finding proper translators and interpreters

- Necessary creation of interpretation courses in Portugal

Implementation of an adjuration system in Portugal

- Professional recognition and prestige
- Official recognition makes clients more willing to pay a fair price

Low compensation rates

- Decrease in quality
- Difficulties for legal translators and interpreters don't pay off
- No guarantee for the translation's correctness

Creation of a Portuguese association of professional legal translators and interpreters

- Guarantees the translator's and interpreter's quality
- Represents translators and interpreters

High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council

- Proposal of an amendment to the current law

Suggestions

1

- Protocol between EULITA and the Portuguese Bar Association
- Roster of certified legal Translators & Interpreters

Suggestions

2

- Implementation of interpretation courses organized by the Portuguese Bar Association

Suggestions

3

- Creation of a central database for legal terminology

Suggestions

4

- Setting up translation norms across Europe for legal documents

Suggestions

5

- Interpreters and translators at court should be bilingual.

Suggestions

6

- Translators and interpreters should be given general information about the procedure at stake

Suggestions

7

- Establishment of minimum compensation rates

Thank you!

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